



MEDIA RELEASE

12th March, 2015

COUNCIL HOARDING TRAFFIC FUNDS WHILST ROAD NETWORK NEEDS UPGRADING

The independent candidate for Heathcote electorate, Greg Petty, has called for the spending of a hidden \$1.3million fund to fix Engadine traffic issues urgently.

"All of Engadine needs far better access to the train station and Princes Highway, both vital State facilities and a clear State issue," he said. "Peak-hour traffic will only get worse with more dithering by Sutherland Shire Council, which mismanages the special trust fund".

"This windfall is still unspent, locked away in a giant Council piggy bank, 34 years after a court order to improve road access from Woronora Heights, by a levy on developers of this outlying Engadine suburb. Thirty-four years is too much stalling, even by Council standards, and residents are angry" said Mr Petty.

"Both the Liberal and Labor candidates have ducked for cover when asked by locals to take up their cause. Public consultation is needed now - to spend the money where it is needed on Engadine's roads. Gathering interest in a council bank account does not solve the community issue of better roads", the Independent Candidate for Heathcote, Mr. Greg Petty stated.

"I challenge both Liberal and Labor candidates to take a stand on this State issue, and support about 12,000 people suffering from political neglect in the area."

NEW DEVELOPMENT LOOMS

"A key motive may be plans for overdevelopment on State-owned land near Woronora Heights, and for increased density at Engadine," he suggested. "It is the likeliest reason to keep hoarding the \$1.3million levy. This issue is older than some councillors now pondering it."

Sutherland's Mayor has apologised publicly when local residents discovered a "massive error" in the Council's new planning scheme, awaiting State Government approval. Urgent action has been promised by the Mayor - "to plug huge leaks in this 'Titanic'-scale disaster, even before it is launched," as Mr Petty put it. "Certainly not the best start for a new LEP, but begs the question, what other mistakes have been made."

As an independent candidate, he promised "action, not excuses, unlike the major parties which run their local MPs from Macquarie St."

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