

GREG PETTY

Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor - Wollongong

MEDIA RELEASE

Petty says:



[“Lord Mayor wagon-train will roll into Helensburgh to a hostile native reception”](#)

Greg Petty says 10 of the 12 Lord Mayor candidates will probably have never visited the Neighbourhood Forum 1 (NF1) meeting in Helensburgh, from the appointment of the Administrators to the election announcement.

Helensburgh resident and Lord Mayor Candidate Greg Petty, is welcoming the decision to invite candidates and the media to attend the NF1 meeting on August 10 at the Helensburgh Walker St Community Centre.

“Residents are justifiably annoyed the wagon-train will come to town, puff their chests out – beat a drum or two, and leave the town to ignore it for another term” says Petty. This was made abundantly clear at the Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce meeting last Tuesday. A member asked *“We have been ignored for years, what will change if you are elected?”* The former General Manager did not endear himself after a 5 minute reply said *“I know that didn’t answer your question, but you needed to know that background”*.

Helensburgh is a proud mining town but the community feels it is ignored by its southern cousins. This has never been felt more than a quibble attributed to a previous Lord Mayor, *“Wollongong finishes at Thirroul as far as I’m concerned”*. Petty say *“All Wollongong ratepayers pay rates, why should Helensburgh wait over 10 years for capital expenditure projects and much needed maintenance, and then it came in the form of a Federal grant. Services must be evenly spread between all areas, not a select few. Section 94 funds don’t Helensburgh and parts much north of Thirroul – pooling these funds has been to the detriment of this area”*.

Greg states *“I will actively work towards implementing and resourcing Precinct Committees so that residents have a direct contribution to where ratepayer money is spent”*. For this reason, Greg recently participated in the Community Reference Panel forums held by Council as part of the return to an elected Council – believing no other Mayor Candidate undertook the course.

Greg will continue to campaign against the Coal Seam Gas [CSG] exploration. He will continue to fight to maintain the previous high environmental standards placed on the Illawarra Escarpment and the environmentally sensitive zoned 7d land area, around Helensburgh and Otford. *“The State Liberal member for the area has done an about face on CSG, we need to keep party politics out of local government”* says Petty.

So candidates must do some research on outer areas such as Helensburgh if they are to win over locals. Maybe this will be harder than most expect with the local hairdresser telling clients to take their problems to local Greg Petty – he is known to be listening to locals and working for the community. Lord Mayor Candidates must embrace that Wollongong does not solely revolve around a small section of the CBD and the media could do well to feature local candidates with business acumen that have been community active whilst the Council has been in administration.

There is no doubt the Helensburgh tribe will make the paw-wow around the NF1 campfire a lively and fiercely revealing performance of what candidates DON’T know about truly locals issues, including potholes, dangerous bus routes, delays in a formal town plan, bike paths to nowhere, etc, etc, etc.

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