

GREG PETTY

Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor - Wollongong

MEDIA RELEASE

Petty says: [*“Take a first look at INDEPENDENTS and put political parties second”*](#)



Greg Petty says *“there is no room for political party politics in Wollongong Council”*

A political party candidate at the Neighbourhood Forum meeting in Helensburgh stated they are seeking a MANDATE on their policies. That is, if Wollongong voters do not agree with a policy or two within that platform then the voters are locked out in tailoring to our city needs. Surely this is dictatorial and a slap in the face for Wollongong voters. A recent *Mercury* survey indicated some 70% of voters disagreed with the Greens Active Transport Policy so will the Greens still go ahead with it? On policy lines, it must be a “yes”.

Political parties come with “the good the bad and the ugly”, and the voter is forced to accept that philosophy in its entirety - for five years! Liberal and Labor are now issuing party “policy” statements.

Add party political dictatorship to enforceable planning legislation [created by political parties] and the voter is extremely limited in what they can change when their lifestyle is negatively impacted by developers who have traditionally funded the political parties. These two items explain why voters are not listened to and our opinions fall on deaf ears - except when election time eventuates.

Greg is encouraged to read that Stuart Howie, Editor of the Illawarra Mercury has included in his draft “Candidate Pledge” to the voters of Wollongong the item important item - **“put party politics aside and the people first”**.

Well said Stuart. It will be surprising if this pledge item survives the political pressure coming your way. What you ask is like asking the political fundamentalist to walk on water!

Also making a debut at the Helensburgh meeting was “Community Labor”. “How many Wollongong voters have heard of this title before? Is Community Labor supported by the same backroom “faceless” team that gave us the Wollongong disgrace, and the scandal riddled previous State government? Will they reveal how different their platform is from the State Labor one? Were their policies developed by interactive participation of all voters or by the party faithful dictating? This is caucusing all over again, Wollongong cannot afford this again” stated Mr. Petty. Putting the word “community” into any political party name i.e. “Community Labor” or “Community Voice” does **NOT** mean you are suddenly “inclusive” of the community, in fact, it is “exclusive”.

Chose carefully, for after September 3, your opinion will only be listened to and represented transparently by independents. Say **NO** to dictatorial and inflexible party policies, don’t become a political “pawn”. Large corporate donors including developers wanted returns for their donations. Decisions then are **NOT** made based on merit but merely political parties following party policy or repaying the many obligations to donors. This was the downfall of the previous elected Council and cannot be repeated in our new Council. Is your candidate accepting donations?

The strength of my Independent candidature and the Greg Petty Independent Team is that we have been listening to the voter, we will before Election Day, on Election Day and each day thereafter. Our people are flexible to account for local and specific issues. We are stewards of your rates and will honour that trust by encouraging your participation in determining the character, lifestyle, employment and enhancing the beauty of our wonderful city.

Greg is available for interview; contact (0407) 473 889

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See also: Ray Robinson

Ward 1 Candidate

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