

GREG PETTY Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor



MEDIA RELEASE [Neighbourhood Forum 1 Presentation 10 Aug 2011](#)

Lord Mayor Candidates were invited to the Neighbourhood Forum 1 August meeting and given 3 minutes to address the meeting on any topic

Thank you for the opportunity to address the meeting. In any open forum, it is good to be able to ask your own questions and answer them. Independence is the key for change for a better Council. I would like to start by introducing my Independent team. The team members here are 2 Ray Robinson from Corrimal, 3 Karen Dinsdale from Darkes Forest, 4 Tony Stoddart from Balgownie is unfortunately is absent and 5 Brenda Petty from Helensburgh. Yes, we are the only group fielding a full ticket of five candidates in any ward.

Qualifications to run a business:

Accountant, Company Secretary, Bachelor of Business Studies, Tax Agent (currently being renewed), Owned manufacturing and importing businesses for over 30 years, at one time employed 65 staff and over the years probably 200. Before starting my business, employed by a USA multinational automotive spare parts manufacturing company as Assistant Financial Controller with a staff of 550.

Monitor performance:

My business background should encourage everyone to see that I have the qualifications, skills and experience to monitor any organisations performance – I will return to this point last.

Give a return to rate payers:

In a service based organisation, I believe return is measured in terms of good service, and minimum response times to resident requests.

Who is funding you? Are you accepting donations?

Self funded. No, I will post my electoral return on my website for everyone to see. I challenge other candidates to post any donations on their website as they receive them in the campaign

What is your top three priorities for WCC should you be elected as Mayor?

- 1 LISTEN to the community and be free of political party influence. Make evidence based decisions. No party directions.
- 2 FUNDAMENTALS: Rates, Roads and Rubbish. A return to rate payers for the rates they pay. Get back to basics first and then look to the future. We cannot look to the future if the basics are not working for the community.
- 3 PROMOTE the whole LGA by enticing new businesses to the area, programs that create employment and investment and as a proud 2508 and Helensburgh resident, to promote local small businesses like Symbio Wildlife Park which participates in 17 active breeding populations, both national and international and Steve from Just Cruisin' Motorcycle Tours. Tourism to Illawarra starts at Helensburgh (2508), we have the best small businesses here, we must support them, we must support Wollongong. Aside: and world class apple pies from Otford Pantry.

Major Policy Announcement

Lastly, with a five term, and the past scandal, I would review the current position of Professional Conduct Coordinator. Staff, the public and the new Councillors should have the right to speak freely, to have a forum for grievances and complaints, and for system failures to be investigated objectively.

The work environment needs to change, and therefore if elected Lord Mayor, I would recommend creating or upgrading the position of Professional Conduct Coordinator to **INTERNAL OMBUDSMAN**.

This person shall be employed by ICAC, paid for by ICAC, & report direct to ICAC and the people of Wollongong.

Note: Mr. Petty is the current co-convenor of Neighbourhood Forum 1.

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