**Inner West Labor**Council Platform 2024

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# **Cost of Living**

Your Labor councillors know that Inner West residents are concerned about the cost of living, and in the next council term they will be doing everything they can to ensure financial stress is eased for you and your family.

A Labor-led council has kept rates as low as possible over the past 8 years, and we will continue to support residents in this cost of living crisis by committing to no rates increase above government indexation for the next four years.

Labor councillors will bring you the option to pay your rates in small, even, regular payments with Bill Smoothing. This option will be available to all residents to help soften the impact of quarterly rates.

We are committing Council to keeping the pensioner rates rebate, because we want to support the members of our community most affected by the cost of living crisis.

Through strong financial management, the Labor-led Inner West Council has kept rates as low as possible over the last term, unlike other councils in Sydney. The next Council term budget has projected surpluses and with your support, we can ensure that money is managed responsibly to keep Council working for you.

# **Environment and Renewable Energy**

Inner West Council is already a leader in fighting climate change at the local level and your Labor councillors want to see that continue into the future.

With a Labor-led council, we have delivered:

☀️The first council to be 100% divested from fossil fuels and operations are run on 100% renewable energy.

🌳Increased our tree canopy with a record $2 million per year spent on planting trees every year.

🚗Funding from the state government for 136 Electric Vehicle public charging spaces.

🍎Continued our fantastic food recycling service, diverting 6,000 tonnes of food waste from landfill, reducing our community’s carbon emissions by an extraordinary 12,600 tonnes.

Your Labor councillors have a plan for the environment in the next term of council and are ready to take our fight against climate change to the next stage:

🏡Make permanent the Energy Efficiency service to support low-income households, including renters, social housing tenants, and women fleeing FDV

🌳Ensure a minimum of 1,000 new trees planted each year to preserve and grow our urban canopy.

🪴Deliver a new microforest in every ward to increase biodiversity.

💡Modern lighting for Lambert Park, making it more energy efficient, as well as safer at night.

A Labor-led council initiated a pilot program of an Energy Efficiency Service for Low Income Households, assessing the ways in which they could better heat or cool their homes and save money on power bills.

Energy efficiency not only cuts household carbon emissions but helps reduce energy use for residents who are most affected by rising energy costs. In the next council term, we will make this program permanent!

We are 100% committed to fighting climate change for our community’s future 💪

# **Affordable Housing**

We know there is a housing crisis, and your Labor councillors are working hard to provide solutions. Inner West Labor knows that renters are doing it tough, and housing is in short supply. We have a plan for Council to keep supporting renters and low-income families.

With your support at the upcoming Local Government elections, we can bring these solutions to the Inner West to ease housing stress:

🚗 Work with the State Government and Community Housing Providers to convert three council-owned car parks into affordable and public housing, ensuring public land is used for public good.

⛪️ Partner with the Faith Housing Alliance and local faith groups to identify land that could be used for affordable and public housing, in the model of Nightingale Marrickville.

🏘️ 1,000 new public housing dwellings in the inner west - As part of our LEP, Council will advocate to the State Government for a massive investment in public housing in the Inner West, including on council-owned sites.

As a Labor-led council, over the last term of council we have already delivered:

🧑‍⚖️ $125000 for Marrickville Legal Centre to continue their excellent Tenants Rights Advocacy.

💪🏼 Strong advocacy for renters’ rights in the Inner West and across the state.

🏘️ Locally based planning, working with the state government to create a plan for Transport Oriented Development that respects our heritage and greenspace.

We want to keep the Inner West diverse and affordable by putting downward pressure on soaring rents.

# **Arts and Culture**

Labor ❤️’s Live Music! We know that Covid and onerous noise restrictions have hampered creativity and gig opportunities across Sydney. We want to make the Inner West vibrant with music and art yet again, and make our main streets the place to be.

With your support at the upcoming Local Government elections, we can bring even more arts and music opportunities to the Inner West:

🎭 More Special Entertainment Precincts - Labor will develop pathways for more main streets and individual venues across the Inner West to apply to become SEPs, making it easier to host live music, extend trading hours and outdoor dining, and bring vibrancy to our communities.

🏛️ Labor will hold annual Town Hall Open Day festivals at each of our seven town halls, showcasing local artists and performers, with programs developed in collaboration with the community.

🎤 Establish an annual Inner West Choral Festival to showcase the voices of the Inner West and surrounds, from professional singers to community carolers, held in our historic town halls.

🚐 Active musician loading - special parking zones outside music venues so that you can bump in without worrying about parking.

🎊 More street festivals - making it easier to close off streets for music and arts events

🖼️ Even more support for Perfect Match artworks, including support for First Nations and young artists.

👩🏼‍🎤 SX Inner West in October - partnering with SXSW Sydney to deliver the inaugural Fest X Inner West this October, showcasing local artists alongside international acts at the Enmore Theatre, Factory Theatre, and venues along Enmore Road.

Over the last council term, as a Labor-led council we have been able to deliver:

🏤 Converted 7 of our town halls to arts and cultural venues available free of charge for exhibition, performance and rehearsal.

🎭 Making the White Bay Power Station an arts, cultural and live performance venue and bringing the Biennale and other exciting music festivals there.

🖼️ Increased by 25% the budget for the award-winning Perfect Match mural program to keep the Inner West the street art capital of Australia.

📽️ Established the Inner West Film Festival, celebrating the Inner West’s place in Australian film history.

🎼 Revived the Stanmore Music Festival to honour late composer Richard Gill, and will deliver street music festivals across all five wards.

Music, art, and performance is the lifeblood of Inner West culture, and we want our streets to come alive with entertainment for years to come.

**Active Transport**

Your Labor councillors know that Inner Westies love getting out, exercising, and enjoying our greenspace. Boosting active transport in the Inner West not only makes Inner Westies healthier and happier but helps reduce our carbon emissions.

With your support at the upcoming Local Government Election, a Labor-led council will give you more opportunities to do so in future with our Active Transport Plan:

🚲Increased funding for cycleways - in each of the four budgets of the next Council term, so that by 2027-2028, the total budget for cycleways will be double what it is now.

🚶Establishing a Great Inner West Walk - connecting existing and new walking and cycling infrastructure across the Inner West. The Great Walk will create a continuous path through the Inner West, connecting communities and leveraging existing infrastructure with new connections and wayfinding/signage.

🏡Create friendlier streets - including slowing speeds on local roads to 40km/hr, making it easier to close streets temporarily for events, and cutting red tape to promote local resident street parties.

💡Audit street lighting and furniture - including bike racks and lockers, and building more of this infrastructure to make walking and cycling in the Inner West safer.

🛑Build 3 additional raised pedestrian crossings in each Ward in the next term of Council.

This builds on an already strong track record of extending our greenspace and prioritising active transport, where we have already delivered:

🌳Locked in the completion of the Greenway from Iron Cove to the Cooks River by 2025.

🚦Trialling the closure of Norton Street between Marion and Allen Streets for greater pedestrian access.

🏞 Moved for the development of plans for the Iron Cove Creek Walkway.

With your support, we can make the Inner West a leader in active transport across NSW and an example for other councils to follow.

# **Sports and Recreation**

Over the last term your Labor-led council have worked hard to ensure Inner West residents have continued opportunities for sport and recreation and, with your support, we can do so much more.

The Greenway is close to completion thanks to the tireless efforts of your councillors. The $59 million project connects the Parramatta River at Iron Cove with the Cooks River, becoming an Inner West arterial of recreation and greenspace.

The $12.5 million funding agreement for the refurbishment of Henson Park means that the beloved sports ground, cherished by Marrickville residents and beyond for decades, will be more accessible and enjoyable for years to come.

And the massive community win in securing $40 million in funding for Leichhardt Oval means its future as a hub for sport for women and girls is secured.

With your support, a Labor-led council will deliver:

* Upgrades to the Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre in Tempe, our biggest investment in sporting grounds to date.
* Modern lighting for Lambert Park to ensure safe utilisation of the grounds for sport.
* Much needed upgrades to All Weather Sports Fields at Callan Park.
* Revamping the Leichhardt Sports Complex and upgrades to Leichhardt Oval.
* Pocket Park upgrades.
* Inclusive Playgrounds in all five wards.
* Development of the Iron Cove Creek Walkway.
* Install an outdoor gym at Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre and extend opening hours to the end of April.
* Deliver a public bathroom to Weekley Park.

We know Inner Westies love getting outdoors and we want to support that for generations to come!

# **LGBTIQA+ Inclusion**

With the opening of the Inner West Pride Centre this year, your Labor councillors have proven the Inner West is a hub for LGBTQIA+ people, and that we will not be stopped in supporting our queer communities.

With your support at the upcoming Local Government election, Labor can can continue to deliver for LGBTQIA+ people through:

🏳️‍🌈 Increase funding for the Feel the Love Festival and move it to the Inner West Pride Centre.

🫂 Work with local organisations to teach and promote inclusive practice in our early childhood education and learning centres.

🦄 Work with Sydney Mardi Gras to host Fair Day at a major Inner West Park

📋 Continue to work with local organisations to deliver an LGBTIQA+ safety strategy and protocol for hosting local events.

Over the last term, a Labor-led council has delivered:

🌈 A new Inner West Pride Centre, giving LGBTQIA+ people a place to meet and find support, and giving the amazing queer youth organisation Twenty10 a home in the Inner West.

📖 Commitment to council continuing to host Drag Story Times in Inner West libraries and gender and diverse swim nights in our sports and aquatic centres.

🪩 A fabulous World Pride program, bringing the queer world to see what the Inner West has to offer.

📽️ A commitment to hosting Mardi Gras screenings at Camperdown Memorial Rest Park.

Gay rights and queer family have a long history in the Inner West and it’s our commitment that this will continue for the next generation of LGBTQIA+ kids.

# **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy**

Reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Inner West, and recognition as the original custodians of the lands that we live and work, on is an ongoing journey. You Labor councillors want to acknowledge the intergenerational trauma felt by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and understand that community is important to healing.

To ensure that reconciliation journey continues into the future, a Labor-led council will:

🏗 Deliver the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Hub at Tempe Reserve, a community led and managed space to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Inner West.

🫂 Continue to fund the development of survival memorials across the Inner West, with two survival memorials to be completed in King Georges Park, Rozelle, and Kendrick Park, Tempe.

🗣 Continue a discussion with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents and organisations towards establishing a Voice to Council.

This builds on the work already established over this council term:

🫶 Established a plan for dual naming of local parks with both Indigenous and English language names.

🗣 Reaffirmed the Inner West Council Reconciliation Action Plan.

👥 Working with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on the best ways to reaffirm culture and community amongst First Nations residents of the Inner West.

Labor councillors are committed to listening to First Nations residents of the Inner West and look forward to more conversations on how we can help with recognition and healing.

# **Customer Service and Community Engagement**

Inner West Council is here for residents, and your Labor councillors know that continuing to get the basics right is one of the best ways Council can help make residents’ lives easier.

With a Labor-led council, we have worked hard to make sure council reaches a high level of basic services to residents. We have:

👥Increased the number of customer service stalls, giving residents a chance to talk to customer service staff at a place convenient for you.

🗣Established Local Matters Forums, allowing residents a chance to speak to executive staff and councillors in your ward.

🌳Harmonised the streetscape maintenance schedules, with increased frequency of verge mowing and street clearing.

With your support at the upcoming council election, a Labor-led council will:

📋Establish even more customer service stalls, bringing customer service to more parks and community centres, at shift-friendly hours and around your busy life.

👩Create a new Women’s Business Chamber, for women working in local businesses across the Inner West.

🏡Develop a customer service plan for new housing, to help ease the administrative burden in finding solutions to the housing crisis.

💻Launch a better council website to log and track your services, making it much easier to use.

We can’t wait to get started on making council work better for you!

# **Circular Economy**

Roads, Rates, and Rubbish aren't only three Rs of local council - there's also Reuse, Regenerate, and Recycle. Your Labor councillors want the Inner West to continue being a leader when it comes to the circular economy - which means reusing and recycling as much as we can to keep our local economy environmentally sustainable.

Your Labor councillors have a plan for the circular economy in the next term of council and with your support, we will deliver:

🗑 More bins, cleaner streets - Labor will increase the number of public bins in our streets and parks.

♻️ Expand soft plastics recycling.

👶 Make the rebate for reusable nappies and sanitary products permanent.

🚯 Take more action on illegal dumping with better enforcement and education.

🥼 Expand recycling through our resource centres to include hard to recycle items like textiles.

🤝 A new grant program for businesses working in the circular economy.

🍎 Continue to support residents adapting to FOGO, with free upsizing of red-lid bins, free additional collections that can be booked at any time, and the option to return to red-bin weekly service for those who need more time to make the change.

We know the key to a more sustainable future is the circular economy and that the future is now!