

WELCOME BACK • AUTUMN 2023 • ISSUE 143

INNER  
SYDNEY

# VOICE

## SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION



Inner Sydney Voice is the journal of the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development Inc. We are a non-profit organisation committed to the idea of information as a tool for community development. Inner Sydney is defined as the LGAs of City of Sydney, Bayside, Randwick, Waverley, Woollahra, and Inner West.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

ISV office is located on the land of the traditional owners of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional owners of the lands across the areas we service, including the Bidjigal, Birrabirragal, Gadigal, Gweagal and Wangal people. We acknowledge that sovereignty over these lands has never been ceded. ISV covers the local government areas of City of Sydney, Bayside, Randwick, Waverley, Woollahra, and the Inner West.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

ISV's approach is to listen to and offer support to First Nations Communities around the Voice to Parliament in order to promote awareness and dialogue within the boarder community. We note other States are establishing complementary Voices to State Parliaments and progressing consideration of state-based Treaties and a process of Truth Telling about the treatment of First Nations People in Australia since European Settlement.

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# CONTENTS

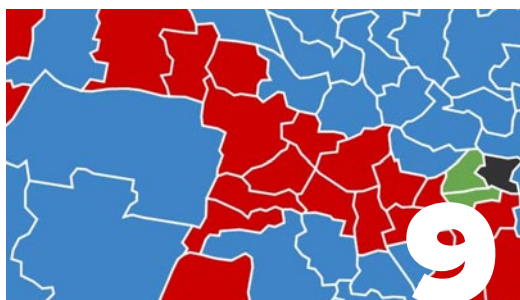
## 3 EDITORIAL



## Celebration of Democracy: Why your vote counts



## An Equal Say. A Fairer World. What matters to the Inner Sydney Region



## Inner Sydney Voice Region State Electorates

# EDITORIAL



**Hello, and thanks for connecting. It's been a while and hope you have missed reading the views and opinions of Inner Sydney locals as much as we have missed collecting and curating those voices.**

Over the past twelve months our communities have worked on finding their 'new normal' post a locked down pandemic world, and elected a new national government and a local guy has become the new Big Boss. Together, we have dealt with noisy and constant infrastructure development, busier than ever roads, and a rising cost of living that for many of us has had a dramatic impact on our quality of life (and we are not just talking about the cost of lettuce and petrol).

To say it has been a hard time would be an understatement. Whilst it is never about comparing disadvantage we cannot ignore that all these social and economic factors have impacted some more than others. Those who were already socially, financially and emotionally vulnerable seem to have been worse hit by the rising cost of living and fast and busy pace of change.

Community organisations have also been impacted by significant policy changes and meeting the escalating needs of people and families they exist to serve. At ISV HQ we have had to "pivot" (apologies for using COVID-19 era jargon) so many times we admit to having lost our balance on occasion. But we are back and we are focussed. Our team has been strengthened by new skills and a new energy that has led to the establishment of a new editorial team for the Inner Sydney Voice publications.

Enjoy this Welcome Back edition focussed on the 2023 NSW election.

Look forward to your contributions. Speak again at Wintertime.

**TO SAY IT HAS BEEN A  
HARD TIME WOULD BE AN  
UNDERSTATEMENT. THOSE  
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EMOTIONALLY VULNERABLE  
SEEM TO HAVE BEEN WORSE  
HIT BY THE RISING COST OF  
LIVING AND FAST AND BUSY  
PACE OF CHANGE.**

**Ha, James and the ISV Team**

# Celebration of WHY YOUR VOICE

WITH 10% OF THE TOTAL VOTE ACROSS  
THE INNER SYDNEY REGION COULD  
REGION THAT CHANGES THE OUTCOME

**O**n March 25,  
the people of  
NSW vote for  
their next  
government.

**Many are saying it is too tough to call. Others are saying it is going to fall one way or another. Still, other predictions are for a minority government, if no party gets a ruling majority.**

There are just more than 5.5 million people enrolled to vote in NSW. Inner Sydney Voice represents and supports people living in 10 electorates. These 10 electorates have a total of 590,000 voters. This means our patch has over

10% of the total voter voice across NSW.

BALMAIN **58,778**  
COOGEE **59,480**  
KOGARAH **59,585**  
MAROUBRA **59,439**  
NEWTOWN **59,584**  
ROCKDALE **56,794**  
SUMMER HILL **57,631**  
SYDNEY **62,486**  
VAUCLUSE **59,344**  
HEFFRON **56,229**  
TOTAL INNER SYDNEY REGION  
**589,350**

Source NSW Electoral Commission 2023

For Inner Sydney Voice what really matters is that an equal say and a fairer

world continues to be at the centre of our democratically elected government — irrespective of who ends up with the more numbers.

Over the past few months the Inner Sydney Voice Team has engaged with a number of community members, local organisations, key advocates and peak groups. There were some key, recurring themes that all lead to one spot. At the end of the day people are looking for ways to meaningfully contribute to political discourse and to be taken seriously.

Politicians, powered by their political machines are out promising us stuff if we vote for them. They know that every vote matters and with over 10% of the



# of democracy VOTE MATTERS

SS NSW,  
BE THE  
ME.



total vote across NSW, the Inner Sydney Region could be the region to change the game.

Labor needs to win this election. They think it is about time the Liberal-National Coalition — dealing with their own scandals and dysfunction — steps aside. The Greens are fighting to keep what they have — Newtown and Balmain — and the Independents are saying, “Here we come, ready or not!”

What we know is that to win government a party needs 47 seats in the Legislative Assembly — that’s where your local member fits in — and 22 seats in the Legislative Council or what is known as the Upper House or the House of Review. Everyone who

thinks they know anything about government and voting patterns reckons that either Labor or the Liberal/Coalition government will win minority government. This is why the Inner Sydney Region matters. In order for the Liberal/Coalition to win a majority they need to hold what they have and pick up an extra seat.

For Labor to win majority government they will need to pick up an extra ten seats on top of what they have now. It’s a big ask.

In order for the Liberal/Coalition to win with minority government they can afford to lose four seats and possibly six seats if Independent Alex Greenwich (City of Sydney) and Greg

Piper (Member for Lake Macquarie) supports them to form government.

In our region “The Teals” could be a problem for the Liberal Coalition. These women candidates are campaigning hard in the eastern suburb electorates — once thought to be safe Liberal seats. If they do get elected they will likely help the Liberals’ get over the line, so long as the Liberals support their climate agenda.

Are you confused yet? Don’t be. Just know your vote matters and vote for an equal say and a fairer world.

**Good luck and when you get a chance, pause and appreciate your right and responsibility to vote and join in on the celebration of democracy.**

# AN EQUAL SAY. A FAIRER WORLD.

## WHAT MATTERS TO THE INNER SYDNEY REGION

**P**overty affects nearly **900,000 people in New South Wales – more than in any other state or territory<sup>1</sup>.**

Children, single women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people with disability are the most likely to be living in poverty, economic and/or social disadvantage.

Single-parent families in Kensington, Pyrmont-Ultimo, Sydney-Haymarket, The Rocks and Waterloo have the highest rates of poverty in Sydney.

Housing stress in Sydney is at an unprecedented high with a disproportionate number of people in the private rental market living below the poverty line.

Whilst older people are less likely to be poor in general, the poverty rate amongst older people is highest in the inner suburbs such as Surry Hills, Redfern and Waterloo where there are large numbers of public housing tenants.

Some 41% of households in City of Sydney contained only one person, compared with 23.2% in Greater Sydney<sup>2</sup>. Living alone is one of the most substantial risk factors for both social isolation and loneliness<sup>3</sup>.

### **WHAT IS ON THE MIND OF INNER SYDNEY VOTERS? WHAT ARE THEY LIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED BY?**

There is varying and conflicting evidence about what are the most important issues for voters. We will of course know more after the 25 March but the sense is that voters in this region are likely to be influenced by:

#### **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

“... no way I can afford rent and even if I could – I can’t find a place with all these trendies moving in and pushing up prices ...”<sup>4</sup>

#### **INTEGRITY IN POLITICS**

People want our democracy to thrive but they are not “... putting up with bullshit and lies ...”<sup>5</sup>

#### **CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

“... we can turn this around. Stop coal, stop waste, stop high rates of consumption on everything ...”<sup>6</sup>

#### **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

“... if COVID taught us one thing – it’s community who steps up when needed. We need to invest in community any bloody way we can ...”<sup>7</sup>

**Inner Sydney Voice has taken the issues raised by local voices and researched needs. We have landed on what we think is important locally – see pages 7-8.**



# PRIORITIES FOR THE ELECTORATES OF BALMAIN, COOGEE, HEFFRON, KOGARAH, MAROUBRA, NEWTOWN, ROCKDALE, SUMMER HILL, SYDNEY AND VAUCLUSE

## 1 COST OF LIVING

Sydney is one of the most expensive cities in the world. People across the Inner Sydney Region are significantly impacted by the rising cost of living particularly in relation to affordable housing, utility costs and access to fresh food and produce.

- **Work with Inner Sydney Regional Voice and the local community to develop and implement a community driven Cost-of-Living Strategy**
- **Advocate for a cost of living support package for low income earners and those experiencing housing stress**
- **Climate-proof all affordable housing stock to reduce ongoing costs**

## 2 HOUSING RENTERS<sup>8</sup>

- **Remove NO-grounds evictions. Everyone deserves stability**
- **Ban secret rent-bidding. All offers must be open and transparent to avoid price-gouging**
- **Create a Rent Commission that will identify, implement and enforce the rights of renters, whilst also investigating potential wrongdoing by landlords, creating a fairer rental market**

## HOUSING FIRST HOME BUYERS

- **Reduce barriers to first home ownership for lower income earners**

- **Call on a dramatic increase of investment in social and public housing stock from the NSW government**
- **Create a mandatory requirement that 30 per cent of all livable floor space in new developments (apartment and townhouses) be set aside for public and affordable housing**

## **HOUSING OLDER PEOPLE**

- **Fund a specialist older person's housing information and support service that comprises an early intervention and crisis response (similar to the Victorian Home at Last model)**
- **Invest in a better emergency response service to meet the needs of older people**

## **3 IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL CONNECTION BY ADDRESSING CAUSES OF LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION**

- **Support Inner Sydney Voice campaign that shines a light on the impacts of loneliness and social isolation**
- **Support calls for funding of innovative, evidence driven, local strategies that identify and redress the causes of social isolation and loneliness. This includes paid employment for those at high risk of exclusion from the workforce, volunteering, supporting and building sporting or community organisations, universal design of public spaces and amenities**

## **4 COMMUNITY CENTRE INCLUSION AND INVESTMENT**

Addressing community disadvantage needs investment. A little can go a long way. Community centres and local organisations can play a significant role in alleviating poverty, engaging with and including people at risk of exclusion.

- **Legislate place-based collaboration for all government departments and key local services such as ISV, responsible for community development, health, education, the environment, social planning and transport**
- **Provide core funding to organisations like Inner Sydney Voice who can facilitate local engagement and connections and local service development capability for the expressed purpose of alleviating poverty and disadvantage**
- **Protect small and medium community organisations through better support and more equitable funding/commissioning processes**



### END NOTES

1 Yogi Vidyattama, Robert Tanton and NSW Council of Social Service Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW NCOS 2019

2 ABS – Census 2021 <https://profile.id.com.au/sydney/household-size>

3 Flood 2005; Lauder et al. 2004; Relationships Australia 2011

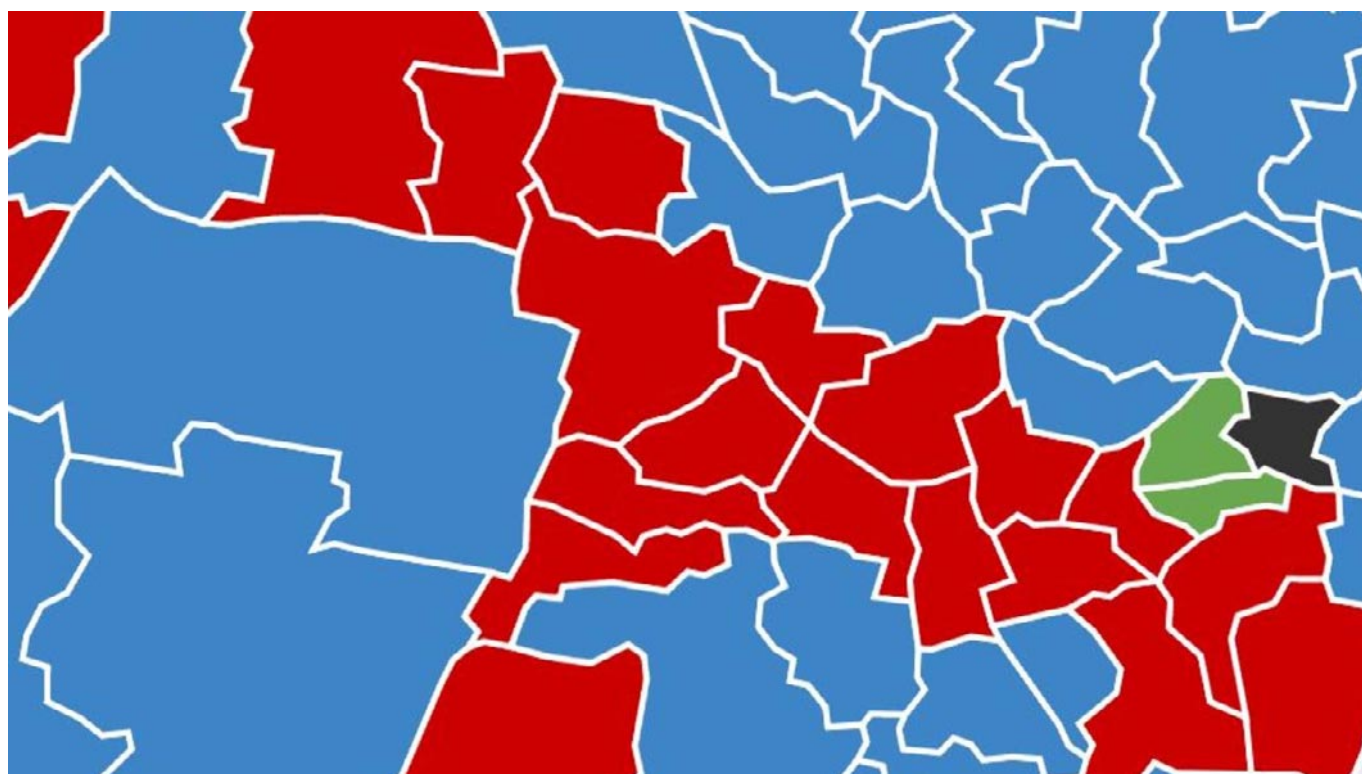
4, 5, 6, 7 Inner Sydney Voice – Community Conversation

8 ISV supports Shelter NSW I rent and I Vote Platform [https://shelternsw.org.au/news\\_items/i-rent-and-i-vote-shelter-nsw-2023-state-election-platform/](https://shelternsw.org.au/news_items/i-rent-and-i-vote-shelter-nsw-2023-state-election-platform/)



# INNER SYDNEY VOICE REGION STATE ELECTORATES

## A GUIDE TO THE TEN STATE GOVERNMENT ELECTORATES IN THE INNER SYDNEY VOICE REGION



**The ISV office is located on the land of the traditional owners of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional owners of the lands across the areas we service, including the Bidjigal, Birrabirragal, Gadigal, Gweagal and Wangal people. These lands include the Local Government Areas of the City of Sydney, Bayside, Inner West, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra.**

State Electorates in the ISV area are:

1. **Balmain**
2. **Coogee**
3. **Heffron**
4. **Kogarah**
5. **Maroubra**
6. **Newtown**
7. **Rockdale**
8. **Summer Hill**
9. **Sydney**
10. **Vaucluse**

The maps included on pages 10-14 are for each State Electoral District, which also show Local Government Area boundaries.

The NSW Electoral Commission publishes a separate State Register of Candidates. To view the register, go to <https://elections.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-disclosure/public-register-and-lists/register-of-candidates>.

# 1 BALMAIN

- Held by The Hon Jamie Parker (Greens) since 2011, who is retiring
- Safe Greens 10.0% v ALP
- The electorate of Balmain covers 16.1 square kms and takes in all of the former Leichhardt Council area, absorbed into the new Inner West Council in 2016. The seat includes the suburbs of Birchgrove, Balmain, Rozelle, Lilyfield, Leichhardt and Annandale, as well as Glebe and most of Ultimo from Sydney City Council.

## CANDIDATES

**GREENS** Kobi Shetty (balmain.state@nsw.greens.org.au)

**LABOR** Philippa Scott (philippa.scott@nswlabor.org.au)

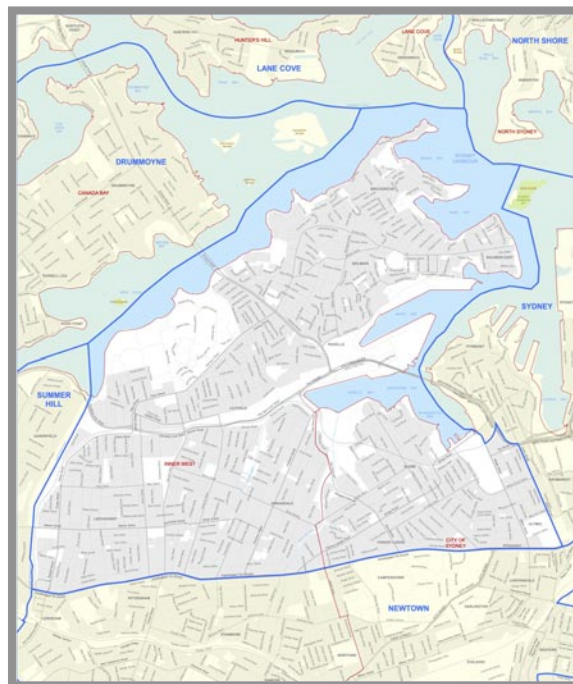
**LIBERAL** Freya Leach (Balmain@nswliberal.org.au)

**PUBLIC EDUCATION PARTY** Glen Stelzer

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**SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA PARTY** Steve Bisgrove

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# 2 COOGEE

- Held by The Hon Dr Marjorie O'Neill (Labor) since 2019
- Marginal Labor 2.3%
- Coogee is an eastern suburbs electorate bounded by Bondi Road and Syd Einfeld Drive in the north, Centennial Park and Anzac Parade in the west, and running down the coast as far as South Coogee. The electorate covers 14.6 square kms and includes the suburbs of Queens Park, Waverley, Tamarama, Bronte, Clovelly, Coogee, South Coogee, Randwick and parts of Bondi, Bondi Junction, Kensington and Kingsford. It covers the Randwick and Waverley Local Government Areas.

## CANDIDATES

**LABOR** Marjorie O'Neill | [coogee@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:coogee@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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**LIBERAL** Kylie von Muenster | [Coogee@nswliberal.org.au](mailto:Coogee@nswliberal.org.au)

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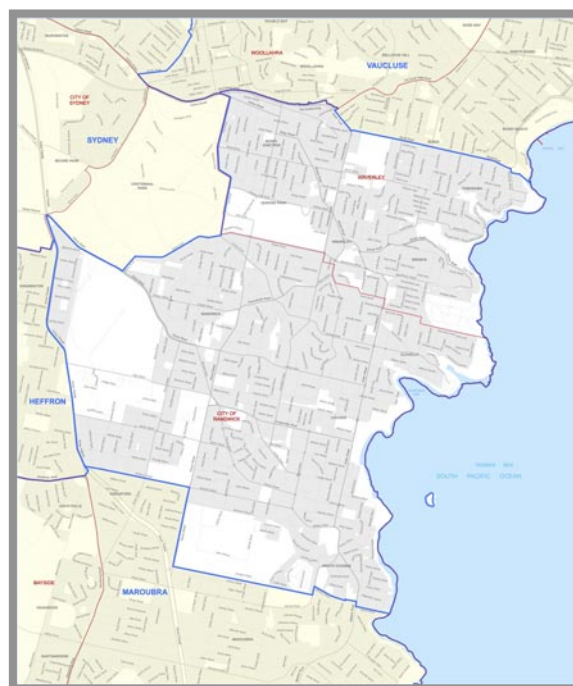
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## 3 HEFFRON

- Held by The Hon Ron Hoenig (Labor)
- Very Safe Labor 15.3%
- Coogee is an eastern suburbs electorate bounded by Bondi Road and Syd Einfeld Drive in the north, Centennial Park and Anzac Parade in the west, and running down the coast as far as South Coogee. The electorate covers 14.6 square kms and includes the suburbs of Queens Park, Waverley, Tamarama, Bronte, Clovelly, Coogee, South Coogee, Randwick and parts of Bondi, Bondi Junction, Kensington and Kingsford. It covers the Randwick and Waverley Local Government Areas.

### CANDIDATES

**LABOR** Ron Hoenig | [heffron@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:heffron@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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**INDEPENDENT** Sarina Kilham

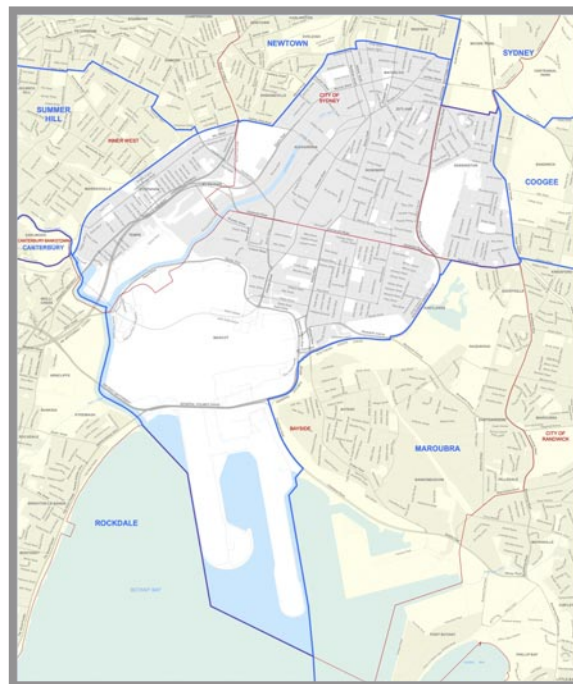
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**SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA PARTY** Ann Beatrice Godfrey

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## 4 KOGARAH

- Held by The Hon Chris Minns (Labor) since 2015  
Labor Party Leader since June 2021
- Marginal Labor 0.1%
- Kogarah is a southern Sydney electorate in the St George district. It extends north-west from Blakehurst and Kogarah Bay between King Georges, Harrow and Bexley Roads as far north as the M5. It includes all or parts of Beverly Hills, Kingsgrove, Hurstville, Bexley, Bexley North, Kogarah, Carlton, Allawah, Blakehurst, Kogarah Bay and Carss Park. Covers 22 square kms. Kogarah includes parts of the Canterbury-Bankstown and Bayside Local Government Areas.

### CANDIDATES

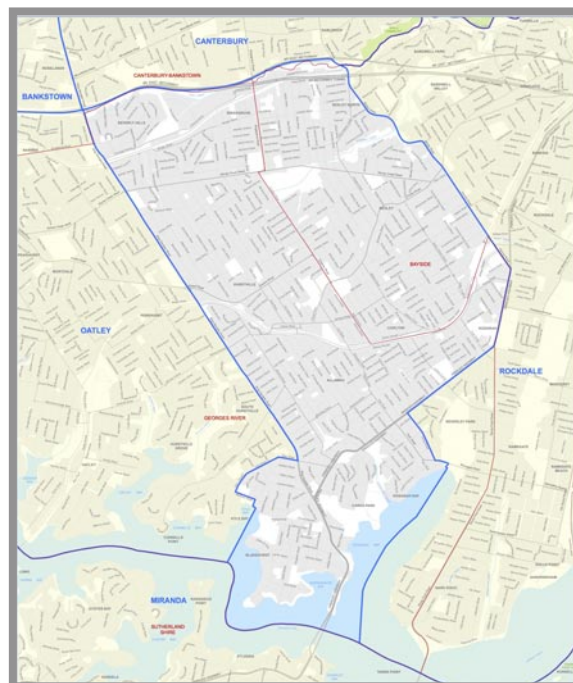
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**LIBERAL** Craig Chung | [kogarah@nswliberal.org.au](mailto:kogarah@nswliberal.org.au)





## 5 MAROUBRA

- Held by The Hon Michael Daley (Labor) since 2005 by-election
- Safe Labor 8.3%
- The electorate of Maroubra covers the inner south-east coastal suburbs of Sydney in the Randwick and Bayside Local Government Areas. It runs along Anzac Parade from the Nine Ways at Kingsford to La Perouse and extends west as far as Southern Cross Drive. It includes Maroubra, Malabar, Chifley, Little Bay, Phillip Bay, La Perouse, Banksmeadow, Botany, Hillsdale, Matraville, Pagewood, Daceyville and parts of Kingsford and South Coogee. Less affluent than other seats in Sydney's east, Maroubra includes significant public housing estates as well as Port Botany and its surrounding industrial areas. Covers 46.9 square kms.

### CANDIDATES

**LABOR** Michael Daley | [maroubra@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maroubra@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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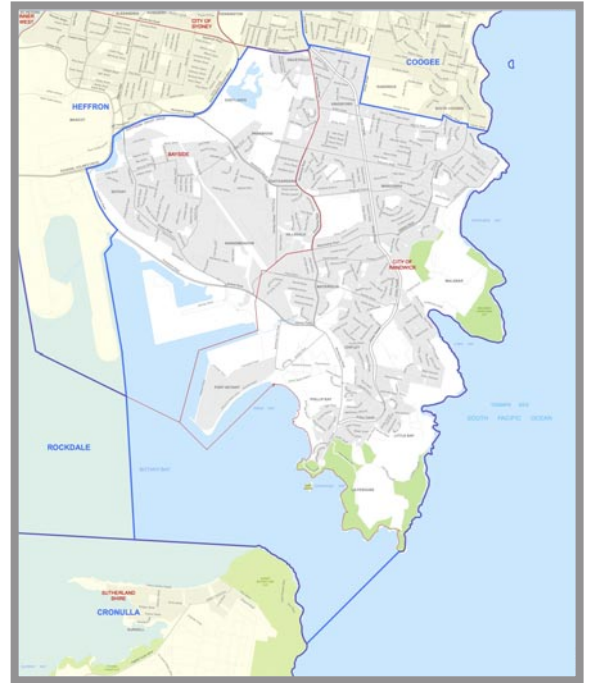
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## 6 NEWTOWN

- Held by The Hon Jenny Leong (Greens) since 2015.
- Very Safe Greens 11.4% v ALP
- Newtown is the state's smallest electorate at just 10.8 square kms. It runs in a narrow strip from South Dowling Street to the Dulwich Hill light rail line at Lewisham, south of Parramatta Road and Cleveland Street with the main western rail line as its spine. The electorate includes Redfern, Chippendale, Darlington, Camperdown, Erskineville, Newtown, Enmore, Stanmore, Petersham, Lewisham and parts of Marrickville and Alexandria. Newtown covers parts of the City of Sydney and Inner West Local Government Areas.

### CANDIDATES

**GREENS** Jenny Leong

[newtown.state@nsw.greens.org.au](mailto:newtown.state@nsw.greens.org.au)

**LABOR** David Hetherington

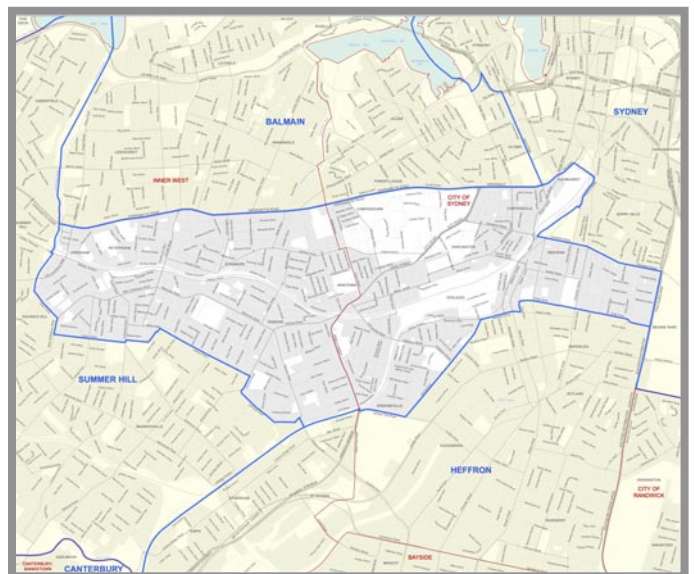
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**LIBERAL** Fiona Douskou | [newtown@nswliberal.org.au](mailto:newtown@nswliberal.org.au)

**SUSTAINABLE AUSTRALIA PARTY**

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## 7 ROCKDALE

- Held by The Hon Steve Kamper (Labor) since 2015.  
Shadow Minister for Small Business, Shadow Minister for Property,  
Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism.
- Safe Labor 10.0%
- Rockdale is a settled St George district electorate in Sydney's southern suburbs. It covers the western side of Botany Bay, along the shore including the suburbs of Kyeemagh, Brighton le Sands, Monterey, Ramsgate, Sandringham and Sans Souci, as well as Arncliffe, Bardwell Park, Wolli Creek and Rockdale further inland. Covers 41.4 square kms. Rockdale includes Bayside and part of Georges River Local Government Areas.

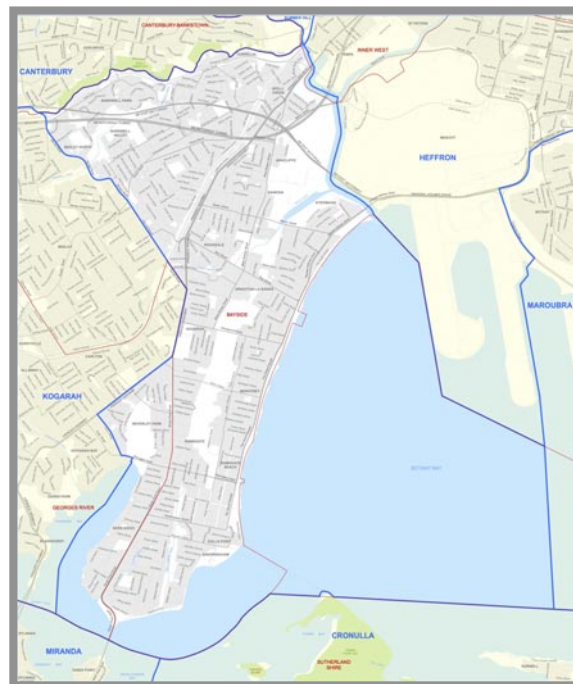
### CANDIDATES

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[vote1@sustainableaustralia.org.au](mailto:vote1@sustainableaustralia.org.au)



## 8 SUMMER HILL

- Held by The Hon Jo Haylen (Labor) since 2015.
- Very Safe Labor 21.6%
- Summer Hill is a new electorate in Sydney's inner-west. It includes all or parts of Marrickville, Dulwich Hill, Lewisham, Summer Hill, Ashbury, Ashfield and Haberfield. It covers 15.9 square kms and includes part of the Inner West Council and part of the City of Canterbury Local Government Areas.

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**LIBERAL** Bowen Cheng | [summerhill@nswliberal.org.au](mailto:summerhill@nswliberal.org.au)

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## 9 SYDNEY

- Held by The Hon Alex Greenwich (Independent) since an October 2012 by-election
- Safe Independent 11.8% v LIB
- This electorate takes in the Sydney CBD and surrounding suburbs north of Cleveland Street, plus Moore Park and Centennial Park to the east. As well as the CBD, The Rocks, Millers Point and Haymarket, the electorate includes Pyrmont, Darlinghurst, Woolloomooloo, Kings Cross, Elizabeth Bay, Potts Point, Paddington and Surry Hills. Covers 18.7 square kms. It covers parts of the City of Sydney, as well as parts of the neighbouring City of Randwick and Woollahra Local Government Areas.

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**LABOR** Skye Tito | [skye.tito@nswlabor.org.au](mailto:skye.tito@nswlabor.org.au)

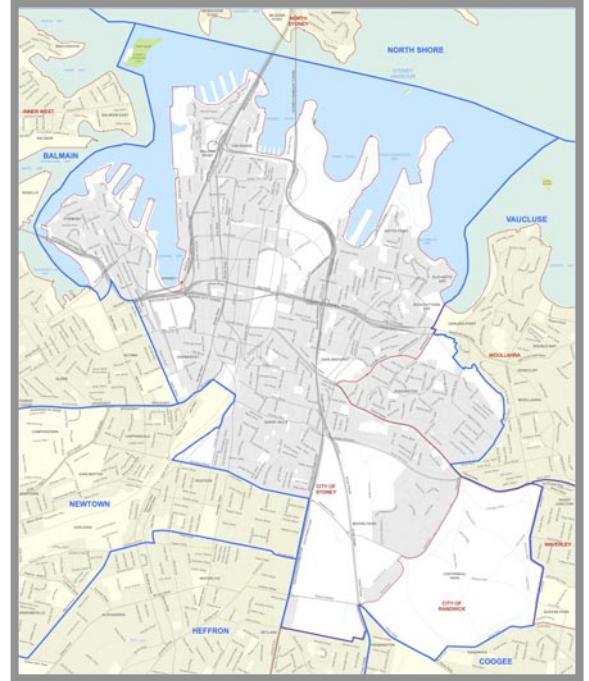
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## 10 VAUCLUSE

- Held by Gabrielle Upton (Liberal), who is retiring.
- Very Safe Liberal 19.4% v GRN
- Vaucluse is a Sydney eastern suburbs electorate based on the South Head peninsula north of Bondi Road and Oxford Street, east of Rushcutters Bay and Ocean Street. It includes the suburbs of Watsons Bay, Vaucluse, Rose Bay, Dover Heights, North Bondi, Bondi Beach, Bellevue Hill, Point Piper, Double Bay, Darling Point, Woollahra, Edgecliff and parts of Bondi. Covers 24.4 square kms. Vaucluse covers most of Woollahra and half of Waverley Local Government Areas.

### CANDIDATES

**LIBERAL** Kellie Sloane | [Vaucluse@nswliberal.org.au](mailto:Vaucluse@nswliberal.org.au)

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