

Linda Scott
Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney
Councillor

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Dear RedWATCH Members and the Waterloo community,

Public Good Must Drive Waterloo's Future

I write to you as the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney to let you know that, like you, I am deeply concerned about NSW Liberal government's proposed redevelopment of the public land upon which the Waterloo public housing estate currently sits.

The release of the preferred redevelopment option by the NSW government recently has heightened this concern, particularly as the plan includes **worrying low levels of social and affordable housing** and **inadequate access to open green spaces** and public amenities.

As a Labor councillor, **I firmly believe that any redevelopment of the Waterloo estate should be undertaken in the interests of the public good.** This means opportunities for more affordable and social housing, green spaces and parks, community gardens and spaces, and community and social services should be maximised, not left as an afterthought.

I am further concerned by aspects of the NSW Liberals' plan which would see publicly-owned land being sold to private developers. **Labor has always fought against the sell-off of public land for private benefit in Waterloo, and, like Labor's strong opposition to the sell-off of the Sirius building in Miller's Point, I will continue to oppose this worrying aspect of the NSW Liberals' preferred plan.**

As a Labor councillor in the City, I have always been a strong advocate for the public housing community in Waterloo. I have initiated and supported a number of measures at Council in support of the local community, including:

- I served as the Chair of the City's Cultural and Community (Healthy Communities Sub-Committee) Committee, which **made a grant of \$50,000 to the Waterloo Public Housing Action Group** in support of their community-led work surrounding the re-development plans;
- I successfully moved a motion at Council for the City to provide support to the 4,000 residents who may be displaced by the NSW Liberal government's plans, **by opening up our City's community spaces for use for legal and tenancy advice, and mental health and counselling services;**

- My continued advocacy on this issue was an integral part of the City's decision to **grant \$100,000 to the Redfern Legal Centre to assist Waterloo public housing tenants** with legal and tenancy matters;
- **I successfully advocated for a grant to be made by the City to the Waterloo Association Community Garden** to expand the valuable work they do in the community; and
- **I stood strongly against the closure of Waterloo Library**, a decision which was reversed, meaning access was retained to this important community resource.

I will always stand up for the public good in our City, and I will continue to fight for the public good to be at the forefront of any plans for the redevelopment of the Waterloo public housing estate.

I encourage you to **contact me at lscott@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or on (02) 9288 5918** should you have any further questions or comments on this, or any other local government matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Linda Scott
Deputy Lord Mayor
City of Sydney

P.S. I will continue to work with you to ensure any redevelopment of the Waterloo estate is undertaken in the interests of the public good, with much higher levels of social and affordable housing and access to open green spaces and public amenities. Should you wish to be in touch to work with us, you can contact me on (02) 9288 5917 or email me at lscott@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

