# City of Sydney Mayoral Candidates “*Please Explain….”* Forum

**Questions embargoed 8am Wednesday 4 September 2024**

**ASKING THE QUESTIONS**

**Question 1 Tenants Union CEO Leo Patterson Ross**

**Affordable Housing**

To address the housing crisis, some collaboration between different levels of Government is desirable.

Announcements of ‘up to 15%’ affordable housing seem to become more like 3% affordable housing by the time the build starts.

The Sydney Alliance supports the goal of 15% affordable housing in new developments across Greater Sydney, with affordable housing to managed by public or not-for-profit community providers for the long term.

As a future Mayor or Councillor in the City of Sydney, what is your position on the City of Sydney working toward affordable housing and what is the *minimum* level of affordable housing you support in new development approvals?

**Question 2 Solar Citizens CEO Heidi Douglas**

**Sustainable Energy**

The City of Sydney has enough scale and capacity to enable community batteries, solar installations and other renewable energy initiatives.

The City of Sydney could provide renewable, environmentally friendly and more affordable energy alternatives for renters, apartment dwellers, public housing tenants and not-for-profit organisations within the City of Sydney. This helps the environment and simultaneously addresses the cost of living crisis.

As a future Mayor or Councillor in the City of Sydney, will you work with the Sydney Alliance Local Team within the City of Sydney to make renewable energy available for renters, public housing tenants and not-for-profits?

**Question3 Glebe Youth Service CEO Mitra Gusheh**

**Core Funding for Place Based Organisations**

As the recent violence in Glebe illustrated, and confirmed unanimously by community attendees at community meetings, small place based not-for-profit organisations with established track records have the trust and community connections to most effectively respond to community needs.

Yet unlike Government provided services, small not-for-profits have no core funding that enables a stable base for projects and initiatives. An inordinate amount of time is spent securing funding from the NSW Government and City of Sydney, addressing criteria set by Government which has less knowledge of what is actually required in the local community.

As a future Mayor or Councillor in the City of Sydney, will you work with the Sydney Alliance to develop policies for credible place-based organisations to have core funding to enable more effective service delivery and longer-term strategies for meeting needs and developing community capacity?

**Question 4 Wayside Chapel Director of Ministry Rev Kent Crawford**

**Apprenticeships and Career Opportunities for disadvantaged young people in City of Sydney** (<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/252-million-boost-set-to-deliver-1300-new-apprentices-and-trainees/>)

The State Government recently announced $252 million in funding for new apprenticeships and trainees to be provided through Local Government. The City of Sydney is a major service provider, but outsources services with many people travelling into the City of Sydney to provide these services.

It would be a great pity if disadvantaged young people in the City of Sydney missed this opportunity for career pathways and meaningful work – and miss out on State government funding for these opportunities.

As a future Mayor or Councillor in the City of Sydney, will you work with the Sydney Alliance to expand opportunities for disadvantaged young people in the City of Sydney to benefit from training and apprenticeships through the City of Sydney’s service provision?

**Question 5 Anglican Dean of Sydney Canon Sandy Grant**

**Gambling Harm Reduction**

The City of Sydney is unusual among NSW LGAs for having many more hotels than clubs with poker machines, and many more poker machines in those hotels – currently around 3000 in pubs and 400 in clubs. That’s around 1000 more than all of Tasmania.

Using the figures from Liquor and Gaming for the second half of 2023, around $1million every single day is lost through those machines. In addition, the City has the two state casinos within its borders.

Currently, the City appears to operate a nearly complete ban on gambling advertising on council property, which is to be commended.

Given that gambling harm disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, what actions would you like to see the City undertake in the next term of Council?

Will you commit to maintaining – and if possible extending – the ban on gambling advertising on Council property?

Will you commit to opposing applications to increase the number of poker machines and oppose any expansion of operating hours within the City of Sydney?