

Save Greater Sydney Coalition Rally transcript 12th March 2024



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Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Trevor Sinclair	0:00:31	<p>...Demerger NSW Alliance are here with us today the NSW Government respects Local Government and democracy, they are standing up for their local communities with us today we have</p> <p>I'd also like to welcome the Federal member for Bradfield, he's not speaking but he would like to let us know that he is with us today and we can expect his support.</p> <p>Maybe we should just warm up a bit for five minutes and get a chat going there's enough people here to do that already</p> <p>I think isn't it because you've seen the wrecking ball haven't you?</p> <p>Yes. It's kind of impact it's been all over the newspapers so if I say Mins and you say "Wrecking Ball", can we do that?</p>
	0:01:17	<p>Let's try. Mins. Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>Mins. Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>Mins. Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>What if I was to just get you to say, "Save Our Suburbs." Save Our Suburbs. Save Our Suburbs. Save Our Suburbs. Save our suburbs. When I say MINS, you say what? Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>I say MINS, you say what? Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>I say MINS, you say what? Wrecking Ball.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
	0:01:57	We'll give it about five minutes and we will be able to start.
Voices in Crowd	0:02:02	What are we waiting for?
	0:02:04	Speak it.
	0:02:06	I don't know.
	0:02:08	People that are in the parliament right now, sitting down.
	0:02:12	And they actually passed the legislation. you You which we're thankful for
	0:02:27	Mute in audio recording
Trevor Sinclair	0:03:40with their clipboards if you'd like to sign with an email and a contact so we can all keep in touch and be on the same page because we are talking about all of Sydney today

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Trevor Sinclair	0:03:46	<p>I'm with the community groups in here because I mentioned Greater Sydney and it was immediately hollered at. What about Newcastle and Wollongong and of course that's all part of it.</p> <p>We are aware that we have people present who are opposed to this rally today.</p> <p>We do welcome your attendance, but we do ask that you please respect our speakers. Now, who have we got here from the Better Planning Network? Can we make some noise? Yeah! From Canterbury Bankstown. Yeah! Inner West. Yeah! Randwick. Yeah! The Blue Mountains. Yeah! The Hillshire. Yeah! Sutherland Shire, Yeah! Northern Beaches, Yeah! Karingai Yeah! Wollondilly Yeah! Marrickville Yeah!, Haberfield Yeah! Save our Sydney trees Yeah! Save our koalas Yeah! And the simple message that we're trying to get across here today, save our Sydney</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Trevor Sinclair	0:06:34	<p>I might just.. And some of those were members of parliament and as we've said, question time has gone over. And we are waiting on them.... I did get an email from Alex Greenwich who is the member for Sydney last night.</p> <p>He's apologised that he couldn't be with us today but he is working with the Government on a sensible outcome.</p> <p>And he has issued this statement.</p> <p><i>The proposed changes override long established planning rules to sensitively locate density to protect heritage, environment, solar access, tree canopy, healthy homes and access to services. Proposed heights don't even fit in proposed floor space ratios. That means the rules would allow high-rise development up to 30 story's without any strategic planning. There are no provisions to deliver affordable housing. The laws actually facilitate current trends of converting buildings of many small affordable homes into just a few luxury apartments.</i></p> <p><i>Planning rules are not what stop developers providing affordable housing"</i></p>
	0:08:07	That's the quote from Alex Greenwich.
Crowd	0:08:09	Hear, hear.

**Statement
from Alex
Greenwich
Member of
the New
South Wales
Legislative
Assembly**

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Trevor Sinclair		<p>I think we might have to get that chant going again because a few TV cameras have turned up and a few more press.</p> <p>So if I say Mins. Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>So if I say Mins.you say Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>So if I say Mins.you say Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>So if I say Mins.you say Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>So if I say Mins.you say Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>Save our suburbs. Save our suburbs.</p> <p>Save our suburbs. Save our suburbs.</p> <p>Save our suburbs. Save our suburbs.</p> <p>I'm getting drums from behind now because we've invited a few mayors and councillors from across the city to come and join us who are not speaking. But there was a, what was that suggested? Say no to developer MINS. Say no to developer MINS.</p> <p>Say no to developer MINS. Say no to developer MINS</p> <p>Say no to developer MINS. Say no to developer MINS</p> <p>Sounds like a prospect doesn't it?</p> <p>Say no to developer MINS. Say no to developer MINS</p>
Crowd	0:13:08	Let the mayors and councilors speak.

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Trevor Sinclair	0:13:18	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to start today. I am Trevor Sinclair, a radio presenter and producer currently with Radio 2UE and I'll be your Save Greater Sydney Coalition MC for today.</p> <p>I'd like to acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of this land and pay my respects to elders both past, present and emerging.</p> <p>So who is the Save Greater Sydney Coalition?</p> <p>We talk with residents and communities across Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Lower Hunter, Greater Newcastle, the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, the Blue Mountains.</p> <p>They're affected by these new planning laws.</p> <p>We formed in the middle of just last month to urgently respond to the Minn's Government's housing reform announcements that were introduced just before Christmas last year.</p> <p>These reforms were delivered unbeknown to and came as a surprise to local government, your councils and your mayors.</p> <p>We're deeply concerned that the New South Wales Government's proposed planning reforms will have devastating consequences for local communities, local governments, the built, the natural, the cultural heritage and everything makes Greater Sydney a great place to live. It also takes away some of our democratic values</p> <p>In short, we believe that our New South Wales planning system should be one that is Consultative, Transparent, Democratic and puts the public interest first. [Here, Here]</p> <p>Values the diversity and uniqueness of Greater Sydney's suburbs, [Here, Here]</p> <p>Ensures stronger and more effective environmental and heritage protection, [Here, Here]</p> <p>Solves the housing crisis, does not exacerbate it. [Here, Here]</p> <p>Why are we here today? Why is today so important?</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
<p>Statement from David Burdon Conservation Director at National Trust of Australia (NSW)</p>	0:13:20	<p>There are only three NSW Parliamentary sitting days, today, tomorrow and Thursday left, before the Transport Oriented Development, TOD program, or the TOD program, will be introduced on April 1st. [SHAME]</p> <p>I want to use a couple of words from David Burdon, who is the Director of the National Trust.</p> <p><i>"In June 2023, it was reported that the Inner West Council was going on a heritage frenzy as it sought to list 15 electricity substations, 10 of which were already heritage listed, by Ausgrid. Later, in the very same council meeting, a councilor raised the issue of unoccupied buildings.</i></p> <p><i>While that rage was maintained by those who opposed some heritage of those substations, the fact that the Inner West Council had 8,152 unoccupied dwellings went unreported.</i></p> <p><i>8,152 in one council area.</i> [Shame, Shame]</p> <p><i>The broader situation reveals that when you look at all Sydney councils combined, there's a staggering 163,740 740 unoccupied dwellings in Sydney".</i></p> <p>[Shame, Shame]</p> <p>As David Burton said, <i>"Surely a good place for a policymaker to start would be to address the housing crisis not the sweet nectar that a developer wishes to promote"</i> [Here, Here]</p> <p>I'm going to get that chat going one more time before we welcome the first of our speakers.</p> <p>So if I say Mins. Wrecking Ball. So if I say Mins. you say Wrecking Ball. So if I say Mins. you say Wrecking Ball. So if I say Mins. you say Wrecking Ball.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
<p>Sue Higginson, Member of New South Wales Legislative Council</p>	0:13:59	<p>Thank you Trevor. Thank you, all you wonderful folk for showing up today. It's absolutely important that we show up and we show up together because this government in here is not hearing us. So we need to be loud and we need to be clear about what it is we're saying and why we're saying it.</p> <p>I want to acknowledge that I'm here on the land of the Gadigal, the unceded land, pay my respect to all elders past, present and emerging. Before I was in this Parliament I was the principal solicitor and the CEO at the Environmental Defenders Office.</p> <p>For decades and decades we have laid down with communities the blueprint for what good planning looks like, for what clever planning looks like, what sustainable planning as we move into our changing climate and what it would take and what it will take to address the housing crisis. And I'm sure most of you know, but as the bearer of news in case you don't, what this Minns government has put on the table does none of that. It will not see the delivery of affordable, accessible, safe and sustainable housing.</p> <p>The housing that we deserve, that our children deserve and that their children deserve. This is a short-term plan. It is a grab to the Property Development Council and Lobby and Industry. And it's an unbelievably crass, cheap grab at that. We deserve better! We know how to work together to get better.</p> <p>The rubbish that we have been fed from this Minns government, the division of the NIMBY-YIMBY has reduced what is an incredibly complex and compelling need of our communities right here and right across the state and in our regions.</p> <p>We know that what is on the table is not the plan that we deserve.</p> <p>Planning done well is exciting, it's innovative, it's creative, it's hopeful and it doesn't cause division.</p> <p>So he's got it wrong and we need to keep speaking this truth to that.</p> <p>At the moment, the Greens have secured an inquiry into the TOD SEPP, the Transport Oriented Development and the Diverse and Well-Located Housing Program. housing program.</p> <p>We've managed to secure that inquiry. I need you all to engage in that inquiry.</p> <p>The government disingenuously has not made the commitment to wait until that inquiry has completed its hearings and put its report on the table.</p> <p>So we need to keep pressuring the government to stop disrespecting democracy, to stop disrespecting this Parliament and to stop disrespecting local communities and local governments and wait until we've properly had our say because we know our case for good planning is compelling.</p> <p>We are on the winning case, this is the losing case, so please folk stay together, stay strong, stay the course, we deserve better and together we will get better.</p> <p>Thank you. [Applause]</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Trevor Sinclair	0:14:54	<p>Thank you, Sue Higginson. The department is currently considering submissions ahead of the commencement of that final policy on July 24.</p> <p>What we want to know is will the public submissions be published and when will they put them on the planning portal</p> <p>I'd like to welcome now the Mayor of North Sydney, Zoe Baker.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Zoe Baker, Mayor of North Sydney Council	0:18:07	<p>Thank you. The State Government rightly is committed to addressing the worst housing affordability and rental crisis since the immediate post-World War II period.</p> <p>For the North Sydney local government area, we're one of the three most densely populated areas in New South Wales. 89% of our housing stock is medium or high density, yet we have the lowest per capita levels of open space and recreational facilities in northern Sydney, less than that of the City of Sydney. The cost of housing in North Sydney and throughout the Greater Sydney, whether to purchase or to rent, is at an historic high. Like councils across the Greater Sydney region, North Sydney Council and our community recognise this crisis and we are committed to prioritizing affordable housing and planning for growth.</p> <p>Under our existing plans, the residential population of North Sydney local government area will increase by 19,500 people or 27% over the next 20 years. More than 6,600 new dwellings have already been planned under the urban activation precinct around the Crows Nest Metro site.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this State Government has adopted an easy and divisive narrative, blaming councils for the failures of successive State Governments over many decades to provide sufficient social housing stock and to mandate affordable housing targets to accompany the decades of rezonings that have given windfall profits to private development sector without delivering new affordable housing. [Applause] It's a narrative that dwells only on the supply of new housing by the private sector and it does not touch on the other underlying causes of the housing crisis, including the taxation system, the current high cost of financing construction, nor the fragile position of the construction sector across the country post COVID.</p> <p>This divisive nimby YIMBY eastern Sydney western Sydney thing does not help. It all just gets in the way of councils and communities working collaboratively with the State Government to accommodate more density. Rushed mass one-size-fits-all up-zonings from Newcastle to Wollongong and everywhere in between will not miraculously reduce housing and rental prices.</p> <p>Similarly, development approvals do not equate to completed new dwellings. For example, just in the last two years, North Sydney Council has completed seven rezoning applications for 887 new units. And of those, only one of those sites is under construction for 120 units. And that's just in the Crow's Nest St Leonard's precinct alone. The fact is developers are in it for profit and they will land bank until the cost of construction, falls and skills and material shortages are addressed, until the development cycle is at its most profitable.</p> <p>Stripping councils and communities of a voice and overriding local planning controls without mandating affordable housing and new developments, nor providing commensurate investment in sewerage, water and electricity upgrades, in open space, hospitals, schools for the new population is not the answer.</p> <p>Overriding heritage protections uniformly will diminish the character and the quality of our city. [Applause] It doesn't have to be either or. It's not a zero-sum game! You can have medium and high density and heritage. Examples are found throughout the Greater Sydney region and in Newcastle and Wollongong. The fact is local place-based planning in partnership with local communities delivers great outcomes.</p> <p>People will accept radical change even when the changes impact their amenity if they've been given a voice in the as part of the planning process. So we call on the State Government to halt the Low and Mid-Rise SEPP and instead release the housing targets and give us timeframes. Trust councils and communities to plan for additional density.</p> <p>Work with councils and communities to allow changes tailored for local conditions, not a blanket one size fit all approach. Back good planning principles and allow local communities to deliver density done well. Thank you.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Trevor Sinclair	0:22:36	<p>Thank you North Sydney Mayor Zoe Baker.</p> <p>A few other mayors that we'd like to welcome today who are not speaking but have joined us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Shield from Woollahra. • Phillipa Beach from Randwick. • Jack Miles from Hunters Hill. <p>And just a short quote from our next speaker, when it comes to councils taking action on the state's housing crisis, the Hillshire has already done much of the heavy lifting for Greater Sydney.</p> <p>Will you welcome Dr Peter Gangemi..</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
<p>Dr Peter Gangemi, Mayor of Hills Shire Council</p>	0:23:25	<p>Well, thank you to each and every one of you for being here.</p> <p>And can I thank the Save Greater Sydney Coalition for organizing this incredible rally. It's very important that each of us are here because we need action on this issue.</p> <p>We need the NSW Government to abandon their proposed changes to the low and mid-rise housing. We need all of you here. We need the hundreds of residents, the thousands of residents who have contacted me distraught with these changes to write to the Premier, to write to the Planning Minister and say we don't want these changes this is not the best way forward.</p> <p>What is proposed is a one-size-fits-all but it will locate densities in the wrong areas. It'll destroy [Applause] the very carefully calibrated community character that we've all worked so hard to build over such a long period of time.</p> <p>In my area in the hills, there's a suburb called Beaumont Hills. It's over two kilometers from any station. It just has a small collection of shops but under these changes six-story apartments could be located in narrow streets, far from stations, far from schools with capacity. This is not what we want. In the Blue Mountains Council, Wimallee up there, you've got a group of shops there, six kilometers from the nearest station, bushfire prone, but you've got six storey apartments located there. That's not appropriate development either.</p> <p>Each council I've spoken to, each community I've spoken to, they're willing to play a part towards solving the housing crisis, but it must be done the right way. Councils and communities have spent decades with their expertise with the right solutions and we're saying to the state government work with us. Each of the councils and the communities know best what works for their areas, work with us to find the solutions towards the housing crisis. I think there's a lot to say about what councils have done already.</p> <p>A lot of councils are meeting their housing targets in the hills, along with Blacktown Council, we're two of the fastest growing areas in terms of local governments in New South Wales. We've delivered incredible amounts of housing and we are willing to do more but it has to be alongside us.</p> <p>I want to say something about development approvals and zonings, there is a difference between Development Approvals and Zonings and actually getting houses on the ground. And what we're seeing from councils, what I see from councils is they're very good at getting, there's a lot of approvals that are there and haven't been enacted on yet. There's a lot of zonings that haven't been enacted on but that's different to houses on the ground. In the Hills we've got enough land zoned for 50,000 more dwellings, in the last 10 years 30,000 Development Approvals but only 18,000 have been constructed.</p> <p>This Housing Crisis has not caused by Councils, its not caused by lack of approvals, it is not caused by lack of zonings, you cannot-zone your way out of the crisis, you cannot approve your way out of this crisis! [Applause] So as a Council we are calling on all levels of Government, you have to look at immigration, you can't have a system where more people are moving into the Country than the construction industry has capacity to build houses for. We need sewer, [Applause] power, water rolled out in those key areas to unlock housing in those key areas.</p> <p>We need infrastructure, we need schools, we need hospitals, road upgrades, active recreation in those key areas to unlock housing. Landcom are sitting on are sitting on thousands of dwellings that are already DA approved. The State Government can build those dwellings tomorrow if they so choose fit. So there's many solutions to these problems but the core message is work with councils, work with the communities, we're the people with the expertise in each area. So I just simply wanted to thank each and every one of you for being here. It's a very important message. Make your voices heard. Contact the Premier, contact the Planning Minister. Have a great day - Thank you.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
	0:28:04	Thank you. Hillshire Mayor Dr Peter Gangemi. I would like to now welcome Mark Speakman, leader of the opposition at the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. Mark, welcome to our rally.

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Mark Speakman, Leader of the Opposition in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly	0:28:19	<p>Thanks. Thanks, ladies and gentlemen. I've also got Scott Farlow, who is our planning spokesman. Ladies and gentlemen, unlike Chris Mins, I'm here to listen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlike Chris Mins, I won't tell local communities to get out of the way. • Unlike his housing minister, I won't be saying get out of the way. • Unlike his planning minister, in question time today, I won't be saying get out of the way. <p>These one-size-fits-all, lazy, arrogant proposals can trash your suburbs. We say the first thing you've got to do is engage with local communities through their local councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let local communities identify where there is space for extra supply. • Let them identify what extra schools and hospitals and public transport and roads and sewerage you need. <p>You'll hear a lot from Chris Minns and his planning minister about drawing circles around train stations and shopping centres. You won't hear one iota, one iota about building the infrastructure that you need. Not one iota. [Applause]</p> <p>Fixing Sydney's housing crisis is not just about supply, it's about demand as well. His mate in Canberra, Anthony Albanese and sign up to 375,000 extra houses in five years but you don't hear a whisper out of Christmas about fixing our immigration problem. Immigrants have enriched this country enormously for generations but we cannot afford to continue the rate of immigration we have seen. [Applause]</p> <p>You've seen under Anthony Albanese, record immigration, over 500,000 in the last financial year, over 500,000 That is far too many. The Federal Government says it's now scaling back, but it's not scaling back fast enough. We know that record immigration is putting enormous pressure on housing affordability, not just for buyers, but for renters as well. So part of the solution is reducing immigration.</p> <p>And part of the solution too, with affordability, is fixing our stamp duty system.</p> <p>When we were in government, we had first home buyer choice to give first home buyers the choice of paying the large upfront stamp duty that's being imposed at the moment or a small annual property tax. A small annual property tax.</p> <p>The period that was in was about six or seven months, buyers voted with their feet and overwhelmingly chose the small property tax.</p> <p>But inexplicably, inexplicably Chris Minns, one of his few bits of legislation in the last year has cancelled that project. So we say that should come back.</p> <p>There should be incentives for empty nesters who choose to downsize. One of the reasons we've got family homes locked up is because of the high transaction costs in downsizing. There are 1.4 million people in New South Wales living by themselves or as couples in houses that are three bedrooms or larger And three quarters of those are over 55. We don't want to force people out of their neighborhoods, which is what Chris Minns' approach is doing. We want to give them the incentive by removing transaction costs.</p> <p>So that's what the government should be doing. It should be helping Council build the infrastructure it needs.</p> <p>So we say, listen to your local communities, get them involved.</p> <p>These reforms that Chris Minns is introducing is lazy, it's one size fits all, it's haphazard.</p> <p>You can see it's a scattergun for example in the inner west where potentially the whole local government area could be as high as eight stories.</p> <p>Let's focus on what local communities want, engage local communities and fix this housing crisis together. Thank you.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Crowd	0:28:22	What about building some affordable public housing?
Trevor Sinclair	0:29:01	<p>Let's say thank you Thank you to Chris and thank you to Mark Speakman. Before we let the opposition Before we let the leader leave, I think we need him to hear the chant. When I say Mins Wrecking Ball. When I say Mins Wrecking Ball. When I say Mins Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>One place we certainly don't want to see the Wrecking Ball is through Potts Point and our next guest is Warren Fay AM, cultural historian and co-founder of Potts Pointers and the Potts Point Preservation Group.</p> <p>Please welcome Warren.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Warren Fahey AM, Cultural Historian & Potts Point Preservation Group	0:32:23	<p>Thank you. Well we all know that politicians don't always get it right and we also know that people power can change their mind. So it's great that we're here today. And if I was the premier, I'd be a little bit nervous when I realized who is represented here today.</p> <p>I thought appropriate, I've done many rallies, you know, and as I'm knocking on the door of, well, 80 in a year or so, I think that my memories of Sydney are very different.</p> <p>We have lost so much of our history and it's sad. And I'm just going to paraphrase a little verse or two from John Dengate, the late parody singer, and it has a message.</p> <p><i>Under concrete and glass, Sydney's disappearing fast. It's all going for profit and for plunder. Oh, we really want to stay Strata laws are driving us away. And across the western suburbs we must wonder. Yes, the Strata laws are crook, while our suburbs go kaput. All gone for profit and for plunder. Yes we really want to stay but Strata laws are driving us away. And across the Blue Mountains we must wander.</i></p> <p>I come from that very precious area called Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay which incorporates Kings Cross. It's only one square kilometer. It has a history, a unique history. It's the first place in Australia where we had flats, apartment living, and today we are seeing many of Many of those apartments threatened and it also threatens what is the cultural fabric of that very, very amazing part of Sydney's history. At the moment as I stand here, there are five DA proposals which will see a 174 apartments replaced by 73 apartments.</p> <p>Not one, one better, not one studio apartment and they were the nuts and bolts and the reason that so many people came to the area because they saw it as a sanctuary, a place where they could afford to come and live in the center of Sydney.</p> <p>So I'm very aware that the housing equity changes also affect the diversity of the local culture, the local population, and there's a death knell ringing on our precious heritage area up there.</p> <p>The time has come for a better understanding and protection of 20th century buildings.</p> <p>In another 50 years we'll look back and if we see all these 20th century buildings disappear we'll go, how the hell did that happen?</p> <p>Just one last comment, the fact that the city of Sydney had to, had to after a lot of protests, approve the conversion of the 1939 Metro cinema up in Kings Cross, the best example of Art Deco cinemas in Sydney and agree to a hotel being built on the premises.</p> <p>It's indicative of the problems. But we live in hope, the developers backed out and we hope it will be a theatre again. So, thank you</p>
Trevor Sinclair	0:37:09	<p>Thank you, Warren Fay,</p> <p>I'd like to now introduce somebody we should all know because we haven't talked about public housing all that much in the big housing crisis. And one lady that's right behind that is the lifetime former partner of Greens band legend, the great Jack Mundy.</p> <p>Would he welcome Judy Munday.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Judy Munday, former partner of the late Jack Munday	0:37:31	<p>I acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Gadigal people and pay my respects to their elders past and present.</p> <p>About three years ago I spoke at a rally in Sydney about the need for public housing. Since then, homelessness has increased. Don't know that it was my fault, but it has increased. And we still have people sleeping in railway station tunnels, pitching tents in public parks, squatting in abandoned buildings, and reportedly sleeping in motor vehicles because there's nowhere else to go. [SHAME] There's no doubt that we have a dire shortage of affordable housing and that the lack of such housing is a major contributing factor to the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>New South Wales Planning Minister Paul Scully says that Sydney is one of the least affordable cities on the planet and our government says it has a commitment to improve housing affordability. But the private property market, the free market, is clearly not going to achieve that outcome. [Applause]</p> <p>The provision of quality rent controlled public housing built by the government would certainly go a long way to addressing it. This is not a new idea. Over 100 years ago, in the early years of the last century, the government of the day built public housing. Following the Second World War, our society faced a serious housing shortage. In response, the government built public housing. 26% of homes after the war were built by the government as public housing.</p> <p>In the 1970s the Government was still building public housing. The privatization of public assets had not been extended to our public housing assets. Some people here will know that arising from the struggle to preserve the historic rocks area of Sydney in the 1970s, an agreement was reached between the Wran Government and the Builders' Laborers' Federation, which had placed a green ban on that area.</p> <p>That agreement was to build public housing for Rocks residents who had been displaced during that ultimately successful battle. Flowing from that agreement, the Sirius building was constructed by the Housing Commission of New South Wales with waterfront views of the harbour, the opera house and the bridge.</p> <p>It contained 79 public housing units ranging in size from one bedroom to four bedrooms. Its design was similar to another public housing block of units of one, two and three bedrooms also built in the 1970s on a site acquired by the government at Sans Souci. These developments and many more were designed, planned and built by the Government through the Housing Commission with government architects and planners and government employed building workers with nearly a private property developer in sight. [Applause]</p> <p>They were quality built, unlike some of the privately built disasters like Mascot Tower. And they were rent controlled, thus affordable, with a social mix of residents ranging from single pensioners to sizeable families. And they had security of tenure.</p> <p>Security of tenure is no longer the case for public housing tenants. Some 37 years after residents moved into the Sirius building at the rocks, they were given notice to quit. They were evicted. They lost the security of their homes that had been built for them 37 years earlier.</p> <p>That building itself was saved with a campaign. Now we can just look at it as a monument to the sort of buildings we used to build as public housing. But the building itself was sold off to the highest bidder. It's no longer available for public housing tenants.</p> <p>Other public housing is being allowed to deteriorate by neglect and then sold off to the private sector, thus reducing publicly owned and rent controlled housing stock at a time of great need.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Judy Mundy		<p>This loss of public stock eliminates the price control restraint that was imposed on the free market both in terms of purchase price and rental costs by the countervailing effect of the public housing sector.</p> <p>Thus rents and house prices are now at historic highs, making both ownership and rental inaccessible for many.</p> <p>The Government is aware of the need and is proposing higher density, but even leaving aside other problems associated with increased density, this would not of itself ensure the availability of affordable housing. [Applause]</p> <p>If we're going to increase availability, the government needs to accept responsibility for housing. We need to re-establish public sector involvement in the provision and maintenance of public housing.</p> <p>This is no less a basic necessity for a decent life. Our Prime Minister famously, and like many people, had the advantage of growing up in publicly owned housing, in a housing commission home. It was no more than he and his mother deserved. They deserve that opportunity but we urgently need to reinstate such a starting life as he had, such a human right for those who increasingly are being denied it.</p>
Trevor Sinclair	0:43:49	<p>I think you might need to give a bigger Cheer than that to Judy Mundy</p> <p>I'd like to bring to the stage the member for Wahroonga, Mr Alister Henskens, SC.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Alister Henskens SC, Wahroonga, Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly	0:44:15	<p>Well good afternoon, everyone. Sydney is the most beautiful and liveable city in the world. It's a city that's full of trees and natural beauty. We're friendly neighborhoods. It's got homes where kids can kick a ball in the backyard with their children and their parents and it has communities that are able to gather in local shopping areas. The same can be said for Newcastle, Wollongong and the Central Coast.</p> <p>Now that didn't just come about by accident. It came about because people defended what was best about the place they live in and that is what we are all doing today. Now the assistant custodians of the lifestyle that we live are the planning rules that have been put in place 45 years ago. By attacking those planning rules, Chris Minns wants to attack our way of life.</p> <p>It's the duty of everybody, everybody here today to go back to your communities and explain to everyone why our planning rules are so important to the way that we live.</p> <p>We want more housing and we want more affordable housing. Like many of us I've got two kids in their 20s who are renters and we all want to help their generation get a home but we also want to do it in the right way. Chris Minns has the wrong plan and if its implementation occurs it will not only ruin our city but it will make housing more expensive. [Applause]</p> <p>Now we all know if you analyze a problem wrongly then you're likely to come up with the wrong solution and that's what's happening with Chris Minns' housing policy. [Applause] Our current planning laws have been in place for almost half a century. <i>If they were the cause of our current housing problems, then those problems would have occurred back in the 1980s and not now.</i> Chris Minns has the wrong solution because he's diagnosed the wrong problems</p> <p>The planning rules that we have today that Chris Minns wants to destroy was able to produce 75,000 homes completed in New South Wales in 2018 before COVID interrupted our housing supply. Now 75,000 homes in one year is the greatest number of homes any state has produced ever and our current planning laws in place. [Applause] It was achieved by the Greater Cities Commission working with local communities, working with councils, setting local housing targets and putting housing where local infrastructure made sense.</p> <p>In just one year as Premier, Chris Minns has abolished the Greater Cities Commission, he's abolished local housing targets, he's not worked with councils and instead he's told them to get out of the way, he's put a new \$12,000 tax on every new dwelling in Sydney, he's cheered on higher immigration and he's cut our stamp duty reforms that would have allowed first home buyers to not pay lump sum stamp duty.</p> <p>All these actions have made housing worse and these housing reforms are the absolute last straw. In conclusion I want to say that our democracy is based on the power of people. So I want to thank you all for coming up here today and standing up for our communities. From the last election, from the last election to the announcement of these wrong housing policies, Chris Minns met with property developers on about 20 occasions. [SHAME] In the same time, in the same time there was not one meeting, no public consultation with people who care about our communities. Instead of centralizing Power Macquarie Street about housing, the government needs to start working with communities instead of against them. [Applause] Otherwise, our lifestyle and our heritage will change forever.</p> <p>Our housing issues cannot be solved by drawing nice little circles around every railway station and every shopping area in Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and the Central Coast. The whole policy has gone off track and if it continues in this way the results will be disastrous. It will destroy our suburbs and undermine the Australian dream of owning a home. We need a housing policy that puts people, neighborhoods and communities before property developers. [Applause]</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Wahroonga, Mr Alister Henskens, MP		<p>We need a government that will work with councils, will work with the community, will work with the building industry to get better housing supply and cheaper housing options. We don't want solutions imposed on our communities.</p> <p>Can I just say Chris Mins really needs to go back to the drawing board. I want to thank you all for coming out and fighting this fight. Thank you again.</p>
Trevor Sinclair	0:50:05	<p>I will say it again, I need that chant again. So if I say Mins. you say Wrecking Ball. So if I say Mins. Wrecking Ball. So if I say Mins. Wrecking Ball.</p> <p>We're blessed today to be having mayors and councillors and members of parliament from New South Wales.</p> <p>We also have the federal member for Bradfield with us, Paul Fletcher.</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Hon Paul Fletcher, Federal member for Bradfield	0:50:59	<p>Friends, I'm very pleased to join you today and I want to congratulate everybody who has come out here today because of your passion for your community, the place you live in, and for the broader communities of Sydney, of Wollongong, of Newcastle, of the Central Coast.</p> <p>And the passion that people have exhibited today, I think, is because we all take very seriously where it is we live, and we recognise that many of the things that make the places we live special have been built up over a considerable period of time.</p> <p>That is why our planning system has always provided for a balance of all the relevant factors that need to be weighed up, including livability issues, heritage issues, environmental issues, and of course, the importance of affordable housing and continuing to give people the opportunity to find the housing they need.</p> <p>Now, there's been a lot said today.</p> <p>The one aspect I want to touch on just briefly is that what we've seen here has been a very poor process. We saw these discussion papers issued in December.</p> <p>The discussion paper in relation to transport-oriented development particularly explicitly said we want comments from councils but we don't want comments from other community members. That is not a good process. That is not a way to seek the views of the community.</p> <p>Of course, the time frame for that to come in is April this year. That is an extraordinarily compressed process, not a way to get the best ideas from citizens, from councils, from people who have been involved in these issues for so many years.</p> <p>So bad process leads to bad outcomes.</p> <p>There are many aspects of this that other speakers have addressed, but I do want to highlight the process problems here and I want to express my thanks to everybody who has demonstrated their commitment to a better process, not a way to get the best ideas from citizens, from councils, from people who have been involved in these issues for so many years.</p> <p>So bad process leads to bad outcomes. There are many aspects of this that other speakers have addressed, but I do want to highlight the process problems here and I want to express my thanks to everybody who has demonstrated their commitment to a better process and to better outcomes. Thank you for being here today. [Applause]</p>
Trevor Sinclair	0:52:57	Thank you Paul Fletcher, a member for Bradfield. I'm going to wrap it up with one last speaker He rents. His name is Shankar Sapkota.

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Shankar Sapkota, voice of a renter	0:53:10	<p>Thanks guys.</p> <p>I'm energized by what I've seen today by people coming from all walks of life. I've had the pleasure of living in different parts of Sydney from Marrikville, the Inner West to Hornsby, now to the Kuringai Council up in Gordon.</p> <p>So when I got asked to come and speak today, you know, as representing my generation, you know, as somebody who's about to start a family, wanting to purchase a home, it has become increasingly difficult. I'm not here to whinge about how expensive these homes are, you know, but there's people that need these homes.</p> <p>I'm young, I'm going to roll up my sleeve and do everything that I can to be able to afford in the place I love. That's Karingai Council. But if I can't, then I have to walk somewhere else. But more and more of these decisions have been made for us by the state government, and we know who that is. It's the Minns' government.</p> <p>So basically, it's the number one issue. Every time I wake up in the morning, housing issue, housing crisis, what's going on?</p> <p>The income, the medium income to basically in between 15 to 20 times the salary of average person in Sydney, it's unaffordable. Rents are basically through the roof and essential workers have been forced out of the city and that's what I'm concerned about is you've got your nurses, you've got your you know firefighters struggling to service the city.</p> <p>So basically the TODs as we call it anything with an acronym? Is it TOD that's creating these things all these rules? I'm not sure. So, you know, we have to really look at this and go, it's just not acceptable.</p> <p>And like I said, I'm energized by the breadth and scale and the diversity of people that have come here today. I wanted to kind of look at the factors when considering a lot of the housing issues that have come in and that is thru the ill-informed decisions that are made by government, right? Jamming and cramming these houses.</p> <p>I lived in Marrikville, that's where I grew up. There's units there.</p> <p>Yes, I don't have a problem with units, but it's these small-sized apartments that don't have any purpose for a family. You know? [Applause]</p> <p>If you're going to build them, build them well. And as a lot of the speakers have said before, it's about that consultation process with the community. It's not just about one size fits all.</p> <p>[Crowd - They're all falling down. We know that.]</p> <p>Exactly, exactly. And you know, one of the key things I was going to mention is Opal Towers and is that what we want across Sydney? No, we don't. So basically you know we don't need a dictation from the Minns government on how we should plan in our community. What we need is a consultation that is measured and in line with community values and I just wanted to be a representation of that today coming out. Thank you so much. [Applause]</p>

Speaker	Timestamp	Text
Trevor Sinclair – Motions from the rally	0:56:45	<p>Thank you, Shankar.</p> <p>One fellow who couldn't be with us today but he's written a fantastic book if you get a chance to read it. Cameron Murray, the great housing hijack hopes his myths keeping prices high for renters and buyers in Australia.</p> <p>Finished today with a motion and that motion is that</p> <p>1/ The New South Wales government immediately withdraws its proposed housing reforms including changes to create low and mid-rise housing and the transport oriented develop program.</p> <p>2/ Ensures all NSW local Councils retain their current planning, environmental and heritage powers.</p> <p>3/ Investigates all alternative solutions to the housing crisis.</p> <p>I need someone to move this motion – David Reynolds – Save Greater Sydney Committee moved I need a second for the motion – Kathy Cowley Reynolds – Save Greater Sydney Committee 2nd the motion.</p> <p>All those in favor say AYE [All sad AYE] All those opposed say AYE [no one was opposed]</p> <p>I declare the motion was unanimously supported.</p> <p>Thank you to all the speakers and the members of The Greater Sydney Coalition who made this rally possible in such a short period of time.</p>