

Submission
No 49

INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL, PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

25 February 2014

The Hon Paul Green MLC
Chair
Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Chair,

Inquiry into Social, Public and Affordable Housing

Alex Greenwich, our local member, has made a submission to this inquiry arguing that more housing should be provided for "those with a mental illness, drug and alcohol problem, suffering from trauma and abuse, and ex-prisoners released in the community" i.e. welfare recipients. He also argues that "people on low to medium wages need to work closer to home so that they do not suffer financial and time burdens from traveling long distances. Sydney and NSW rely on these workers to maintain the infrastructure and services we need for a modern and efficient global city."

Alex gives no indication which of these groups should be given preference but implies that housing should be provided for both in his electorate. Given that Alex's electorate encompasses some of the most expensive real estate in the nation (and perhaps the world), it appears to me that Alex has not even studied high school economics. If he had, he would realise that resources are limited and that one needs to prioritise in order to produce optimum outcomes. Consequently Alex's submission seems to be little more than a fanciful "wishlist" and should be treated as such and was submitted and circulated more to appeal and garner political support rather than to sensibly deal with critically important issues.

In Woolloomooloo there are large tracts of public housing and from my observations as a tax and rate paying resident of over 20 years, most of this prime real estate is occupied by welfare recipients who have not the slightest intention of ever looking for work or of making any contribution to the community whatsoever. On the contrary, if you were to survey the records of Kings Cross police, you would find that there is extensive crime and violence in the public housing precinct. There also seems to be little regard for sanitation or for any environmental consideration whatsoever.

I find it totally mind-numbing that people such as this are provided with essentially free housing less than a kilometer from Martin Place when hard-working, law abiding tax payers are forced to pay very high market rents and live dozens of kilometers from the CBD which is the hub of our largely centralised public transport network.

Given the demand for public housing and the total lack of justification in having single-level public housing only one kilometer from Martin Place, I would argue that the only sustainable solution is to sell most if not all the public housing in Woolloomooloo and use the funds to provide over ten times the level of public housing on far less valuable real estate.

Yours sincerely,