

Response from Candidate Max Siano – Hunter Ward, Waverley

An area of concern for Max is that NSW Councils currently charge property developers to fund local infrastructure for our growing communities. One of the major challenges facing Councils is that the NSW Government is forcing local councils to make an impossible choice - cancel local infrastructure projects, or raise rates to cover costs. Max believes that this money must be retained by local councils and not diverted elsewhere by the NSW Government.

Max is also against the NSW Government's changes to our Local Planning Panels laws. Why bother to elect Councillors to represent you and then have decisions made by unelected State Government appointees? This appears to have resulted in unacceptable overdevelopment in our area.

PRESENTATION TO DOVER HEIGHTS PRECINCT CANDIDATES FORUM MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER 21

Max's presentation

Hi, my name is Max Siano. I used to have retail shoe shops called Max's Shoes in Bondi Beach and Bondi Jct. I closed my shops 5 years ago after 42 years in the fashion industry.

My background is in accountancy. I was a member of the Bondi Chamber of Commerce for 25 years, including as president for 5 years.

I have lived in the Eastern Suburbs for 51 years including in Dover Heights.

In the year 2000, I assisted the IOC and Council in organizing the Olympic Games Bondi Beach Volleyball by liaising with the authorities about traffic management and transport.

I was involved with the upgrade of the Bondi Jct Mall and negotiated with Council to maintain access for businesses and shoppers throughout the long upgrade period.

I was involved in the twin tower development above the train/bus interchange to ensure the safety of pedestrians accessing the interchange.

When Campbell Pde Bondi Beach was undergoing a major upgrade, I negotiated with Council, the Water Board and other utilities to ensure the minimum disruption for the community.

In the year 2000, parking meters were introduced at Bondi Beach. This almost ruined businesses. I took an active role, in negotiating with Council to be more flexible with the meters to minimise the damage.

Bondi Rd was a major issue about 15 years ago when the then State Government tried to introduce a clearway or bus lane. This would have decimated the 127 shops on Bondi Rd by eliminating 117 parking spaces. I spent 4 years battling the government, supported by the community. They still installed the bus lane. I then organized a major protest rally on Bondi Road. The decision was then reversed by the government.

I have protested against inappropriate development in the Waverley LGA, particularly against high rise in the Bondi Basin and Bondi Jct West.

I negotiated with Federal Govt Ministers, to increase the working visa period allocated to travellers (backpackers), from 3 months to 6 months. This was an enormous bonus for businesses trying to survive with staff shortages, a particular problem in the Eastern Suburbs.

To summarise, I have had much experience dealing with government ministers, both state and federal, consulting with Precinct members and advocating on their behalf.

If elected to Council, I would use my expertise to effectively represent the community of Hunter.