

The Hon. Rose JACKSON, MLC

Minister for Housing

Re: Waterloo South and social housing policy

I am writing on behalf of the Groundswell Coalition, a group of local and peak NGOs and residents' leaders from the Redfern/Waterloo area.

As an alliance, we have actively and diligently engaged with residents, agencies, and the Government since 2004, when proposals for the renewal of the Redfern-Waterloo area were first mooted. We also worked closely with our local elected members, Ron Hoenig, Jenny Leong and the Lord Mayor.

We are writing to first congratulate you and your party on the recent election and express our keenness to work with the incoming Government to develop better outcomes for the social housing community we serve. We are particularly keen to discuss the plans for the Waterloo South Public Housing Estate redevelopment and other developments to offer a background briefing from the NGO and community perspective.

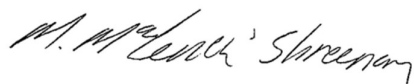
As a recognised and long-embedded coalition of trusted local community providers and leaders, we feel it is essential that you understand our perspective on the community's strengths, aspirations, concerns, and current and future needs of the Waterloo community through direct dialogue when time permits.

We have a history of successful engagement with the community, which will be reflected in your approach to working with us. We offer our insights and knowledge to help build your understanding of the community and its long, complex history. This will allow you to factor these community insights into your plans for our neighbourhood.

Our contact details are below, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Yours,



Michael Shreenan

Groundswell Chairperson

Waterloo NAB redevelopment group co-chairperson.

Executive Officer of Counterpoint Community Services

Co/ Counterpoint 67 Raglan St, Waterloo, NSW 2017

Groundswell Admin Contacts

Counterpoint Team info@counterpointcs.org.au (Mike)

Shelter NSW Cathy@sheltersw.org.au (Cathy)

REDWatch spokesperson@redwatch.org.au (Geoff)

Who is Groundswell?

Groundswell is a coalition of residents, non-government local agencies and peaks committed to assisting residents within the Redfern and Waterloo areas in understanding what the Government plans to do in their local communities and homes.

We will work together to

- To develop and offer capacity-building opportunities (peaks and local NGOs, community groups to share information and skills to develop training programs and other learning opportunities for both residents and across sector agencies)
- To provide a mechanism for peer support/communication for those working in tenant participation and community engagement
- To impartially document and share residents' perspectives in its diversity during the redevelopment through multiple platforms as resources allow.
- To provide opportunities for individuals, organisations, and community groups' views to be heard without fear of reprisals and provide and undertake advocacy work where appropriate

To provide guidance and input in the independent community development, support and capacity building positions funded by LAHC, City of Sydney managed by Counterpoint and Inner Sydney Voice

Groundswell includes the following organisations, Resident groups, and others:

