

Jim SANDERSON

Candidate for South Ward
Hunter's Hill Council
Election of 8 September 2012



Dear Neighbours,

I have lived in Hunter's Hill for almost all of my life. I care deeply about our beautiful Municipality and stand for the preservation of its character – I hope most would support me in this.

However, Councillors need to do more than care – they need to recognise problems and act. Some recent planning decisions have demonstrated a degree of ineptness on the part of Council planners and some Councillors. There has also been a tendency for Council officers to go off on frolics of their own which are not always in the best interests of the community.

At this election, it is no longer a choice between Sue Hoopmann and a local real estate agent – this time we have real choice, with the nomination of a number of well qualified and capable candidates. There is no reason to elect Councilors who may have conflicts of interest.

At this election, I urge you to **take the time to vote below the line to elect the strongest candidates who will take control of issues and deliver results that are in line with community views.**

I look forward to hearing about your ideas.

Best wishes,

Jim Sanderson

BE (Syd) MEngSc (UNSW) LLB (UNSW)

My Qualifications

I am a highly **experienced Engineer** and have worked in both design and project management roles. I have made major contributions to projects including the Parliament House Flag Mast; the Glasshouses at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens; vehicles for transporting cryogenic liquids and plant design in general. **I will deal with technical issues that many Councillors will not recognise.**

I played a major role in preventing the Carr Government from closing Hunter's Hill School. Although, I have since become very concerned about the impact of both this School and Riverside Girls High School on surrounding residents, particularly on Sundays when the impact of their use is greater than on normal school days. This issue needs to be re-examined.

I am a graduate at Law and expect to complete my Master of Laws, including planning law in the coming months. I have never been attracted to public office but I am extremely concerned about the direction our Council has taken in recent times.

I have made submissions to the current NSW Planning System Review recommending means to improve the quality of development applications. [See my later submission at

<http://planningreview.nsw.gov.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=yHp2_QOHdHA%3d&tabid=119&mid=569>.]

Consistently, with these recommendations, I believe parties affected by proposed development, whether public or private, should be consulted at the earliest possible time. I also believe preliminary checking of applications should be performed in time to allow applicants to be notified within 25 days of the application if additional information is required. This would **avoid the current anomalous situation where an application is later found to contain misrepresentations (and some do) but still benefits from assessment time continuing to run while the applicants rectify their 'mistakes'**. This will also allow simple applications with minimal impact to be assessed quickly.

My Policies

- **The character of our beautiful Municipality must be preserved at every level.**
- **Firstly, we need to get back to basics. Council expenditure should be carefully reviewed and any savings made spent on basic infrastructure, like footpaths and roads that will improve the amenity of our Municipality but there should be no parking metres.**
- **Secondly, too many issues have been left in the hands of Council officers, who do not always act in the best interest of the community.** New Councillors must take control of issues, particularly those that affect the amenity of our Municipality, for example:
 - Any development and landscaping in the Riverglade Reserve must not impinge on the amenity of residents.
 - Problems of Council's own making, like the introduction of Swamp She-Oak (*Casuarina Glauca*) into areas where they had never naturally existed, must be remedied to prevent the uncontrolled growth of visual barriers up to 20 metres in height that will cut off river views, which are enjoyed by so many who live in and walk through our Municipality's most beautiful areas.
- **Thirdly, to protect the character and amenity of our residential areas, greater care needs to be taken with the assessment of development applications.** Council needs to be more receptive when members of the community raise well-founded concerns about proposed development. Development Applications often rely on paid 'expert' opinion, which can be given weight beyond its value. Councillors need to be capable of weighing the value of submissions without being overly reliant on the reports of Council officers, which often fail to deal with important considerations.
- **Fourthly, Council must be more open and transparent. There is something wrong in a small community like Hunter's Hill when residents request information about developments that affect them and are told they will need to make an application under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act*, which replaced the *Freedom of Information Act*.**

Preserve the character of the beautiful Municipality in which we are so fortunate to live.

For an open, transparent and consultative Hunter's Hill Council, in South Ward

Vote



Jim Sanderson