

# GREG PETTY

Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor - Wollongong

## MEDIA RELEASE



**Petty says:**

***“Wollongong deserves independent***

***representation free of political influence and past Council scandal”***

**Greg Petty announces candidature for Lord Mayor and outlines his vision for community representation in a new look independent community focused Wollongong City Council.**

Helensburgh resident and Illawarra businessman, Greg Petty has today announced he will stand as an Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor at the forthcoming Wollongong City Council elections, to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011.

*Greg says, “I look forward to representing the whole community, from Helensburgh to Dapto and Windang. Residents in the Wollongong City Council Local Government Area will have a candidate who is skilled, experienced and prepared to represent the community, protect the environment and promote local business and employment with a strong commitment to transparency, integrity and achievable goals; free of political party influence or past Council scandal. Working these values among the elected Councilors will be my number 1 priority”.*

Mr. Petty invites Voters to consider the following questions when selecting a Lord Mayor or Councilor:

1. Has the Candidate been actively representing the community while the Council has been under political Administration for the past three and a half years?
2. Has the candidate been involved with council previously?
3. Can we trust any political party Candidate?
4. Is the Candidate a member or ever been a member of a political party or organisation?
5. Does party politics belong in Council?
6. Will the Candidate listen and value your views or those of a political party?
7. Will the Candidate be accepting donations?
8. What has the Candidate been doing for the past few years?

If we continue to 'fish in the same pond', we will continue to get the same results. *"Wollongong needs to move forward; rid itself of past scandals and get new blood in Council to restore community faith in our elected officials"*, Mr. Petty stated.

Greg acknowledges that Neighbourhood Volunteers have been representing ratepayers and residents at Council since the sacking of Councilors in 2008. These people have shown that their commitment and integrity towards the betterment of their respective suburbs.

Greg states *"I will actively work towards implementing and resourcing Precinct Committees so that residents have a direct contribution to where ratepayer money is spent"*. For this reason, Greg recently participated in the Community Reference Panel forums held by Council as part of the return to an elected Council.

Greg will continue to campaign against the Coal Seam Gas [CSG] exploration and mining. The technology used has already shown irreversible environmental and human health impacts. He will continue to fight to maintain the previous high environmental standards placed on the Illawarra Escarpment and the environmentally sensitive zoned 7d land area, around Helensburgh and Otford. At the June 2011 Council meeting, Greg submitted a petition to Council, to pass a resolution to protect the environment and community from any downgrading of the area.

Greg Petty is an Accountant and Company Secretary, aged 56, who operates a business in the Wollongong area. He has owned and operated businesses successfully for 30 years, and at times, employed over 50 staff.

Greg stood at the NSW State election in March, 2011 for the Seat of Heathcote as an Independent with the endorsement of legendary corruption fighter and former South Coast MP, John Hatton.

He has lived in Helensburgh with his family for over 11 years.

Greg is Co-Convener of Neighbourhood Forum 1 and is a member of the Walker Street Fire and Rescue Community Fire Unit, plus serves on the Roadmarking Industry Association of Australia's Board of Directors.

Pauline Lacelles-Smith, Convener of Neighbourhood Forum 1 and President of Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce, applauds Greg's decision to stand –

*"I know Greg has the ability and quality to effectively represent the people as Lord Mayor of Wollongong. Not being a member of any political party means he can be free to make decisions based on listening to and interacting freely with the community and not have to follow political party policies"*.

**Greg is available for interview; contact (0407) 473 889**

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Authorised by: Greg Petty PO Box 92, Helensburgh NSW 2508 30 June 2011