

# GREG PETTY

**Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

---



## **Hatton endorses Greg Petty**

### **Community, openness, accountability, corruption prevention**

The courageous anti-corruption fighter and former South Coast MP, John Hatton AO, who featured in Channel 9's Underbelly series, has backed Helensburgh's Greg Petty as Mayor for Wollongong.

Greg Petty, Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor and Ward 1 Councillor, has announced today that John Hatton has entered the Wollongong City Council election to endorse the Helensburgh resident.

John, known for his achievement in capital works and services for his electorate as an Independent and also for his no-nonsense stand on corruption, believes divisive party politics and donations have no place in local government. John, himself a previous Shire President of Shoalhaven Shire Council, feels the best outcomes for the community will be brought about by dedicated people who have been working previously for the community, have business experience and are willing to forge a partnership between Wollongong and its citizens.

John endorsed the Greg as part of John Hatton Independent Team in the NSW State election – *“Greg stood for the seat of Heathcote and he showed me tremendous aptitude and commitment on a wide cross-section of issues, including electricity privatization,”* stated John Hatton. *“Greg’s vision for the city is exciting and has detailed today publicly a way forward”.*

John supports Greg’s announcement of an internal ombudsman. With five years and new councillors, staff and the public need reassurance that any complaints will be investigated thoroughly and independently. ICAC report findings must not only be implemented, but ongoing.

John stated, *“I believe there is no better candidate than Greg Petty to lead Wollongong City Council through this new challenge – the old stain and work environment of Council must be eradicated to safeguard the reputation of the citizens, the city and the vast majority of council staff – and Greg has the will, qualifications, experience, courage and acumen to achieve this for Wollongong”.*

Since speaking at the 2009-2010 Wollongong University Summer School program, *“POL Politics, Community and the Common Good”*, John has been developing a community empowerment community/council partnership program. Mr Petty has

committed to assist Mr Hatton to introduce the program in Wollongong to ensure community empowerment, using the phrase “*how to, you can, we must*”.

Independence is the key to a change for a better Wollongong.

### **Hatton’s Endorsement of Greg Petty:**

*Greg Petty as a full-time Lord Mayor with business savvy will be a great ambassador for Wollongong.*

*Greg Petty is honest. He financed his own State election campaign as an Independent. He will not accept donations in his mayoral campaign.*



*Greg greatly impressed me during his State election campaign. He’s a man with business experience, which is vital in attracting jobs as the city’s ambassador.*

*He has a clear vision on open and accountable government. He is hands-on, with a strong community record of voluntary service, and provides strong independent leadership.*

*Candidates speak of job creation, community involvement and corruption prevention. All motherhood stuff, but Greg Petty’s approach is practical, how-to, down-to-earth.*

*Eg: For the city to recover from the Bluescope disaster, grow and thrive, the whole community must be involved to seek out, welcome and encourage industry and small business to come to Wollongong. A social as well as economic climate created by sporting groups, service clubs, churches, registered clubs actively working in a cooperative manner, with a Mayor who is full-time, experienced, honest, keen and above all not dictated to or pressured by major political parties. An honest broker!*

*This is not just talk. As State MP for South Coast, the list of capital works and services during the 22 years I was in Parliament has not been surpassed.*

*How? It’s about forming a strong partnership with the whole community, backed by research and the mustering of public service support. An Independent, not distracted by infighting and point scoring, gets results.*

## Greg Petty's vision

- A cooperative and inclusive decision making process, free to represent the whole community to campaign and promote free of restraints.
- No party politics in Council – community involved evidence based decision making.
- Decision making investment by residents and businesses must be recognised as their entitlement not just to be consulted, but involved in planning the social nature and building environments of the city.
- Community Consultative Bodies – under the Local Government Act established and adequately funded. In North Sydney under Ted Mack, local committees were given a meaningful role in decision making.
- Small business (under the radar of Wollongong City Council) must command increased understanding of their needs, vital to their survival and expansion. This will also enhance attraction of new business to Wollongong – small business is the biggest employer in Wollongong.
- Medium and large business strategies can only be developed by direct involvement of the Wollongong Business Chamber and by direct contact with business owners.
- Strengthening the partnership with the University of Wollongong with TAFE has real potential in generating new business skills based employment.
- Gerrard Sutton, Vice Chancellor about to retire, is a powerful source to be recruited to promote industry, commerce, tourism and research with the UOW's central role as a university of international standing with a reputation for innovation.
- The intellectual and practical experience of those actually involved in tourism, business and industry together with the astonishing array of talent of the retirees of Wollongong have not been effectively marshalled. In fact, they are often ignored.
- If community consultative structures are set up in Wollongong to harvest talent and involvement willingly given to the city, it would yield impressive results in the liveability, sporting, economic and social advancement of our city.
- Openness, accountability, corruption prevention strategies, including appointment of an Internal Ombudsman (see separate press release).
- Appropriate enforcement and field inspections.
- In fairness to all businesses, residents, investors and developers, planning rules must apply to all – a level playing field without fear, favour or deals. Development Applications must comply.
- State and Federal Government must assist in a cooperative way in the realization of the development of the whole city. Achieving constant contact, research, and whole community support in non-partisan/point-scoring is vital.