

# GREG PETTY

Independent Candidate for Lord Mayor - Wollongong

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Debate heats up in run for Lord Mayor

Petty says: *"A new broom sweeps clean. I bring the broom"*.



Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce meet the Lord Mayor Candidates held on 2 August, 2011 at Cliffhanger Restaurant, Bulli Tops.

Madam President, Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce, fellow members, thank you for the opportunity to present to you tonight. I take the opportunity to declare I am a member of the Chamber. In addition to nominating for Lord Mayor, I will head a team of independents for Ward 1. I would like to introduce N.I.C.C. members Karen Dinsdale who is number 3 and Brenda Petty who is number 5. Members from the south of the chamber will know Ray Robinson who is number 2 and Tony Stoddart who is number 4.

Independence is the key to making a change for the better. For a better Wollongong, for a better Illawarra, for a better Northern Illawarra, for a better 2508 where I live.

Yesterday, the Mercury published comments that 93% of respondents stated NO to the question "Should there be politics in local government". Today Dennis Preece of Balgownie challenged "non-aligned independents" to sign a Statutory Declaration to test their veracity. Dennis, here is my declaration.

Members will also remember some 4 months ago, our new member for Heathcote stood in this room and showed support to halt CSG mining in our area. The "St George Leader" on 7 June stated of his maiden speech in parliament *"his pledge to those who elected him....protecting the water supply in the Woronora catchment from coal seam gas drilling"*.

Yet in the "Leader" on 23 July it reported *"The political honeymoon is over for Heathcote MP following his refusal to support a moratorium on coal seam gas mining to protect the Woronora catchment"* and *"The government had adequately informed the community of its position"*.

This sounds like Wollongong City Council of the past, predetermined outcomes, and no effective public consultation. A Council not listening!

One online response summed it up *"Very disappointed Mr. Evans, What a shame you didn't express that view prior to March 26"*.

Why is this so important and relevant to Wollongong? Local party politicians do not determine policy. They will say anything to get elected. Political parties caucus their representatives to maintain party lines and back room decisions, not to represent your view in your best interest. The Wollongong City Council Code of Conduct has outlawed "caucusing" following a recommendation from ICAC, so when the Greens representative at the last state election said to me he didn't agree with all Greens policies; I ask will the person or party be voting on your behalf?

**I say to you, make your precious one vote count for someone who will listen!**

The Mercury is right; there is no place in local government for political parties.

Council has been considered by the voter as a table of mirth, ill-repute and cynicism as seen by most of the electorate. The public want to be justifiably proud of their city, their town, their council, their Lord Mayor?

A new broom sweeps clean. I bring the broom.

The Illawarra Mercury on 30 June got it absolutely right about me; *"Wollongong's latest nominee for lord mayor says it is what's missing from his political resume that makes him the best candidate for the city's top job.*

*Helensburgh resident Greg Petty, 56, yesterday said unlike most of his rivals, he was not politically aligned and had no association with the previous council, labelling himself "a fresh piece of paper" for the city's first post-administration council".*

Not mentioned in ICAC, not a previous Councillor, not a member of a political party, no association with any political party.

You know what I am not.

So what do you get? An Accountant, Company Secretary, Tax Agent, Justice of the Peace, experienced business owner, and not accepting donations.

I bring 40 years of employment, 30 years of being a small and medium business owner. I have provided employment for more than 200 full time people, many hundreds of secondary jobs through suppliers and contractors. I have been at the pointy end of running a business. I know what it is like to run a successful business. I understand the legal and statutory requirements of a business. I have the experience of the boardroom.

I currently own the Wollongong Small Business Complex, a self storage business and a road marking supply business that sources product from around the world.

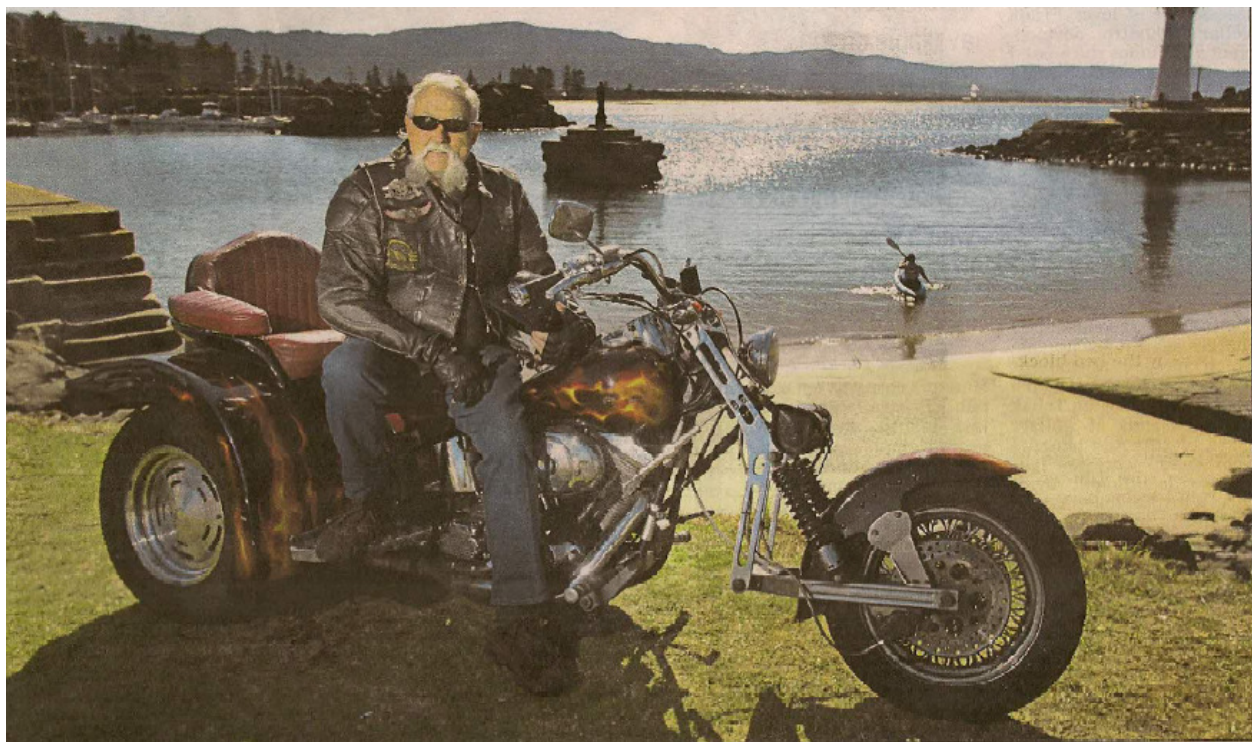
My current business brings me in touch with everyday Wollongong locals. My small business incubator is usually small business owners, struggling with the day to day challenges of running

a business. I am indeed fortunate to be able to mentor some of these needing extra help, giving advice and sometimes just listening. At the storage complex, I see struggling families unable to cope with domestic issues, eviction by landlords, the hard side of drugs and family relationships including breakdowns, even gaol, and failing businesses.

My commitment to small business is continued by having 4 of 5 Team Petty as small business owners.

Wollongong is just not about the CBD revitalisation.

I compliment this Chamber member "Just Crusin'", Mr. Steve Melchior, for the article in today's Mercury.



**Ready:** Just Cruisin' operator Steve Melchior hopes the wave of new Chinese tourists can be encouraged to make longer stays. Picture: ADAM McLEAN

We sit at the start of the local government area, the start of the Grand Pacific Drive, and a failed Bulli Tops Jumbulla tourist centre.

The tourist industry, small business operators like, Steve, we need to support them, encourage them, the many organisations like this Chamber that are the heart and soul of the Illawarra, we need to attract tourists to the whole LGA, and it starts here, look behind you. What better backdrop can there be.

All Wollongong ratepayers pay rates, why should Helensburgh wait 10 years for capital expenditure projects and much needed maintenance, and then it came in the form of a Federal grant. Services must be evenly spread between all areas, not a select few.

Has my name just popped up on an election ballot paper?

No, I have been strongly and constructively community active. A list of credits include Director Roadmarking Industry Association of Australia, current member of Standards Australia Committee, past President of Burraneer Bay Primary School P & C, Treasurer and Secretary Caringbah Rangers Soccer Club.

Locally Co-convener Neighbourhood Forum 1 and Public Officer of Otford Protection Society and remember Neighbourhood Forums Mr Oxley, something Council under your stewardship shut down temporarily.

Spoken at recent Council meetings, attended the Community Reference Panel, a pathway for new consultation for our new Council, lodged the first community group Planning Proposals with the State Government, orchestrated 18,521 submissions on rezoning to our very environmentally sensitive lands around 2508.

In closing, when you vote on September 3, remember this.

No one in Macquarie Street is representing 2508 against Coal Seam Gas. Our previous Councillors and administration failed the community. There must be no party politics in local government.

I offer myself as an alternative. Professionally qualified, successful and experienced business owner. I will put the people of Wollongong before self interest, I have shown this already opposing a BWS packaged liquor outlet at Helensburgh.

May I put the first question to the candidates? Will they accept donations? Will a political party be paying your election costs? Will they place a list of all donors on their website as the donation is received?

*Greg Petty says "Wollongong deserves independent representation, free of political influence and past Council scandal"*

I am Greg Petty and I'm here to represent you.

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

Media Contact: Greg Petty's Office      Greg Petty (0407) 473 889

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

[www.gregpetty.com.au](http://www.gregpetty.com.au)

[gapetty@gregpetty.com.au](mailto:gapetty@gregpetty.com.au)

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## **Statutory Declaration**

OATHS ACT 1900, NSW, EIGHTH SCHEDULE

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To the residents and voters of "Wollongong" and Ward 1, Wollongong City Council Local Government elections.

I, Gregory Alan Petty of 130 Walker Street, Helensburgh NSW 2508

do solemnly and sincerely declare that: -

- 1 I am 56 years of age,
- 2 I have lodged applications for the position of Lord Mayor and Ward 1 Councillor at the Wollongong City Council elections to be held on 3 September 2011,
- 3 I am a non-aligned independent,
- 4 I am not a fully subscribed member of a mainstream or any political party,
- 5 I have never been a fully subscribed member of a mainstream or any political party,
- 6 I have never donated to a fully subscribed mainstream or any political party,
- 7 I will not accept donations in the election campaign,
- 8 I am a member of CPA Australia, registration 607482 and hold the designation CPA,
- 9 I am a member of Chartered Secretaries Australia, registration 06715 and hold the designation of ACIS,
- 10 I am a Justice of the Peace, registration 140043,
- 11 I am currently renewing my Tax Agent Registration,
- 12 I hold a Bachelor of Business Studies (with credit) from the New South Wales Institute of Technology (now UTS), and
- 13 I have been a small and medium business owner for over 30 years.


and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1900.

Declared at Wollongong in New South Wales, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011.

Before Me:

Justice of the Peace, Solicitor, other (*specify*)  
(Print full name and J.P. registration number, if applicable).

Signature of declarant

  
WAYNE COOPER JP.

