

3 November 2014

Helen Crossing  
2011 Residents Association  
PO Box 1513  
POTTS POINT NSW 1335

Dear Helen

I refer to your letter about Walla Mulla Park, Tom Uren Square and Bourke Street Park.

Some weeks ago there was a rapid increase in the number of people sleeping rough in this precinct, in Walla Mulla Park particularly. Some new people were reported as aggressive and violent, and engaging in anti-social behaviour.

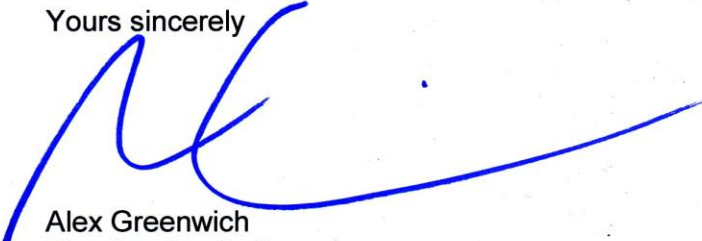
Residents should not have to face the crime and anti-social behaviour that I heard about. Police are responsible for crime and anti-social behaviour including enforcing alcohol-free zones and I asked the Kings Cross Commander to address these reports. He tells me that he has allocated a new Sergeant to manage Woolloomooloo and tasked officers to increase patrols and enforcement of alcohol free zones.

In response to my call for action, City of Sydney officers convened a meeting with local service providers, increased visit by its Public Space Liaison Officers, arranged regular outreach visits to engage homeless people, increased cleansing and asked charities to stop leaving food and goods in the street. I have raised your concerns about use of the parks to Lord Mayor Clover Moore.

There is a long history of Woolloomooloo being a place where homeless people congregate. The government's Going Home Staying Home tender process has disrupted homelessness service provision; newly funded service providers are now working to help people submit applications for housing.

We need supported housing for people with serious health problems living on the street and unable to care for themselves and I've asked the Minister for Family and Community Services to take urgent action to provide homes – a copy of my latest question is enclosed. The increasing costs of housing and sale of low cost homes in the inner city is worsening homelessness. The Camperdown Project and Platform 70 projects are full. You may wish to collect signatures on my petition (enclosed) to help keep this on the government's agenda.

Yours sincerely

  
Alex Greenwich  
Member for Sydney

