

## OPEN LETTER TO NSW PREMIER MIKE BAIRD

### MELBOURNE IS NO MODEL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOTING IN SYDNEY

14 August 2014

The Hon. Mike Baird, MP  
Premier of NSW  
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier,

We write to express our deep reservations about your Government's plans to introduce the 'Melbourne Model' of business voting in the City of Sydney.

The Melbourne Model is a fundamentally flawed system and its introduction in the City of Sydney would see the votes of business owners swamp the interests of local residents.

Our specific concerns with the proposed changes to non-resident voting are:

- Granting up to 2 votes to 80,000 businesses would unfairly outnumber the 100,000 residents, and almost halve the value of each local resident's vote
- People outside NSW would be enfranchised and even favoured over Sydneysiders on the electoral roll
- Businesses could potentially 'spring up' within the City of Sydney for the purpose of fraudulently distorting the vote

The NSW Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters did not properly consider the pitfalls of the Melbourne Model in its Report (4/55 – March 2014), as it did not even canvass whether to extend the franchise to non-citizens or the potential for voter fraud.

Furthermore, the Government has not sought, nor had the benefit of, community input on this matter.

We ask that the Government not introduce or support any legislation to implement the Melbourne Model without full community consultation and proper consideration by the Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

[Signatories to this letter appear on the following pages]

This open letter is supported by the following local groups and local residents

**Local Groups**

1. Alexandria Residents Action Group
2. Friends of Erskineville
3. REDWatch
4. The Redfern Foundation

**Local Residents**

1. Margaret Adamson, Erskineville
2. Shireen Baguley
3. Julie Baker, Erskineville
4. Lynne Barwick
5. Eugene Baxter
6. Anna Beaumont
7. Mark Bennie, Newtown
8. Kate Bielenberg, Redfern
9. Louise Biti
10. Sue Blackburn
11. Linda Blair, Erskineville
12. Judith Bourke
13. Robbie Bourke
14. Mark Boyd, Erskineville
15. David Braddon-Mitchell, Erskineville
16. Alan Brennan
17. Christopher Brereton, Beaconsfield
18. Kate Briscoe
19. Janet Campbell
20. Susie Carleton, Redfern
21. Richard Chadwick
22. Andrew Chuter, Erskineville
23. Renate Cross, Erskineville
24. Salina Davies, Erskineville
25. Felicity Devitt
26. Councillor Irene Doutney  
(City of Sydney)
27. John Eleftheriou, Alexandria
28. Ross Forman
29. Leo Gaica
30. Matthew Gavan
31. Angie Gibson, Redfern
32. Daryl Gibson, Glebe
33. Gavin Gibson, Redfern
34. Louise Gilbert, Alexandria
35. Nicholas Giurietto, Erskineville
36. Jennifer Glass Darling Harbour
37. Carrie Grimes
38. Alex Hamilton Kings Cross
39. Noel Hodda, Zetland
40. Matthew Holle, Erskineville
41. Lynn Holliday
42. Shae Howard, Erskineville
43. Daniel Howes, Centennial Park
44. Michelle Howes, Centennial Park
45. Darren Jenkins, Newtown
46. Electra Jensen
47. Caroline Johansson, Redfern
48. Deepak Khuller
49. Janice King
50. Judy Law
51. Zio Ledoux, Erskineville
52. Adam Lee, Erskineville
53. Merryl Lees, Erskineville
54. Dean Lenz, Redfern
55. Hamish Li
56. Steve Liggett
57. Andrew Little, Erskineville
58. Tina Lodins, Annandale
59. Lars Lohmann, Newtown
60. Miriam Lohmann
61. Marcin Lubonski, Alexandria
62. Elizabeth Mackenzie, Alexandria
63. Rita Mallia, Potts Point
64. Sarah Mandelson, Redfern
65. Joy Marshall
66. David Marshall
67. Adrian Marshall, Newtown
68. Linda Marshall
69. Wendy Mather, Chippendale
70. Anna Maxwell, Erskineville
71. Deirdre McAndrew , Alexandria
72. Warwick McDonald Centennial Park
73. Nicolas Meredith
74. Gretchen Miller
75. Julie Moffat, Erskineville
76. Chris Morgan , Newtown
77. Nicolas Murray, Erskineville
78. Virginia Muzik, St Peters
79. Roy Nicolson, Strawberry Hills
80. Giuseppe Ortenzi
81. Simon Palmer, Surry Hills
82. Izzy Perko, Darling Harbour
83. Stephen Philip, Erskineville

84. Jocelyn Pixley, Paddington
85. Jane Radford , Newtown
86. Holly Rebeiro, Erskineville
87. Mark Robertson, Erskineville
88. Sarah Robertson, Erskineville
89. Caroline Ryan, Erskineville
90. Jackie Schiller, Alexandria
91. Councillor Linda Scott, Erskineville  
(City of Sydney)
92. Barbara Sijbesma
93. Vivienne Skinner, Paddington
94. Ross Smith, Waterloo
95. Rebecca Smith, Erskineville
96. Laura Starratt, Erskineville
97. Glenn Stevens
98. Peter Stronach Surry Hills
99. Arwen Sutton, Erskineville
100. Peter Sweatman
101. Ian Taylor, Elizabeth Bay
102. Jason Taylor
103. Malcolm Taylor
104. Janine Tennille, Alexandria
105. Zoe Thayer
106. Richard Thode, Newtown
107. Stephen Thompson, Surry Hills
108. Marianne Todd, Alexandria
109. Marian Trenerry
110. Matt Wakeham, Erskineville
111. Mark Walkom
112. Danica Walkom
113. Erin Watt
114. Elizabeth Weiss
115. Peter White
116. Patrick William, Erskineville
117. Robert Woodley, Alexandria
118. Mathias Wolf, Erskineville
119. Carolyn Woodhead
120. Yu Ye Wu, Erskineville
121. Barbara Yapp
122. Nareen Young