



MLAs must step up to support Community Councils

Independent candidate for Yerrabi David Pollard has called for all candidates across Canberra to make a commitment to their local Community Council.

The Community Councils of Canberra are volunteer, not-for-profit organisations designed to ‘preserve and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being’ of their region and community.

MLAs should treat these organisations – and by extension the community – with trust and respect.

“Sometimes it feels like the Assembly would rather Community Councils didn’t exist.” Mr Pollard said.

“I served for 5 years on the Gungahlin Community Council, and we held about 50 public meetings in that time.

“The number of times a sitting MLA from any party came along to listen to the community was in single digits.

“If they were given a speaking spot, they were more likely to come and do some light campaigning, but nothing meaningful.

“A few of them used to attend regularly before they were elected, but quickly got too busy to spend time among the locals.”

“The Combined Community Councils are calling for ‘precinct liaison officers’ within the ACT government to act as internal advocates with government – to me that is the job of our MLAs.

“They wouldn’t be calling for that if it were happening already, and that is disappointing.

“I have proposed that MLAs establish a Memorandum of Understanding with their local Community Councils to clearly lay out expectations.

“It will be up to each Community Council to decide how best their MLAs can support them.

“To start, I am suggesting MLAs be available to attend Executive and Public meetings, provide an Assembly Report, and take Action Items from public meetings.”

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## David Pollard Independent for Yerrabi



“Restoring and fostering trust in our government must be a focus of this term, because that trust is quickly eroding.

Trust and respect must first be freely given by the government to the Community Councils and the community before it can be earned from the people.

“Local people know their local area, and the best way to tap into that knowledge is to genuinely be part of the community.”

[Read more](#)

<https://www.davidpollard.com.au/gungahlin-community-council/>

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