

## HATZISTERGOS: Labor proud of our diversity, not scared of it

Minister for Citizenship John Hatzistergos today called on Barry O'Farrell to stand up for multicultural communities after senior Liberals said that Australia risks becoming a nation of "ethnic enclaves."

Mr Hatzistergos said a series of cheap shots by former Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews, former Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett, Mr Cory Bernardi and Mr Mitch Fifield were offensive and perpetuated negative stereotypes of diverse communities.

"We've got Kevin Andrews spreading fear about ethnic enclaves and Jeff Kennett who apparently thinks mi-

grants need to accept the Australian way of life.

"Quite frankly, all the communities that I talk with have done this with open arms and enrich our society."

Mr Hatzistergos called on NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell to stand up and condemn the comments of his Liberal colleagues.

"My question is; where does Barry O'Farrell stand on all of this?"

"He needs to reveal whether he is harbouring any other fear-mongering Liberals or Nationals here in the NSW Parliament.

"Barry O'Farrell needs to condemn these comments.

"This is the same Opposition which Peter Debnam led to the last election, saying there were not enough Middle Eastern people in jail after the Cronulla riots and wanted 200 Middle Eastern thugs locked up.

"Barry O'Farrell needs to clarify exactly where he stands."

Mr Hatzistergos said: "The Keneally Government continues to support multiculturalism and is committed and very proud of our diverse ethnic communities."

"For any community to be singled out and targeted by anyone in our community - including Liberal members of parliament - is simply not on.



"We are a tolerant nation, a diverse nation, and the presence of various cultures and communities enriches us."



## KENEALLY – THREE YEARS AS PLANNING MINISTER/PREMIER = LOWEST HOUSING STARTS IN AUSTRALIA

News today that Sydney has again placed last in Australia with residential land release comes as no surprise to anyone who has tried to buy a home under State Labor's reign and highlights the urgent need for Kristina Keneally to adopt the NSW Liberals & Nationals housing affordability policy.

"After 16 years of State Labor NSW homebuyers are facing an uphill battle to just get a foothold on the property ladder thanks to Ms Keneally's incompetence and inaction," Shadow Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard, said today.

"To help solve the housing crisis, the NSW Liberals & Nationals have committed to releasing 10,000 blocks of Landcom land to help people buy their home," Mr Hazzard said.

"The UDIA State of the Land Report has found that Sydney is producing fewer housing lots than any other capital city whilst at the same time the price for land is ever increasing.

"In 2000-01 Sydney produced 7,731 housing lots at an average price of \$263 per square metre.

"By 2007-08 the number of housing lots had dropped to just 1,723 - 22% of the 2000-01 levels - at an average price of \$483 per square metre up almost 100%!

"Whilst the Keneally Labor Government has predicted it will increase the number of housing lots to the market, the UDIA report estimates that those figures will not eventuate.

"It makes absolutely no sense that whilst Sydney's population has increased; the numbers of new houses has decreased.

"The result under State Labor has seen thousands of NSW residents locked into the rental market - many believing it is not possible to own their own home.

"After 16 years of failure and incompetence, no-one will believe the Keneally Labor Government's promises on providing a solution to our housing shortage.

"It is time for Kristina Keneally and her Labor Government to admit their incompetence and take responsibility for pushing thousands of NSW residents out of the housing market," Brad Hazzard said.

## Choice, affordability and balance drive NSW Liberals and Nationals plan for growth

Providing people with greater choice and affordable housing and pursuing balanced growth underpins the NSW Liberals & Nationals approach to planning, NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell and Shadow Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard said today.

"Unlike Kristina Keneally and Labor, we don't believe that requiring 70% of all of Sydney's future dwellings to be high rise is sustainable or supportable," Mr O'Farrell said.

"That's why we have repeatedly committed ourselves to more balanced housing development across Sydney - and the whole state," he said.

"People deserve to have real choice about where they want to live and the NSW Liberals & Nationals understand that without jobs and infrastructure there can be no real choice.

"That's one of the reasons why last year Nationals Leader Andrew Stoner and I announced a Regional Kick Start program to provide

funds to boost regional jobs and infrastructure as part of our plan for a Decade of Decentralisation.

"Estimates that Sydney's share of the State's population is forecast to increase from 63% to 76% - or 1.5 million people - over the next 25 years reinforce our commitment to actively promote regional development.

"We believe NSW's population task requires careful balance between regional growth, and appropriate, well-planned infill and greenfields growth in Sydney.

"That's why yesterday I announced our plan to boost by 30% the number of Landcom blocks to be released over the next four years and pledged that land sale net proceeds would be applied to dedicated to local infrastructure.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals understand that wherever growth occurs there is a cost - and we're prepared to face up to the cost of providing the services people deserve.

"It's one of the reasons we

have been steadfastly determined to build the South West and North West rail links to Sydney's growth centres.

"In stark contrast, the Keneally Labor Government ignores the need to upgrade infrastructure in communities subjected to Labor's unbalanced, one-size-fits-all, high density planning policies.

"Too many communities across Sydney, whether in the Inner West, the Shire, Ryde or Coogee, can attest to the congested roads, overcrowded trains, lack of open space and pressure on utilities like water and power caused by Labor's planning policies.

"A NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is determined to pursue policies that provide people with real housing choice", Mr O'Farrell said.

Mr Hazzard said Labor had failed to address housing needs despite Sydney's population growth.

"Sydneyers are being jammed in like sardines because of the impact of Labor's medium and high density developments on existing suburbs," he said.

"It's a situation made worse by the Keneally Labor Government's failure to ensure that new house construction kept pace with population growth with an average of just 16,300 houses over the past three years - well below the State Plan target of 24,000.

"This State needs real change to make NSW number one again and only a NSW Liberals & Nationals government will deliver that change," Mr Hazzard said.



Barry O'Farrell