

## Vincent De Luca OAM

*The True Independent  
Community Before Developers*

### *Wheeler Heights Update*



#### **About Vincent De Luca OAM**

He has been courageous in speaking out against over-development, excessive salaries for bureaucrats and fought against rate rises, waste of ratepayers' money, and for transparency and accountability in decision making at Council. He is a true Independent, not a member of any political party and has no vested interests.

He has worked extensively in youth affairs, suicide, domestic violence, drug and alcohol prevention. Vincent has been a strong voice for the vulnerable and those without voices. He holds a Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW. In 2004, in recognition of his outstanding service to the community through youth welfare, sporting and charitable organisations, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Vincent was appointed a Delegate to the National Peoples' Convention on Youth Suicide Prevention in 1997 at which, with community leaders from across the country a National strategy was introduced. He has been a Delegate to the National Conference on Suicide Prevention, served on the Executive Committee of the National Peoples' Council on Drug Prevention - High on Hope, attended the National Cities Against Drugs Summit and co-founded GAPS youth suicide prevention and support Association, served as President of the Curl Curl Youth and Community Centre for nearly two decades, has been a strong advocate and supporter for Surf Life Saving and was formerly the President of the Friends of Warringah Residents' Group against over-development. Devoted to many charities, having fought cancer on two occasions, he has raised significant funds for cancer research and support services. He has supported the Australian Gynaecological Cancer Foundation and Cure the Future Foundation for Stem Cell Research and devoted himself to the White Ribbon Foundation for stopping violence against women and numerous refuges and safety houses.

He has been an Independent Councillor for over a decade.

I have worked hard with residents and helped to ensure the investment in the suburb of millions of dollars for services and infrastructure. \$4.4 million was identified in the Budget to support existing service levels, renew assets and capital projects in Wheeler Heights.

I have been a strong voice to try and stop – overdevelopment and protect our community.

Residents have been concerned with the huge increase in proposals for Seniors Living Homes and Boarding Houses in Wheeler Heights, without the infrastructure to cope. I have supported residents with their objections and made representations to the State Government to reform the legislation that allows for the abuse of this policy and ramming in of such developments that are not in keeping with Wheeler Heights.

I have continued to advocate and make representations for residents raising their concerns for the need for road repairs and other much needed infrastructure, such as footpaths, kerb and guttering.

During COVID lockdowns, I struck a Petition and made hundreds of representations on behalf of residents and local businesses to expedite and extend Government Financial Support and provide mental health services.

Residents have also complained of increased vandalism, car and house break-ins. I have lobbied Police to increase Police presence in the area.

### **POSTAL VOTING**

You can apply online at  
[elections.nsw.gov.au](https://elections.nsw.gov.au)  
or telephone 1300 135 736

Applications must be received by 29 November 2021

## Standing up against Gang Violence and other crime

Our community has seen gang attacks on a Police Inspector at Warriewood and children bashed, threatened and robbed on a weekly



basis, drug dealing, home and car break-ins, vandalism, stabbings. I have been the only strong voice on Council against any possible closure of Mona Vale Police Station and the need for a greater Police presence. I initiated a Petition and a public

## Rubbish collections and waste fee increases

I voted against the URM contract, which costs ratepayers over \$17 million per year. I felt the costs were excessive and there would be service deficiencies. The replacement bins cost \$13.25 million which I believe was unnecessary and wasteful. The new smaller bins are non-sensical. The discontinuance of the traditional regular, twice a year curbside bulky goods collection (now residents must book and go on a wait list) has also attracted residents' complaints and this was another reason I voted against the contract. I have processed since the contract started, thousands of residents' complaints about bins not collected, collections starting from 4am contrary to the specified contract stipulation that collections must be after 6am. I have ensured residents' complaints have been addressed and worked hard to ensure residents receive a service they are paying millions of dollars for each year. I also ensured extra bulky goods and clean up collections, free of charge, during the floods for those suffering flood damage and hardship..

## Holding the bureaucracy accountable and voting against Regan's rates rises

Since the amalgamation of Pittwater, Warringah and Manly Councils, rates have gone up by \$30 million. Mayor Regan's proposed amalgamation promised to reduce rates, red tape and bureaucracy. Every year, I have voted against Mayor Regan and his party's rate and fee rises as they simply cannot be justified. Particularly as people are struggling due to COVID-19 and associated financial pressures due to lost jobs and businesses. I will continue work to cut the huge bureaucracy, exorbitant fat cat salaries and other self-interests. I also moved for cuts to Mayoral and Councillor fees. Cutting the bureaucracy and excessive salaries will prevent increased rates every year. For over 20 years I've campaigned for reform of excessive salaries to Council bureaucrats. Some are paid more than State Premiers and professions with much more responsibility than a Council bureaucrat. At Council over 40% of its entire budget, \$138 million – your money - is spent on salaries and benefits. Our CEO is on - \$522,321 and is entitled to a vehicle. Millions of dollars is expended on numerous levels of management bureaucracy: Directors (which were doubled from three to six upon the CEO's request) cost over \$2.24m, Executive Managers over \$5.8m, Managers over \$15.2m and Team Leaders over \$18.5m. I am delighted the NSW Government has finally taken up my and others' requests for reform and is considering introducing an independent panel to set salaries.

Wakehurst Parkway Flood Mitigation plan and Mona Vale Road improvement works

I moved Motions at Council and lobbied for State and Federal Governments' funding to be urgently advanced and works expedited, noting that works should have been completed prior to the closure of Mona Vale Hospital and the opening of the Northern Beaches Hospital. Flooding still prevents access by the residents of the northern part of the peninsular from travelling quickly to the new hospital. I have also emphasised that any works must be undertaken sensitively with care to prevent damage to Aboriginal heritage sights, fauna and bushland.

## Stopping Over-development

I voted against the recent Housing Strategy, as I believe it forces overdevelopment, threatens our environment and the very reasons why we live here. I am concerned that Mayor Michael Regan declared a pecuniary conflict of interest and could not vote on it. This document dictates the future of our area and lifestyle. For decades I have argued that our community doesn't want Chatswood like development. We simply don't have the infrastructure to cope with high and medium density development. Even if the Northern Beaches Tunnel eventuates, it will not cater for the level of development targets set. Our roads will be carparks. I have a proven track record over the decades of stopping over development and inappropriate development. I will always put the interests of the community above developers. I have moved various successful Motions at Council, calling on State Governments to reform planning legislation, have more effective public consultation in relation to Planning Policies, particularly on Boarding Houses and Seniors Living development. I have spoken out against the misuse and manipulation of Policies, by some developers relating to Boarding Houses and Seniors Living developments to avoid usual transparent application processes. Communities are being destroyed with these type of developments not having services or infrastructure to cope with the population and vehicle increase. I have also supported residents in their fights against the placement of mobile phone antennae near schools, pre-schools and other sensitive areas.

## Stopping waste on luxury vehicles for bureaucrats and Mayor

I publicly exposed the lucrative benefits to bureaucrats and the Mayor of Council's car fleet. In the past, the Mayor had a Council purchased and funded Jaguar array of other luxury vehicles. Bureaucrats had council providing them with Mercedes Benz, Audis, BMWs and other luxury vehicles, which could be used for personal use. My pressure has stopped the Mayor having a Council purchased luxury vehicle and the purchase of luxury vehicles for bureaucrats. The expenditure on the car fleet has been decreased significantly to just over \$3 million.

## Narrabeen Lagoon

Millions of dollars have been wasted on ad-hoc, often ineffectual openings of Narrabeen Lagoon often causing flooding to residences and increases in insurance premiums. I have worked to ensure a long-term solution. I've ensured the public had its say on the Options Paper issued in February on possible future management strategies of the opening of the lagoon, such as the installation of low flow pipes, ebb-tide channels and other proposals. I have continued to encourage Council's bureaucrats, of the need to be proactive and open the Lagoon prior to predicted rain falls to prevent flooding - this has occurred. I will continue to advocate that the manual opening based on a set level height of the Lagoon is ineffectual and too costly and that long term solutions need to be urgently installed to prevent flooding and waste of ratepayers' money. I has also made representations on behalf of constituents to insurers regarding increases to their premiums.

## \$1.7 million COVID Memorial abandoned after community outrage

During the height of the first COVID-19 first lock down, while I was making numerous representations for residents to receive Centrelink and Service NSW benefits, residents and I were outraged by a councillor in Mayor Regan's party moving to expend a minimum of \$100,000 from the merger savings fund of \$1.7m, with no maximum expenditure cap, on a COVID Memorial. Worse, the insensitive decision didn't even include that only local struggling artists could tender to do it. With Cr Amon, we took up residents' concerns, many of whom had lost their jobs or businesses, and put a stop to this insensitive proposal.

## Here to Help

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