

Candidate Statement for the 2020 ACT Election

The Candidate Statement is to give voters information to guide their selection of candidates based on the candidate's ability to be an MLA and their commitment to strengthen the democratic fabric of the ACT.

My name is Emma Davidson and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of **Murrumbidgee**.

I am endorsed to represent the Greens.

These are my skills and experience for being an MLA. *(No more than 100 words in 10pt Arial font)*

Working with people at risk in our community and in the community sector has given me insight to the interconnections between policy areas, and the complexity of people's lives.

I value people's lived experience when considering policy changes, and I have experience in raising the voices of those most at risk in public policy conversations.

I have advocated on public health, public education, access to community space, women's rights, and other issues in Canberra for many years, particularly on the southside. I have sought to raise the voices of those affected by change more than my own.

Further, I have these skills and experiences that qualifies me for a role in the ministry. *(No more than 50 words in 10pt Arial font)*

I have experience working in Commonwealth public service, small business, and community sector. I have worked in policy development, fair trade and environmentally sustainable retail, software development, social research and advocacy. A friend recently said to me "Emma, you've lived 76 lives!" and well... she's not wrong! Diversity of experiences is a strength.

If elected, this is how I plan to represent my constituents. *(No more than 100 words in 10pt Arial font)*

All policies underpinning ACT Greens decision-making in the ACT Legislative Assembly are developed in consultation with community groups and Canberra residents, and published on the ACT Greens website. Where an issue is complex or existing policy is unclear on the right approach, I will consult with all stakeholders, with the aim of finding a solution that best meets the needs of residents and our planet.

ACT Greens do not accept corporate donations. I will push for greater transparency on donations, and corporate donations to all political parties to be banned.

If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote good government and strengthen the responsiveness, accountability and transparency of government in the ACT. *(Up to 100 words, dot points, in 10pt Arial font)*

I will:

- Host skill-building workshops and provide support to community groups on advocacy, understanding the political process, and writing effective submissions and grant applications.
- Push for resourcing and support for communities to proactively develop community initiatives and plans, and for those plans to be appropriately considered by government and responded to in a

timely and respectful manner.

- Work to promote greater transparency in Cabinet decisions, as well as active disclosure of data, analysis, research and other information of public interest by Government agencies, with protections for individual privacy.

If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote and improve informed participation by my constituents in ACT policy development and decision making. (*Up to 50 words, dot points, in 10pt Arial font*)

In addition to information on the ACT Greens website explaining my activities and voting in the Assembly, I will hold regular community meetings throughout Murrumbidgee to seek input from residents, answer their questions, and hear from speakers with expertise on complex issues.

Statement of Democratic Commitment

1. I will strictly abide by the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Orders Code of Conduct for MLAs.
2. I will fully disclose and make public the sources and value of all political funding donations, contributions, gifts public and private towards my election campaign and political activity, within one month of receipt.
3. I will place the public interest (the welfare and wellbeing of the general population and the integrity of the planet) ahead of sectional, corporate, personal, religious or other interests.

Signed  Date 17 April 2020

Please send a pdf copy of your statement to secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au for placement on the CAPaD website.

NOTE REGARDING POINT 3 IN STATEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC COMMITMENT:

The ACT Greens are proud to have led the way in increasing transparency of political donations in the Territory, reducing the threshold and increasing the frequency of reporting and we already go beyond what the law requires. For example, we do not accept donations from developers, and we have a committee whose role is to examine any offer of a donation above \$1000 for potential conflict of interest or perceived conflict. This committee has rejected a substantial number of donations over the years. However, the ACT Greens do not believe that, on balance, real time disclosure of every single donation of any sum serves to improve democracy. In particular, the administrative imposition of such reporting would pose a barrier to entry to small political parties and independents who do not have the capacity to do such reporting. Additionally, in a city like Canberra, with many public servants and academics, we have a large number of citizens who legitimately fear reprisal for publicly supporting a political party or cause. We of course will continue to work to improve the donations system.

*note: Under the rules of the ACT Greens, individual candidates and MLAs are not permitted to receive donations or gifts in their capacity as a party representative, so this will be a nil disclosure for all Greens candidates. All donations received and disclosed by the ACT Greens as a party will be done in accordance with both party rules and the intent of the ACT's laws despite their non-enforceability.