

CAPaD - *Awakening Democracy*

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

www.canberra-alliance.org.au

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 **Jo Clay** and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of **Ginninderra**.

I am endorsed to represent the Greens

These are my skills and experience for being an MLA.

I'm author of *The Carbon Diet*, a project in which I've cut my carbon footprint by 77%. I'm a practising artist and writer. I'm CEO & patented co-founder of recycling company, *Send and Shred*. As a climate change activist, I'm seriously worried about our future. But I've seen for myself that we can take real action when business, community and government all work together. I've worked in the private, government and non-profit sectors and I hold degrees in Creative Arts and Laws (Honours). A lifetime resident of Canberra, I live in Belconnen with my partner, my daughter and my two dogs.

Further, I have these skills and experiences that qualifies me for a role in the ministry.

I'm a lawyer and communicator by profession. I've written and delivered programs, policy and legislation for the ACT and Federal governments. I've worked with ACT community groups and lobby groups. I have media experience. I run my own budgets and businesses. I have a general understanding of how to get things done.

If elected, this is how I plan to represent my constituents.

I will seek a fairer and greener future for Ginninderra, Canberra, Australia and the planet. As we move beyond the summer climate-change smoke and fire crisis and the current COVID-19 crisis, I will use my political voice and practical experience to apply what we have learned. I will promote strong action on climate change and better adaptation to keep our houses, public spaces and city liveable in a changing climate. I will support public transport, education and health that is accessible for all. I will help communities and businesses work together to build a fairer and greener system.

If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote good government and strengthen the responsiveness, accountability and transparency of government in the ACT.

The ACT Greens are committed to continuous and open disclosure for a better democracy. The ACT Greens were instrumental in establishing the new ACT Integrity Commission and the ban on property developer donations.

We 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.

On a personal note, I'm available to constituents via email, Facebook, telephone, at public forums and via my participation in many Canberra groups. Community exchanges are essential to find out what issues are affecting people and how I can assist.

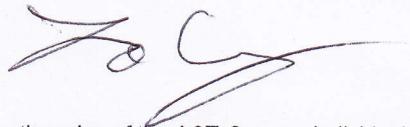
If elected, I will undertake these measures to promote and improve informed participation by my constituents in ACT policy development and decision making.

COVID-19 restrictions are increasing online engagement through video calls, Facebook Live, community surveys and messaging. I'll use my entrepreneurial and communication skills to expand these channels after restrictions are lifted. They bring grassroots and participatory democracy to a broader group. They give the community a new voice.

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

19.08.2020

*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.