

## 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 Michael Brewer and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of **Kurrajong**.

**I am endorsed to represent the ACT Greens.**

**These are my skills and experience for being an MLA.**

I am proud to have served the student community during 2018 and 2019 as a Queer Representative and then Secretary on Residents' Committees. I have also served on the ACT Greens' Board since 2019. If elected, I will be a strong voice for young people across Canberra. We have historically been disenfranchised, and we need representatives to speak out to ensure we aren't the first generation to be worse off than our parents'. We have unique needs for healthcare, education, and housing, and having a young voice in the Assembly will help to address them.

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

I am a political science student, so I have an intimate understanding of how government, the Assembly, and the bureaucracy operates. At 20 years old, I will bring a long-term perspective to any ministry position I hold, a perspective which I think is severely lacking in the current political class.

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

I am scared for my future, and we must act now to save our planet. I believe that climate and social justice are intimately linked, and I will act to ensure the climate is considered when implementing all policies. We need housing that is sensitive to our changing environment, we need healthcare which considers future extremes like the bushfires we experienced last summer, and we need to transition our public transport away from fossil fuels to electric, hydrogen, and active options.

**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)*

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.

**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)*

As an MLA, I will work for my community, not for corporate interests or donors. I believe MLAs should be available for their constituents to reach out to, and the work I'm most looking forward to, and I think is most important, is the ground-level, every day help constituents may need accessing government services.

### **Statement of Democratic Commitment**

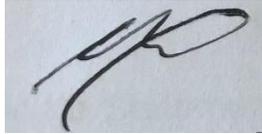
1. I will strictly abide by the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Orders Code of Conduct for MLAs.
2. I will fully disclose and make public the sources and value of all political funding donations, contributions, gifts public and private towards my election campaign and political activity, within one 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

# **CAPaD** - *Awakening Democracy*

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

[www.canberra-alliance.org.au](http://www.canberra-alliance.org.au)

of sectional, corporate, personal, religious or other interests.



Signed

Date

28/08/2020

Please send a pdf copy of your statement to [secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au) for placement on the CAPaD website.  
Authorised by Peter Tait, Secretary, Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy.

\*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.