

Candidate Statement for the 2020 ACT Election

My name is **Tim Liersch** and I am a candidate for the ACT Legislative Assembly in the electorate of **Ginninderra**.

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

I am an analyst, professionally capable of interrogating information to identify problems and expose solutions. Currently working in the public sector, I have a deep and personal commitment to working with truths. I am particularly well positioned to make difficult decisions based on complex information in a way that serves the public good.

If elected, I plan to represent my constituents by making myself as available as possible to listen to and receive information from people across Ginninderra, with a particular emphasis on the views of individuals over organisations. I will make myself available by phone, email, and video at advertised intervals. I will operate on the basis that there is always new information that could come to light which can sway a government decision.

I will work to expand the capacity of the community councils by seeking the provision of improved support mechanisms to engage with their community districts on broader matters that affect their communities. These will be politically independent and include reformed consultation processes on planning decisions.

The Greens are proud to have led the way in increasing transparency of political donations in the ACT, 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 or perceived conflict of interest. This committee has rejected a substantial number of donations over the years. However, the 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, even if they do so in an entirely personal capacity.

I will of course continue to work to improve the donations system and seek ways to improve donations transparency. Recognising that commonwealth laws currently constrain the ability of the ACT to make meaningful change in this area, I will collaborate with Federal Greens MPs and Senators to make the ACT's laws enforceable once again.

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 14/08/2020

*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.