

MEDIA RELEASE

DIAZ CALLS FOR A NON-PARTISAN COUNCIL

Newly-elected Councillor Jess Diaz proposes a non-partisan Council to reflect the wishes of the voters as shown in the recent elections. The final composition of the Council consists of 8 Labor, 5 Liberals and 2 Independents. Labor has a majority of one against the combined Liberal-Independent. Councillor Diaz said, "In the last council elections, Labor has 49% of the votes and its number of councillors is disproportionate to the wishes of the voters. Labor suffers an overall swing of 3.6% and the Liberal-Independent gained a swing of 21%. Clearly the voters want a radical change in the Council. The technical allocation of preferences worked against the Independents."

If strict politics continues, the new mayor and deputy mayor will be decided by a bitter factional fight in the Labor Party. Diaz said, "Blacktown will end up with the same people voters clearly wanted to change. As a non-partisan Council, Blacktown would start a new era. A cooperative Council would be more effective and could secure for Blacktown a regional city status to have an equitable share in infrastructure development. This will also improve the delivery of services that will benefit the whole community," he concluded.

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