



**URGENT: This preselection is your chance to make sure you have a hard working LOCAL candidate for Batman..**

**HOW TO VOTE FOR**

**Tim Singh LAURENCE**

**TO CLEAN UP BATMAN**



**Cr Tim LAURENCE**

Reservoir Australian Labor Party Branch Member.

Dear fellow ALP member,

In the coming weeks local ALP members like you and me will be asked to vote for the next ALP candidate for Batman. The faction bosses already have outsiders calling us at our homes asking for our votes. Where were these concerned people for the last 20 years?

This is will be the first time in over 20 years that local members have been given a say in the selection of our Federal candidate for Batman. That right to vote in the Labor Party was taken away from us when Martin Ferguson was installed. It was also taken away from us in recent years for other pre-selections when the faceless faction bosses thought local members could not be trusted to vote the way they wanted us to.

This lack of respect for local members in the past is reflected by a lack of respect for the issues that are important to our community. The faction bosses have bypassed local voters and when in power have by passed local community needs. While various high profile careerists have come and gone in Batman we have seen our region betrayed on housing, education, childcare and employment outcomes. Too often in the past two decades the Batman community has been ignored.

### **Batman jobs ignored - cost of manufacturing crisis ignored**

Two out of three Manufacturing jobs were lost with little assistance to those who were thrown on the scrap heap. Unemployment remains higher than the state. Young people are locked out of the Batman employment market with 1 out of 4 of our young people seeking fulltime employment left jobless. I still remember when I received my year 12 graduation slip from Preston Tech that the 'tech school' youth unemployment rate was 50%. This was one of the things that we all joined Labor to fix. Fixing today's shocking 25% rate of youth unemployment in the northern suburbs must be the next Labor candidate for Batman's top priority. The faction bosses can find jobs for themselves and their mates but they have forgotten our local kids. The high Australian dollar and unilateral tariff cuts are killing off the future for our local kids. We need a fari dinkum Minister for Manufacturing to fight back for our kids future. We need a rescue plan to keep high value manufacturing jobs in Australia - like those in Holden's auto parts supplier in Newlands Rd in Reservoir. I know where these jobs are in Batman and I am already joining with local union members and loca employers to fight for these jobs. I have introduced buy Australian car policy and a regional supplier program to boost local jobs in our local Council. We need action not words on Batman jobs.

### **Batman education outcomes ignored**

Batman's state and catholic schools remain under funded and over crowded. Many new migrants from Asia want a selective school in the north so their kids can excel. Expert reports promised this but the faction bosses gave this funding to south eastern Melbourne instead. Dozens of schools were sold without a fight to save them. Now Batman's population is increasing we need more schools and childcare places. The land sales and neglect need to end. This year Federal Labor failed to grant \$2.5 million to build a children's hub in the most disadvantaged area in the north of Batman. Now the local council must do the Federal Government's job and cover this with funding gap with a 2% rate rise. We need a Federal Member who will fight for education and childcare and get our fair share of Federal funding.

### **Batman health needs ignored**

Our community built hospital was sold off to developers. With 20,000 pensioners and 26,000 disable people in Batman we needed local services. We are now forced to travel out of the area for services. I fought hard with the community for the \$5 million Panch health service in Bell street but it has gradually had services cut. This month they ripped the dialysis service from Batman. It is hard to get bulk

billing medical services in Darebin. This hurts the 40% of Darebin residents living on less than \$600 a week – this hurts low income earners the most. Our pensioners mainly worked in dangerous manufacturing and construction industries and have acute health needs in their senior years. We need a new community health service in Batman's north. So far only the local Council has committed to finding the land for this in Ralph Street Reservoir. Will the faction bosses candidates promise to support this and expand health services in Batman? The silence is deafening.

## Batman environment issues ignored

I have successful led a fight to drain and remodel Edwardes Lake in Reservoir when it was choked with silt and had deadly botulism outbreaks killing fish and birdlife. More recently I have joined the fight against Brunswick power terminal expansion as this project will increase the high voltage power load over Merri Creek valley and over thousands of Reservoir homes. We must remove these ugly and unsafe powerlines that hang over thousands of homes in breach of state safety guidelines. This can be funded by not building the Brunswick terminal and by putting the whole power line underground and freeing up land in residential areas. One of Mr Feeney's key supporters in this pre-selection has told me that if I continue to raise this issue in the papers that they will 'cut my xxxing head off'. This is the level of debate about key environmental issues by the factions. This is how low the factions have sunk. This is Labor's cause betrayed. Will the right factions candidate for Batman support the call to put this ugly and unsafe high voltage powerline underground or will they just give the community more threats and abuse on this issue?

## Batman housing needs ignored

After 20 years the local waiting list for public housing remains at 1500 people. 95% of our public housing stock here in Batman is shamefully over 50 years old sub-standard stock. When Martin Ferguson arrived in Batman I recall he was shocked by the sub standard public housing in Reservoir and Preston. It was worse than anything he had seen in his native Sydney. 17 years on and not much has changed. We only got a handful of new public units out of the \$1.2 billion sent to Victoria by the Rudd government. 95% of the thousands of public houses units in Batman need urgent rebuilding. Public housing tenants have been forgotten in Batman. The lack of maintenance and investment in our crumbling public housing estates is a shameful legacy. Where is the faction bosses' deal to fix this? The next member for Batman needs to fight to fix this.

## Send the faction bosses a message that this neglect must end

I have served the Party, the union movement and as a Labor council for nearly 30 years. I have spent that time fighting for jobs and building the services we need for those most in need in Batman. But the arrogance and neglect of the faction bosses is now worse than I have ever seen. The Australian public has also noticed that Federal Labor has lost its way. It has forgotten sole mothers, pensioners, refugees, migrants and our youth. Tragically it has forgotten those most in need.

AS your local councillor in Batman I've always got results - saving and remodeling Edwardes Park Lake - and building the Reservoir Civic Centre and Darebin Sports Stadium. Since being re-elected in 2008 I've boosted spending in Batmans neglected neediest suburbs: \$1.6 million for footpath repairs, \$1.8 million for La Trobe Ward playgrounds, 50% more street-trees, \$3.1 million on sports grounds, NEW \$7 million Bundoora Community Centre, NEW \$6 million Reservoir Library, and secured state and local government funds for \$5 million Reservoir Children's hub. This year I also delivered as I promised, my idea for a \$130 rate rebate to our 20,000 pensioners.

High profile candidates can boast about their career highlights and carefully gloss over their factional sins but can any of them talk honestly about the poor score card we face for jobs, health, the environment and education outcomes in Batman? Have any of them committed to achieve anything in local outcomes in jobs, health, education, housing, or the environment?

You can vote as the faction bosses have asked you or you can demand more policy outcomes for the local area.

By voting for me you can send them a message that the needs of the area cannot be ignored any longer. Put a local first in this election and put the factions last.

Yours in unity,



### Cr Tim Singh Laurence

Mayor of Darebin, Chair of Darebin Planning Committee, Chair of Darebin Community Grants Committee  
Member of AMWU printing division, Life member of Craigieburn Sikh Gurudwara



Let's all vote for a local &  
**A FAIRER DEAL**  
for **BATMAN**

**P.S.** I am the only ALP member running who can vote for themselves in this election. The others either live outside the area or are not ALP branch members with voting rights. Call me on any Federal or local issue on **0438 382 935**.