

Licia Heath is Wentworthy.

Independent



on the Federal ICAC

- Licia believes there's an urgent need to establish a Federal ICAC to investigate and expose potential corruption and misconduct in the federal government and public service and help return trust to Australian politics
- Currently, no federal agency has the investigative powers or jurisdiction to expose corrupt conduct in the federal government and public sector
- No agency can investigate misconduct of MPs, ministers or the judiciary
- Needs to include strong investigative powers, broad jurisdiction and the power to hold public hearings to ensure corruption / misconduct is exposed
- Polling suggests the Australian public are increasingly supportive of a Federal ICAC

on Parliamentary reform

- Licia believes Australia should have fixed 4 yr terms for Federal elections
- Implement stronger controls on Political Donations, Professional Lobbying and Parliamentary Entitlements
- Introduce Parliamentary Standards charter to align with voter expectations
- Introduce technology platforms to increase constituent participation
- Place controls on former politicians being employed in lobbying roles

on Media Ownership Inquiry & reform

- Licia believes the Australian Press Council should be strengthened and have its independence protected
- Stronger oversight of hate speech and truth in journalism (social and traditional media)
- Ensure protections for journalist sources
- Ensure funding, independence and government protections for the ABC
- Apply public interest test to media mergers with the aim of ensuring ownership diversity
- Promote the need for media literacy (inc social media) and critical thinking courses in classrooms

on Climate Change, the Environment and Renewables

- Licia believes that climate change is real and will fight to ensure Australia stays committed to the Paris Agreement, reduces carbon emissions and plans for a future that reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and increases our use of renewables
- The cost of any solution proposed is large, but this needs to be viewed in the context of the cost of not addressing climate change. To date the most pragmatic solution is an emissions trading scheme (cap and trade). The way to get there is with an international agreement that all parties adhere to based on a formula to reduce actual emissions per capita.
- Some of Australia's most precious resources are our agricultural lands, bio-diverse ecosystems and fresh water stores and we must protect these and ensure they flourish
- Australia is envied by other crowded nations for our extensive open space and expansive interior. This land gives Australia an advantage to create and promote vast renewable energy projects for the benefit of all electorates nationally
- As an urgent measure Licia will promote the re-establishment of the Climate Commission and the National Water Commission

Please see over for additional policies.

However, unless we concede that the current political decision-making process is compromised and make the necessary efforts to fix it, the ability to establish meaningful legislation on issues below is severely compromised. Only by addressing Parliamentary and Media Reform and establishing a Federal ICAC can we reduce vested interests in our political process. In turn, this re-establishes trust and re-engages the public, ultimately improving the democratic process in Australia.



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[@LiciaHeath](https://twitter.com/LiciaHeath)

www.liciaheath.com.au

1/5 Murray St, Bronte NSW 2024 | M 0422 728 505 | CampaignManager@LiciaHeath.com.au

Written and authorised by L. Heath 1/5 Murray St, Bronte NSW 2024

on Public Education

- Licia is well known in Wentworth for her community advocacy for public schools and has recently fought for a new public high school in the area via the CLOSEast campaign and before that with CLOSE for the Inner city high school
- She is opposed to the recent Govt announcement to increase funding to the Independent and Catholic school sector. This undoes all of the gains done in recent years by government reviews that based funding models on needs-based assessment. Again, this announcement highlights the power of formal lobby groups in our decision-making process and pits public, independent and catholic schools against each other to fight for funding
- The Federal changes to public education funding came into force under Howard in 2004 when he increased the funding to the private sector, at the expense of public school funding. I consider this to be utterly unfair and it promotes inequality at an increasing rate in our society. I will fight hard to see this inequality reversed
- She will ensure Ethics classes are available at all public schools and Scripture is available but not compulsory

about Asylum Seekers

- I do not believe in the rhetoric from our politicians who say the only choice we have is between people dying at sea or detaining them in permanent offshore detention. There are other choices and it saddens me to see our politicians politicise something that should be above politics. This is a complex issue and it needs a complex, humane response. It is critical that xenophobic language or dog whistling is not promoted by our political representatives in order to create ill-will against people who are fleeing persecution
- I am highly opposed to the media blackout on this issue. I believe we must close down offshore detention camps and the best starting point is to work closely with our international and, in particular, regional partners in a much more constructive way

on the Economy/Tax reform

- Licia will fight for amendments to our current tax laws to fight for economic inequality with the focus being on:
- Closing corporate tax loopholes for multinationals
- Reducing regressive tax concessions in our system that are no longer relevant in today's landscape, (eg. negative gearing, CG tax concessions)
- Company tax cuts are focussed at the wrong end of the tax base in Australia. Evidence shows cutting corporate tax rates does not stimulate economic growth to the same extent as growing the middle-class belt in Australia, which expands disposable income that ultimately gets spent across our economy
- Support small business owners by reducing red tape and ensuring appropriately skilled workforce is available
- It was revealed in 2017 that taxpayers who were less able to resist the power of the tax office (individuals and small business) were targeted in heavy handed tactics rather than larger businesses who had less legal resources. Licia believes SMEs are the backbone of our economy and will protect them as such

about local Wentworth issues

- If elected, Licia will acknowledge that climate change is real and fight for the community and our nation to ensure Australia stays committed to the Paris Agreement, that we reduce our emissions and plan for a future that reduces our reliance on fossil fuels and increases our use of renewables
- The re-development of Moore Park stadium that will use public funds to drive private profits must be stopped while the desperate need across Wentworth for spending on social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, TAFE and public transport is prioritised
- We must stop the private development earmarked for South Head National Park
- Public primary and high school capacity issues and maintenance backlogs must be addressed and rectified, including a new public co-ed high school for the East
- The over-development of our community without the equivalent social infrastructure needs to be halted while the extent to which developers fund our major parties is investigated

Who is Licia Heath, what voice does she bring?

Licia is the local, community Independent candidate in the Wentworth by-election. She's well known across Sydney's Eastern suburbs and the seat of Wentworth for running a high-profile community campaign agitating all levels of government for a new public high school in the area. Via the CLOSEast campaign, she has negotiated with all tiers of government and has worked collaboratively across political parties to achieve outcomes on this issue. She has worked tirelessly, meeting with State MPs, Councils, Mayors, and planning teams, as well as presenting at local P&Cs, holding

community forums, and uniting numerous stakeholders in the interest of local families and residents.

Licia is also a Director with the not-for-profit organisation, Women for Election Australia (WFEA), a non-partisan group committed to increasing the number of women in public office at local, state and federal levels.

Licia has spent the last 19 years in the funds management sector and lives in Bronte with her husband and two sons.