

Yvonne Weldon Independents

18 George St, Redfern, NSW 2016

Constitution

Dated April 6, 2022

Objects of the party

Yvonne Weldon Independents is a local government party focused on making Sydney a green, vibrant and inclusive city humming with opportunity, equally accessible to all Sydneysiders.

We believe in a fairer Sydney, and will work to increase the supply of affordable and diverse housing across the city. We want to place community wellbeing, not just economic growth, at the heart of our planning system.

We want to make Sydney more inclusive and more vibrant. Culture is the beating heart of our city – but our performers, artists and cultural centres were suffering even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Protecting and supporting – including direct funding – this vital industry is a core priority for us.

We also need to boost Sydney's small businesses and entrepreneurs, to make Sydney the best place to start, build and operate a business. We will ensure engagement with industry – from small independents and start-ups to global corporations – will be a key part of decision making at Town Hall.

We will also enable direct representation by community and businesses in Council meetings, and establish advisory committees representing business, LGBTQI+, creative and community interests.

We must do all this, and improve Sydney's climate performance. Climate change – global heating – remains the pre-eminent challenge for our generation. We need to circularise our economy, to reduce, reuse and recycle all of our inputs. We need to find alternatives to car use for most journeys, by improving public transport, and designing our city around active transport. We need to increase green space, and tree cover, to reduce temperatures in our city. All levels of government must act, but the Council needs to lead here – we simply must do better than we have to date.

The only way to achieve these aims is to have a voice on Council. Therefore, the core object of the party is to select, endorse and promote candidates for election to the Council of the City of Sydney, or as the Lord Mayor of Sydney.

Further details of our policies are available on our website:

<https://www.yvonneweldon.com.au/policies>

Constitutional arrangements

The formal name of the party is “Yvonne Weldon Independents” and the abbreviated name is “Team Yvonne”.

The party is currently an unincorporated association, but may adopt alternative forms in the future. This Constitution is also the Constitution of the association, and all party members are members of the association.

The Party is a not-for-profit association. Any asset, income, profit or surplus may only be used for the objects of the party, and may never be distributed to the members, except as compensation for services rendered, or to reimburse a member for expenses incurred. If the party is wound up, its assets may only be distributed to another entity with similar objects to the party – not to the members.

Party Membership

Party membership is open to all voters registered and eligible to vote in NSW. Membership of another political party is not a bar to membership of Team Yvonne (but see reasons for removal below). Prospective members apply by completing a [Declaration of Party Membership](#), and become party members once this is accepted by the Executive Committee of the party.

Members may resign in writing or by email. Members may be removed by the Executive Committee for breaches of this constitution, for activities counter to the goals of the party, or for actions that damage the party’s reputation, or which could be perceived as bringing the party into disrepute.

Party structure and management

The party is led by Councillor Yvonne Weldon, the first Aboriginal-Australian to be elected to the Council of the City of Sydney. She brings the same audacity, creative energy and fierce

optimism to Town Hall that her aunt Mum Shirl brought to her life-long fight to make Sydney a more just and honourable city.

The day to day business of the Party is managed by the party Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's responsibilities include decisions on all political actions, publicity, fundraising and expenditure as well as all membership decisions. The Executive Committee may from time to time amend the Constitution by an absolute majority vote.

The Executive Committee is chaired by Yvonne. Party office holders (the Party Secretary, Registered Officer and Deputy Officer) are automatically members of the Executive Committee, and other party members or advisors may be appointed by the Executive Committee from time to time.

Office holders

Councillor Yvonne Weldon is the founder and Secretary of the party.

Yvonne is an award winning author, and has held numerous senior positions in education and government, including: the elected Chair of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council; Deputy Chair of the NSW Australia Day Council; Board member of Domestic Violence NSW, and Board member of Redfern Jarjum College.

Councillor Weldon has 30 years' experience working in key government and Aboriginal organisations. She has a passion for improving the lives of all through health, social justice, Aboriginal advancement, children's rights, education, child protection, research and evaluation, and was the 2022 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year.

Stephen Conlon is the inaugural Registered Officer.

Peter Rothwell is the inaugural Deputy Registered Officer.

The Executive Committee appoints the party officers, who serve until replaced by the Executive Committee.

Registered party information required under the *Electoral Act 2017* and the *Local Government Act 1993*:

Please provide written responses in the spaces provided to address the following party information if it is not explicitly outlined in the party's constitution. This information will be published on the NSW Electoral Commission's website with the party's constitution.

(i) the party's objects:

Refer to Constitution

(ii) the procedure for amending the party's written constitution:

Refer to Constitution

(iii) the rules for membership of the party, including the procedure for accepting a person as a member and ending a person's membership:

Refer to Constitution

(iv) a description of the party structure and of how the party manages its internal affairs:

Refer to Constitution

(v) the procedure for selecting a person to hold an office in the party and for removing a person from office:

Refer to Constitution

(vi) the names of the officers or members of the party responsible for ensuring the party complies with the *Electoral Act 2017* and the *Electoral Funding Act 2018*:

Yvonne Pauline Weldon - Secretary
Stephen Donovan Conlon - Registered Officer
Peter John Rothwell - Deputy Registered Officer and Party Agent

Please provide clear statements that explicitly outline all of the required information.