



# KAREN RENKEMA-LANG & TEAM

## INDEPENDENT YOU'RE IN S.A.F.E. HANDS

### S.A.F.E. KIAMA - ECONOMIC POLICY

KIAMA • MINNAMURRA • GAINSBOROUGH • KIAMA DOWNS • JAMBEROO • GERRINGONG • GERROA • OCTOBER 2021

#### OUR COMMITMENT TO A THRIVING COMMUNITY

**S.A.F.E. Kiama is committed to working with the community to promote a cohesive and healthy society that thrives not just economically but also socially, and environmentally.** Economic growth is important but alone will not guarantee the future livelihood of our community.

Our approach to being **Sensible with Money** is based on a number of themes.

#### DIVERSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY SECTORS

The last two years have exposed the vulnerabilities of relying on tourism and retail.

Many Kiama businesses and their employees were severely impacted by the recent fires and are still struggling through the COVID pandemic, as are many Kiama residents working in Sydney, Wollongong or Nowra.

**S.A.F.E. Kiama** understands that tourism and local jobs in accommodation, food services, and retail trade will remain an important part of our economic base.

We also understand that in order to thrive economically, socially, and environmentally a rethink of Council's current and traditional approach to economic development and tourism is required.

**S.A.F.E. Kiama** will promote diversity in the number of career pathways for parents and young people, to open up opportunities for careers in new clean technologies, rural and agricultural ventures, and in tourism initiatives that protect and preserve our natural landscapes, wildlife habitats and marine and land biodiversity.

By enhancing the variety of business and employment opportunities available to those living in Kiama, we can support new growth industries, expand career selection possibilities, and drive economic growth for the benefit of the local area.

In the first instance **S.A.F.E. Kiama** will call for a review of the [Kiama Council Economic Development Strategy](#), to identify all existing and potential economic assets (both public and private), to determine pathways for diversification, and to develop a roadmap to reach the target economic asset mix.

We will also ensure economic strategies and plans passed by Council lead to tangible actions that make a difference.

## FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AND IMPROVED FINANCIAL COMPETENCY

When **S.A.F.E. Kiama**'s campaign platform was first published in May 2021, we made it clear that we would *call for an independent review and assessment of Council's financial management over the last 5 years, and make sure that Council staff have the skills necessary to develop, monitor and enact a 10-year financial management plan*. Candidates on the **S.A.F.E. Kiama** team had been working with community groups months before this to highlight concerns over financial management. **S.A.F.E. Kiama** therefore wholeheartedly supports the August 2021 Council resolutions to this effect.

**S.A.F.E. Kiama** will advocate for subsequent recommendations that ensure Council is underpinned by appropriate financial governance, supported by teams and personnel with the requisite qualifications and experience.

An easy-to-understand financial summary, digestible by the lay person would be a positive step in community engagement, ensuring ratepayers are afforded the awareness of their Council's financial position, integrity, and future goals.

A financially robust Council will be better positioned to take advantage of economic opportunities that benefit all ratepayers and the community in general.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TRANSPARENCY

In prioritising how our money is spent Council must be clear about who is paying, who will benefit, who will be disadvantaged, who knows and who should know.

All residents and ratepayers have a stake in how Council spends our finances. Information about our money should be easily accessible, be clear and be simple so that every resident knows and understands how their money is being spent.

All residents and ratepayers should know how decisions are made regarding Council finances. What commercial, local, regional and state government priorities have influenced these decisions. Public spending rarely benefits everyone. Those who will be disadvantaged by a Council decision should be expressly notified and information regarding the rationale readily accessible and understood.

Those who pay, those who benefit and those who are disadvantaged by Council decisions should not only know about the decision but should be afforded the opportunity to be part of the decision-making process.

## FIT FOR THE FUTURE

As recently as 2016, Kiama Council and residents fought tirelessly to defend Kiama Council's independence, and their success in fending off a proposed merger with Shoalhaven Council is testament to the great passion and willpower of our community when faced with significant challenges that impact us personally and as a population.

An important consideration of **S.A.F.E. Kiama**'s economic policy will be to preserve the *fit-for-the-future* status of Council, such that any subsequent proposal by State Government or other interested parties/authorities for amalgamation of Kiama Municipal Council with another Council may be readily dismissed.

The retention of key personnel is an important part of Kiama Council being *fit-for-the-future*.

Kiama Council must be prepared for the challenges of one or more members of staff choosing alternative career opportunities. **S.A.F.E. Kiama** will call for a staff retention plan that includes suitable measures to ensure continued engagement of Council's Executive and other key personnel. This is vital to a new Council delivering on its objectives and meeting the expectations of ratepayers.

**S.A.F.E. Kiama** will work with the community, other councillors, council staff and authorities at all levels of Government to ensure decisions that affect the community the most are accessible and available to all. That those entrusted to act on our behalf are answerable to the community and that they act in an honest and lawful manner at all times.

**S.A.F.E. Kiama** will pursue a long-term economic plan built upon accountability and delivering positive outcomes for the community, while respecting and upholding the characteristics and values that are important to the people of Kiama.

## S.A.F.E. KIAMA PRIORITIES

**S.A.F.E. Kiama** priorities that underpin our policies for a better Kiama LGA & secure future are:

1. Ensure Council's financial position is known and understood by all ratepayers, and that Council staff have the skills necessary to develop, monitor and enact a 10 year plan to strengthen Council's economic base
2. Provide opportunities for diversification of local businesses so that our economic base is resilient and able to provide interesting, well paid and secure job opportunities.
3. Introduce greater transparency and accountability in the way Council conducts its business.
4. Tighten planning and development controls to stop unrestricted urban creep, over development and inappropriate development.
5. Develop and enact a plan to manage our natural environment more responsibly.

## MEET THE S.A.F.E. KIAMA CANDIDATES



### KAREN RENKEMA-LANG & TEAM



SARAH MARLAN



DAN BALDING



MADELEINE SCARFE



DENIS BALDING

## OUR MAIN POLICY IS AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

**CONTACT US :**

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**[SAFEKIAMA.ORG](http://SAFEKIAMA.ORG)**

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**VOTE FOR US:**

**PRE-POLL 22 NOV-3 DEC, ELECTION DAY 4 DEC 2021**

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