



KAREN RENKEMA-LANG & TEAM

INDEPENDENT

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

S.A.F.E. KIAMA - MAIN POLICY

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

WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITIES ?

First and foremost, **S.A.F.E. Kiama** policies and priorities acknowledge that the health of a community is inextricably linked to the health of all living things.

The S.A.F.E. Kiama [Family](#) and [Mental Health](#) policies underpin and further strengthen our campaign platform as detailed below. The Families policy is targeted at providing the services and support that working families with growing children need to thrive. The mental health policy is specifically targeted at improving mental health across the community.

S.A.F.E. Kiama policies will ensure that those representing our community can be trusted to make decisions, based on evidence that will deliver a stronger and more promising future.

Within this context the next top 5 priorities of the S.A.F.E. Kiama team are to:

1. Ensure that Council's current financial position is known and understood by all, and that Council staff have the skills necessary to develop, monitor and enact a 10 year financial management plan
2. Support and foster diversification of local businesses to ensure they are resilient and able to provide diverse local job opportunities
3. Introduce greater transparency and accountability in the way that Council conducts its business
4. Tighten planning and development processes and controls to stop unrestricted urban creep, overdevelopment, and inappropriate development, and to
5. Develop and enact a Council [plan to manage](#) our natural environment more responsibly.

**WHAT DOES S.A.F.E. KIAMA STAND FOR
& WHAT ARE OUR PLATFORMS ?**

- ✓ **S**ENSIBLE WITH MONEY
- ✓ **A**CCOUNTABLE DECISION MAKING
- ✓ **F**AIR PLANNING
- ✓ **E**NVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

HOW S.A.F.E. KIAMA POLICIES ARE LINKED TO OUR PLATFORMS

SENSIBLE WITH MONEY

We want a community that thrives economically, socially and environmentally.

Opportunities:

2020 exposed the vulnerabilities of relying on tourism and retail. Many families, businesses and their employees across the Kiama municipality were adversely impacted by the recent fires and are still struggling through the COVID pandemic, as are many Kiama LGA residents working in Sydney, Wollongong or Nowra.

S.A.F.E. Kiama wants an economic base that is much broader than this. One that can adapt to opportunities as the world changes and as new clean technologies emerge. One that promotes local talent and innovation in small to medium businesses and one that strengthens and supports our rural and agricultural ventures. One that invests in our youth, natural habitats, renewable energy, and our ageing population: investing in these areas will make us stronger.

There is also community concern that Council's finances have not been well managed. This concern is well founded as evidenced in Council's financial statements, the diminished cash reserves and the recent cost cutting and remediation plans put in place. We have also witnessed a high turnover of key staff responsible for managing Council finances over the last 2 years.

Our Policy Response:

S.A.F.E. Kiama's [Economic Policy](#) details approaches that will lead to a Council that is sensible with money. In summary we will:

1. Call for an independent review and assessment of Council's financial management over the last 5 years
2. Make sure that Council staff have the skills necessary to develop, monitor and enact a 10 year financial management plan
3. Provide improved support to farming families so they can continue to work and invest in productive farms across our local government area, and
4. Advocate for partnerships between local businesses, educational institutions, other councils and the NSW government to
 - provide long term job opportunities for our youth
 - build on the resources and skills within our community
 - establish an agricultural futures centre of excellence for the Illawarra, and to
 - foster diversification into new types of businesses, such as in financial services, circular economy; the arts and entertainment sector, and clean energy and water initiatives.

ACCOUNTABLE DECISION MAKING

The community has the right to know who is in the room when the big decisions are made. To know who is responsible and who is accountable for the consequences of decisions.

Opportunities:

Our Council can do better at informing the community about the way it conducts business. Community members have a right to information that is quickly accessible in a way that can be easily understood.

Misconduct and corruption in NSW local government is a well-known and ongoing challenge, from bullying and sexism, to misuse of grant funds, to gross conflicts of interest.

A culture of integrity and a stronger stand on the prevention of misconduct and corruption will build the community's trust in Kiama Council.

The integrity of our Council will be strengthened if all Councillors, the Mayor and Council staff know about the risks from fraud, corruption, and conflicts of interest and are encouraged and supported when reporting incidents.

Our Policy Response:

As part of a Kiama Council that is accountable in decision making **S.A.F.E. Kiama** will -

1. Introduce evidence based policy and decision making as a principle
2. Enhance procedures for identifying and responding to conflicts of interest
3. Call for a stronger stand on integrity and the prevention of misconduct and corruption
4. Make sure that Council's financial position is readily available in a form that can be understood by everyone.
5. Ensure all Council committee meetings are conducted in a consistent, open and democratic way
6. Ensure Council staff are adequately resourced to respond to requests for assistance and access to information, and
7. Update the Council website to improve access to information (including conforming with accessibility standards for the visual and hearing impaired).

FAIR PLANNING

Fair planning processes include all stakeholders; those who pay (ratepayers, taxpayers), those who will benefit, and those who will be disadvantaged.

Opportunities:

What happens on our foreshores, on the ground, next door, and down the street must align with community values as expressed in the many expensive planning documents that line the shelves in Council.

Council can do more to ensure that upgrades to roads, parking, water, sewage and other services are adequate for community, holiday surges and new major developments.

Planning controls and planning decisions should be applied consistently and fairly – not one standard for big developers and another for local residents making home improvements. Tracking dwelling completions against projections is essential to ensure that the supply of infrastructure and health and education services are adequate as our community grows.

Fair planning means that all members of the community are treated equally and have equal access to Councillors and Council staff. Community values should be at the heart of planning decisions.

Our Policy Response:

As part of a Kiama Council that is fair with planning **S.A.F.E. Kiama** will call for -

1. A KMC Housing Strategy that addresses each of the themes in the [S.A.F.E. Kiama Housing Policy](#) statement.
 - monitoring of housing supply
 - preservation of heritage and character
 - better governance of short term rental accommodation
 - improved housing affordability
 - better controls to improve quality, stability and safety of housing

2. Tightened planning and development processes and controls to stop unrestricted urban creep and overdevelopment by:
 - updating the Kiama Local Environment Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) to better effect the outcomes repeatedly expressed by the community regarding environmental protection, heritage and local character, and by
 - introducing a zero tolerance policy for proposals and development applications that breach planning controls.
3. Update the community participation plan and community engagement strategy to ensure
 - information can be more easily understood by the community (particularly planning documents)
 - ensure consultation occurs prior to the exhibition period (particularly for large and complex policies and proposals)
 - community members are acknowledged as the “subject matter experts” providing details about people, place, and time, and to ensure
 - public exhibition periods are extended
4. Develop bio-regional mapping of high value environmental and agricultural land in the Kiama municipality
5. Collaborate with local farmers to identify opportunities and strategies to enhance the productivity of our rural land while reducing the impact on the environment, and
6. Develop stronger communication channels with NSW Departments (Sydney Water, Roads and Maritime, Education, etc) regarding our capacity and demand for infrastructure.

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

Our natural surroundings, waterways, beaches, flora, fauna, farmlands, and wildlife corridors should be valued and managed as the important asset they are.

Opportunities:

Ecological diversity and social harmony are the foundations of a healthy and resilient community. Healthy communities need green space in urban environments. They need healthy, diverse eco-systems and wildlife corridors. Our Council can do more to protect our rich and diverse local flora and fauna, particularly those on the endangered and threatened lists.

Council can do more to give incentives for community members, visitors, developers and local businesses to manage waste responsibly, to use clean energy solutions, to minimise the use of chemicals and plastics that often make their way into our soils, waterways and oceans.

As a community we have a responsibility to future generations to protect and preserve these assets.

Our Policy Response:

As part of a Kiama Council that is [environmentally responsible](#), **S.A.F.E. Kiama** will

1. Introduce initiatives to manage our natural environment more responsibly
2. Ensure that our flood, coastal, wetlands and river management plans are current, enacted and monitored for their effectiveness
3. Develop and enact a Council plan to maximise use of renewable energy by
 - reducing emissions from Council buildings, vehicles, outdoor facilities and public space
 - encouraging and supporting local businesses to reduce emissions
 - introducing more effective planning powers (such as requiring energy efficiency plans for new constructions)
 - further improve management of waste across the local government area (ensuring man made rubbish and plastic do not make their way into our oceans, rivers, sewer and stormwater systems).

4. Provide alternative means for transport (for example electrify council vehicles, introduce electric shuttle services, improve walking and cycling facilities)
5. Identify and better protect endangered and threatened ecological communities, flora and fauna
6. Implement an urban greening strategy, and
7. Protect our vulnerable marine species and ecosystems (for example by stricter enforcement of marine catch bag limits).

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



KAREN RENKEMA-LANG

I am standing for Kiama Council because I care.

I care about all of our residents; our local business community, our elderly, and particularly our children, our youth and our families. They are our future.

I care about our beautiful landscapes and how they are changing, dramatically and without respect, often to the detriment of our environment, our heritage and the ratepayers who live and work in this community.

I have an extensive background in IT and Communications for Federal Government, this, coupled with my experience on several local groups including the Kiama Council's Planning Committee & Kiama Central Precinct, provide a strong and confident foundation for me to represent you on Kiama Council.



SARAH MARLAN



DAN BALDING



MADELEINE SCARFE



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VOTE FOR US:

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

Authorised by Karen Renkema-Lang for the S.A.F.E. Kiama Team, 4/20 Dido Street, Kiama 2533