

**SPEECH – ANNOUNCEMENT BY FRANK PANGALLO RE  
FORTHCOMING ACT ELECTION**

**22 MAY 2008**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY TO HEAR FROM ME AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN RELATION TO THE FORTHCOMING ACT ELECTION ON 18 OCTOBER 2008.

SINCE MY ANNOUNCEMENT A LITTLE OVER A MONTH AGO THAT I WOULD NOT BE SEEKING RE-ELECTION TO THE QUEANBEYAN CITY COUNCIL, I HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF APPROACHES FROM RESIDENTS OF THE ACT SUGGESTING THAT I NOMINATE FOR THE ACT ELECTION.

LIKE MANY RESIDENTS OF THE ACT AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS, I HAVE BEEN OBSERVING THE DECLINE OF SERVICES AND LACK OF PROPER AND LONG TERM PLANNING AND PROVISION OF SERVICES OF THE ACT.

IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TODAY TO TAKE TO TASK ANY INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENT OR CHIEF MINISTER IN RELATION TO MATTERS OF THE PAST, SUFFICE TO SAY THAT I BELIEVE THAT MANY GOOD OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN MISSED OVER PAST YEARS IN DELIVERING BETTER APPROPRIATE SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE ACT.

IT IS MY VIEW THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN A COMMITMENT BY ANY GOVERNMENT SINCE THE INVENTION OF SELF GOVERNMENT OF THE ACT IN THE PROVISION ON LONG TERM PLANNING OF INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF WATER, PROPER ROAD SYSTEM, HEALTH AND EDUCATION AND MANY OTHER AREAS.

I FIND THE EVER INCREASING RATES AND TAXES THAT ARE IMPOSED ON RESIDENTS OF THE ACT ARE FAR TO HIGH AND CERTAINLY HIGHER THAN MOST OTHER JURISDICTIONS IN AUSTRALIA.

INDEED, AS AN OWNER OF A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, JUST THE LAND TAX ALONE IS ALMOST DOUBLE WHAT WOULD APPLY 10 KILOMETRES OVER THE BORDER IN QUEANBEYAN.

IT HAS BECOME ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY SMALL INVESTORS THAT HAVE INVESTED IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ANY FORM OF RETURN ON THAT INVESTMENT, EVEN THOUGH RENTS IN THE ACT ARE AT A RECORD HIGH.

SO THEREFORE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHAT I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY IS THAT VERY SHORTLY MARY AND I WILL BE MOVING INTO A HOME IN THE NARRABUNDAH AREA WHICH WE HAVE OWNED SINCE 2001 AND THAT I WILL BE NOMINATING AS AN INDEPENDENT FOR THE SEAT OF MOLONGLO.

I KNOW THE TASK AHEAD OF ME AS AN INDEPENDENT WILL BE A MASSIVE ONE. I AM AWARE OF COURSE THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND THE LIBERAL OPPOSITION HAVE BEEN ENTRENCHED IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM SINCE THE INCEPTION OF SELF GOVERNMENT.

I AM ALSO AWARE THAT OVER PREVIOUS ACT GOVERNMENTS WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN GOOD AND STRONG INDEPENDENTS, THAT CANBERRA HAS BENEFITTED FROM MINORITY GOVERNMENTS, A VIEW THAT I AM SURE THAT IS NOT SHARED BY EITHER OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES.

I WANT TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT IF I AM PRIVILEGED TO BE ELECTED BY THE RESIDENTS OF MOLONGLO THAT MY ROLE WILL NOT BE THERE TO BE A SPOILER FOR EITHER PARTY, BUT TO WORK IN A POSITIVE, AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE ACT.

AS AN INDEPENDENT, I WILL NOT HAVE TO RELY AND BE DIRECTED BY THE PARTY MACHINE IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM. I WILL BE ABLE TO REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY AS I HAVE DONE IN QUEANBEYAN, WITHOUT FEAR OF FAVOUR.

DURING THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS, I HAVE A MASSIVE TASK AHEAD OF ME TO MAKE MYSELF KNOWN IN THE ELECTORATE AND TO BRING MYSELF UP TO SPEED ON ALL THE ISSUES CONFRONTING THE RESIDENTS OF THE ACT.

ALREADY I AM AWARE OF MANY AREAS OF CONCERN AND MANY AREAS OF CRITICISM. I WILL ENDEAVOUR TO FULLY ACQUAINT MYSELF OF ALL THE ISSUES AND RESPOND TO THEM ACCORDINGLY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU AND THE COMMUNITY OVER THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS AND BEYOND IN THE INTEREST OF THE CANBERRA COMMUNITY.

THIS IS A GREAT CITY, LETS MAKE IT EVEN GREATER.