

# Dr John Mackenzie

## Newcastle Greens



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*I am a father, a social scientist, a community campaigner, a Councillor for the city of Newcastle and a lifelong advocate of progressive politics, social justice and environmental sustainability. I was privileged to represent the Newcastle Greens as your candidate in the 2016 Federal election, and I would welcome the opportunity to represent you again at the next election. Last year I was successfully elected as a Newcastle City Councillor. I have since served the city and the Newcastle Greens in representing the progressive movement in our region, providing a coherent voice for transformative social change, and securing positive social and environmental outcomes for our city.*

### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

*I am political sociologist with an established research portfolio in policy design and analysis for environmental governance, water planning, community-based natural resource management, social impact assessment and environmental advocacy. In 2005 I was awarded a PhD in Political Science, and since then have had over a decade of experience as a lecturer and as a policy research scientist in academic, government and the private sectors.*

*Alongside this, I have more than fifteen years volunteer and professional experience in community environmental campaigning, including holding national positions of responsibility in organisations including the Australian Conservation Foundation and Friends of the Earth Australia.*

### LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

*As the former coordinator of the Hunter Community Environment Centre and Greens campaigner, I have supported and led grassroots, community campaigns in Newcastle for environmental and public health. These include campaigns for the protection of our precious and threatened Hunter Estuary Wetlands, improved health regulations to reduce the impacts of mining, burning and transporting coal on vulnerable populations, reducing air and water pollution in our port and rail corridor suburbs, and opposing the fourth coal terminal.*

### A GLOBAL RENEWABLE ENERGY POWERHOUSE

*I believe the city of Newcastle can play a leadership role in a clean energy transition and low carbon future, ensuring that we are once again the proud powerhouse of the national economy.*

*A clean energy future would renew investment in our region's world-class manufacturing and energy industries, revitalise local business, cut pollution, and make our power supply more secure and cheaper. By directing funding towards research, innovation and infrastructure, we can best position Newcastle as a model smart city and an innovation hub for the new economy.*

*I am acutely aware of the impacts that economic adjustment is having on our city as we shift away from fossil fuel dependency. This is why I believe we need a community-driven program of adaptation that articulates an inspiring vision for a carbon neutral future in Newcastle.*

*As a Councillor for the City of Newcastle, I have demonstrated my commitment to this goal including championing the construction of a 5MW solar farm, and successfully instigating investigations into solar, EV infrastructure and the establishment of smart city microgrids. I have been engaged in the movement to prevent offshore fossil fuel mining and to expand Council's apprenticeship program as part of a regional approach to just transition. There is more work to be done, and I am proud of the leadership that past and present members of the Newcastle Greens have shown in this vision.*

*My family and I moved to Newcastle to make it our permanent home. Because of this, I am deeply committed to the sustainability, vitality and prosperity of this region. The transition to a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and a globally relevant smart city means more resources to invest in the welfare of our communities and environment, and guarantees a liveable, safe and generous future for our city and its future generations.*

