

Manly's MP-elect James Griffin to create a panel of local experts to advise him on policy decisions

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Member for Manly elect James Griffin at Manly on Monday after his State By-election win on the weekend. Picture: Troy Snook

- [James Griffin claims victory for Liberal Party in Manly by-election](#)
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MANLY'S MP-elect James Griffin says he will create a panel of local experts on everything from transport to education and health to advise him on policy decisions.

Mr Griffin — who claimed victory in Saturday's by-election despite suffering a drop of about 25 per cent in the Liberal Party's primary vote — said the hand-picked Manly Community Advisory Committee would provide him with feedback.

"Manly is more than a tourist town," he said. "There is a shift in the way people work, and the expectation to commute into the city now and work Monday to Friday in your job isn't there anymore."



NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Manly's new member for parliament James Griffin and former premier Mike Baird at James' election party held at Manly Lifesaving Club. Picture: Adam Yip.

“If people can live and work in Manly, then that (can) decrease the burden on transport.”

The former KPMG staffer could not offer specifics on numbers or the group’s make-up, but indicated some of his strongest critics, including the Save Manly Oval Alliance, would be invited to join.

The alliance was set up to fight the Manly Oval carpark development which Mr Griffin supported as Manly’s deputy mayor. The plan was later scuttled by Northern Beaches Council.

Mr Griffin said his committee would include those “who are not necessarily of the same political persuasion as me”. It would have three subbranches focused on environment, health and innovation.

Local chambers of commerce would also be involved in the consultation process, Mr Griffin said.



NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian with Liberal candidate James Griffin and his wife Elissa at Manly West Public School. Picture: Troy Snook.

The Electoral Commission is yet to confirm a result, but Mr Griffin has hit the ground running. He has drafted four letters requesting meetings with cabinet ministers in a bid to resolve issues that were brought up on the campaign trail.

On the top of his agenda is a meeting with Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton to seek funding to clean up the Curl Curl Lagoon.

“Decades ago, people used to go and holiday there, and now when the tide goes out, it is just not in great shape,” he said.

Mr Griffin wants to meet with Transport Minister Andrew Constance over increasing ferry services, and adding a route between Manly and Barangaroo.

He also hopes to speak with Planning Minister Anthony Roberts and Education Minister Rob Stokes over the Manly Vale Public School redevelopment.

“The sensitivities around the redevelopment — where they will have to encroach around the bushland — I want to know how that will be dealt with,” he said.



Manly MP-elect James Griffin at Manly on Monday after his State By-election win on the weekend. Picture: Troy Snook

Mr Griffin said he hoped there would be “no net loss of bushland”.

“I want to find out what can be done to add additional park or bushland to the reserve,” he said. “The development will encroach on some of it, but they have done a lot of work to make sure that there is limited clearing of trees and that where land is taken, it would be added on elsewhere.”

INDEPENDENTS TAKE HUGE CHUNK OF LIBS’ VOTE

THE surprise outcome of the Manly by-election was the strong showing of independent candidate Kathryn Ridge, who took almost 22 per cent of first-preference votes.

Ms Ridge emerged from a packed field of independents to outpoll the Greens’ Clara Williams Roldan, who received more than 18 per cent.

Ms Ridge told the *Manly Daily* the strong showing of alternatives to the Liberal Party should send a strong message to winner James Griffin.

“When you look at the progressive vote as a whole, the vote was enormous, and I hope the Liberal Party is looking at that very closely and it is informing their policy positions,” she said. “The problem is the Electoral Commission has done two-party

preferred with the Greens and Liberals, so we won't know what is going to happen until Wednesday or Thursday.”



Independent candidate for the seat of Manly Kathryn Ridge drums up support at Manly Village Public School on Saturday. Picture Troy Snook

Liberals survive large swings





Greens candidate Clara Williams-Roldan chats with a young future voter at Manly West Public School on Saturday. Picture: Troy Snook.

She said she had not decided if she would run again in two years.

“We were always realists,” she said. “We had a goal at the start and that was to get the Liberal vote under 50 per cent again, which we have done. We wanted to get the whole community that used to be here before supporting independents out of retirement and we have done that.

“What we have done in the process is pass those skills on to a new generation of people who are concerned with making sure Manly gets the best deal.”

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/manly-daily/manlys-mpelect-james-griffin-to-create-a-panel-of-local-experts-to-advise-him-on-policy-decisions/news-story/80fd0dfb5001d3303642d301caae26ed>