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## 1. Introduction

In days of yore, the colossus of Werriwa strode the earth. And you’d steer clear of those het up.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Not so in these days of tla’s outside Big Town’s Badlands. Where het can denote ‘huge executive talent’. A title bestowed by no less than one who sat at the colossus’ feet.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The beagle noticed a lack of BigTown updates in the last year or so.

Say, ever since the Coalition ventured into the western suburbs wilderness, then took us to the heights - Panthers World of Entertainment. To see State Premier Ms Berejiklian make a bible-style promise from that summit: ‘*NSW can have it all*’ if her Government is re-elected.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Did voters not quite possess the moral compass of Christ several thousand years earlier?[[4]](#footnote-4)

Or was the return of Government also due to an unfortunate anti-Asian comment by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Maroubra in Sydney’s eastern suburbs?[[5]](#footnote-5)

Whatever the case, fire and plague followed.

But the truth: since there has been not much material of such quality. Until now. Concerning a battle of east and west BigTown. Which het up the west before the talent could arrive.

In preparation, a short tour of part of the Badlands – Cabramatta in western Sydney – part 2. Part 3 sees the Badlands being an ‘area-of-concern’. Nonetheless, it remained a haven for het – part 4. Finally, in part 5, some tips for a het who wants to be seated, if not housed, in the Badlands.

## 2. Cabramatters

### 2.1 Great Gough

Starting at Cabramatta, South-West. Where the Great Man once dwelt.

During the time, as Federal Labor’s dashing deputy, he and the leader were subject to the whims of faceless men – the party executive. Which delighted Frank Packer for the election losing headline it presented.[[6]](#footnote-6)

The dwelling was recently recognised as a national treasure. If in need of renovation. Purchase and renovation cost estimated at $1.3m. Which the Commonwealth Government has agreed to pay. The present Coalition Government of course not being Great Man’s party.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Belated atonement for their reprehensible actions in bringing down – The Dismissal of - the Great Bird of the Whitlam Government, 11 November 1975?[[8]](#footnote-8)

The vaudeville villain of The Dismissal, Kerr’s Cur, was most famous for his quip *‘life wasn’t meant to be easy*’. Not easy even at the ‘seedy’ Admiral Benbow, Memphis TN, near Graceland, where life had to continue after a mysterious loss of trousers.[[9]](#footnote-9)

The villain should be most famous for allowing – encouraging – a high refugee intake from Vietnam after the relevant war - in which the US and Australia were allies - ended April 1975. An end seeing allied soldiers, officials and citizens leaving in a degree of disarray from Saigon. After the US administration made an agreement with its opponents in Vietnam to withdraw from the country.[[10]](#footnote-10)

The Cur’s compassion contrasted with a reported blemish on the Great One’s record. Refusal of the Foreign Minister’s wish to bring some likely-to-be-victimised-by-the-victors-Vietnamese to Australia at Saigon’s fall/liberation. With the words:

*“I’m not having these f..king Vietnamese Balts coming into the country with their religious and political prejudices against us.”[[11]](#footnote-11)*

### 2.2 Vietnamatta

Later, came some did. Including by boat. With the Government having a humanitarian response lauded, yet unmatched since.

So successful a response, it generated a busy-body backlash that coined the expression ‘boat people’. The concern was dog whistled by later administrations to sow and harvest apartheid sentiment by inflammatory rhetoric, and fascist behaviour like conscripting the military to turn-back-the-(refugee)-boats. But not the planes.[[12]](#footnote-12)

Back to the 70s’ - and after the Vietnamese refugees came to Australia, including by boat, they settled. In communities concentrated in places like Cabramatta. So much so, within a decade the Cabramatta was known as Vietnamatta.[[13]](#footnote-13)

As it is today. But no longer as a pejorative term – but almost one of celebration. Their settlement hailed by those from elsewhere as among Australia’s few great migrant success stories. Table, map and picture please.

**Table: 2016 Census[[14]](#footnote-14)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Cabramatta** | **NSW average** |
| Median age | 36 | 38 |
| Bachelor Degree or higher | 9.8% | 23.4% |
| Ancestry Vietnamese/Khmer/Chinese  Ancestry English/Australian | 65.7%  8.8% | 6.5%  49.2% |
| Buddhist | 43.0% | 2.8% |
| Unemployment | 15.0% | 6.3% |
| Median income  . personal  . household | $397  $968 | $664  $1486 |

While various publications have 20% of the area’s population as Vietnamese a quick look at the table suggests otherwise. As would a look down the street.[[15]](#footnote-15)

**A look down the street**

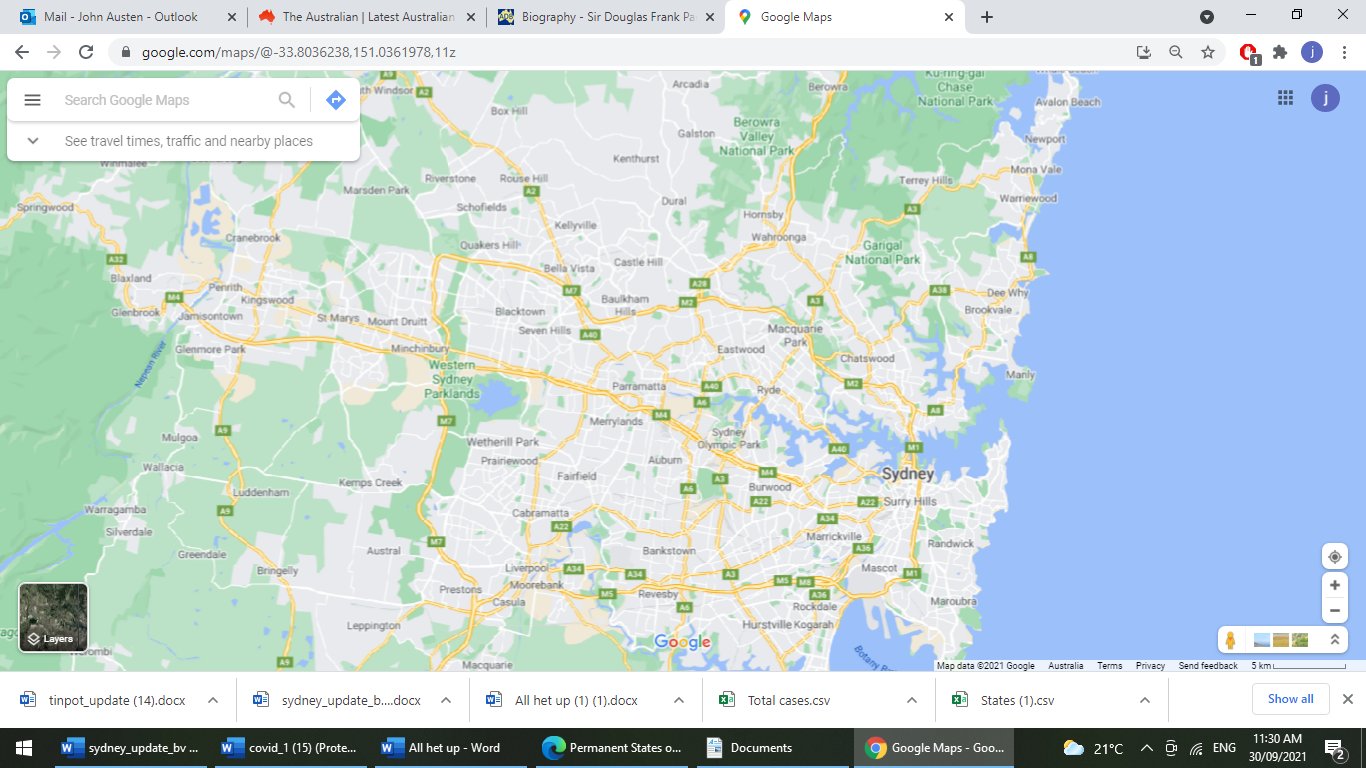
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Finally, a map. Which doesn’t quite convey the distances relevant to this note. To rectify that: Cabramatta to

* Coogee (eastern suburbs) 40km – 1.75 hours on public transport;
* Mascot (Heffron electorate, eastern suburbs) 33km – 1.5 hours;
* Maroubra (eastern suburbs) 39km – 2.2 hours;
* Scotland Island (northern beaches) – not mentioned on google! 70km – 2.5-3.0 hours.

Scotland Island being probably the place in BigTown most remote from Cabramatta. It is the little island to the left of Avalon Beach, top right corner of the map. Cabramatta is towards the lower left of the map.

**Map**



### 2.3 Trouble

The area has been troubled. Cabramatta is notorious as a centre for distribution of illegal drugs.[[16]](#footnote-16)

In the late 1980s it’s Labor State MP, John Newman, warned about organised crime and drugs. He was gunned down at home in 1994 – called Australia’s first political assassination. Some suspected involvement of organised crime – the 5T gang. However, the suspect – the gang’s leader - was also killed within a year. In the end, a political rival – who wanted to become the State MP but had been defeated at election and pre-selection by Mr Newman – was found guilty of Newman’s murder.[[17]](#footnote-17)

The sentencing judge observed:

*“I am satisfied to the criminal standard that Phuong Ngo’s motive for the killing of John Newman was naked political ambition and impatience’’.[[18]](#footnote-18)*

Mr Newman was succeeded in the seat by Ms Reba Meagher. Reputedly she had been ‘*offered the seat’* by the Labor Party chief Mr Della Bosca around 90 minutes after Mr Newman’s murder.[[19]](#footnote-19)

### 2.4 Coogeematta

At a later inquiry into the conviction, Ms Meagher revealed she had been called by, and met with Mr Della Bosca and Mr Tripodi earlier that afternoon - prior to the murder.  She said Mr Della Bosca had indicated two sitting Labor MPs would probably not contest the coming election and invited her to nominate the seat she would like.  Her evidence was to the effect Mr Ngo was interested in a seat in the Upper House – the Legislative Council - rather than the lower house seat of Cabramatta.[[20]](#footnote-20)

Apparently, at the time she was regarded as a prospective het by new Premier Carr.  Crikey – an online media outlet presenting left perspectives - ran a not completely flattering series on her rise from the Young Labor right and her departure.  Some might it find interesting.  Not me.[[21]](#footnote-21)

Ms Meagher held a number of Ministerial portfolios during her 14 years in the seat, including Health. Among the noted aspects of her political career was friendship with another Labor Parliamentarian – Mr Tripodi – and residence in Coogee in Sydney’s eastern suburbs.[[22]](#footnote-22)

The end of her tenure was also notable. It commenced with Premier Iemma in 2008 saying he was prepared to remain in office only if there were changes to the Ministry, one being relegation of Ms Meagher. Mr Iemma did not get his way, and resigned – the first Labor Premier to do so in 117 years. Ms Meagher resigned a day later under threat of being dumped by new Premier Rees. She returned the favour by calling the Rees Government ‘*gutless and disgraceful*’ etc. [[23]](#footnote-23)

Anyhow, Coogee is adjacent to the electorates of Maroubra and Heffron. Which is where Ms Meagher resided despite owning a flat in the Cabramatta electorate. She was known as the member for Coogeematta.[[24]](#footnote-24)

Cabramatta is now in the Federal electorate of Fowler, named after Australia’s first female mayor. Held by Labor for many years, most recently by Mr Hayes since 2010.[[25]](#footnote-25)

### 2.5 Today, almost

For completeness, the State seat is still held by Labor via Mr Nick Lalich, member of local Labor branches for half a century.[[26]](#footnote-26)

In 2020, Labor proposed abolition of the State seat, distributing voters to other electorates including a new one – Minto. Confusing as there is a suburb of Minto - 25km from Cabramatta.[[27]](#footnote-27)

Cabramatta is low on the socio-economic totem pole – at least by BigTown standards. As befits that status, and being a ‘safe’ Labor seat, it and the surrounding suburbs do not enjoy the level of services Federal or State Governments – Labor of Liberal – lavish on other areas. For example, it is underserviced by local and city public transport.

A train ride from Cabramatta to the middle of the CBD is around an hour – average speed 30km/h.

The situation will get worse once the Bankstown line is converted to Sydney Metro – because that line continues to Cabramatta, and those wishing to travel from Cabramatta to Sydney’s inner west will now need to change trains. Get used to it!

While Badgerys Creek airport is around 15 km west, the plan will see public transport trips travel around four times the distance – 60km. On at least three different trains.[[28]](#footnote-28)

## 3. An area-of-concern

### 3.1 It came from the east

In mid-2021 Sydney suffered a Covid outbreak originating from an eastern suburbs driver who ferried international aircrew. It started on 16 June. It was the Delta strain – covered in another article.[[29]](#footnote-29)

On 25 June, four eastern suburbs local government – council - areas were ‘locked-down’ – after twenty-two cases were recorded that day. The next day, all of Sydney, the Central Coast, Illawarra and Blue Mountains areas were locked-down - initially for two weeks.[[30]](#footnote-30)

The given reason was spread of the disease in South West Sydney. It was claimed NSW had lost control of the outbreak. Another reason was the NSW Budget. Its 22 June delivery and celebration - among congregating politicians, bureaucrats and hangers-on in the city and eastern suburbs – likely contributed to wide propagation of the disease.[[31]](#footnote-31)

### 3.2 Areas of concern

In late June, the Fairfield council area – which includes Cabramatta - was declared an ‘area-of-concern’ by the NSW Government. As was the adjacent Liverpool council area.

The declaration was said to be due to a concentration of Covid cases. Tougher restrictions were imposed than elsewhere in Sydney etc. Within days, six other council areas in Western Sydney were also designated areas of concern.[[32]](#footnote-32)

Media coverage had a significant number of residents in those areas not obeying the lockdown orders. This also was true for the eastern suburbs and northern beaches – despite them not making it to the list of areas of concern.[[33]](#footnote-33)

As was the case with the Crossroads hotel outbreak of 2020, Liverpool, Fairfield and adjoining areas produced a relatively high number of cases. There was speculation this was due to spread within family groups – family groups being larger, living closer, and visiting each other more frequently in those areas. Mention of ethnic communities was also made.[[34]](#footnote-34)

### 3.3 A little bit more for the west

The usual lockdown restrictions applied throughout BigTown. Only ‘necessary’ retail businesses such as supermarkets, pharmacies, newsagents and hardware stores remained opened. People could only leave home for specified reasons. Facemasks were to be worn indoors. Travel was limited to certain small distances.

Among additional restrictions for areas of concern were: wearing of facemasks outdoors; exercise limited to 1 hour per day; no meeting of people outdoors; travel limit of 5km and only within the council area; curfew at 9pm.[[35]](#footnote-35)

The additional restrictions were additionally enforced. There were scenes of police horses and helicopters in Western Sydney. Army personnel assisted. All assiduously reported for, and apparently endorsed by, the unaffected. Under the heading: a tale of two cities or as one South West Sydney resident put it:

*‘When it happened in Bondi it was relaxed, but in the back of our heads, we knew it'd be a different story if it had started here," …..*

*"It's just the response to treat the south-west more criminally than they would the east.*

*"It's that idea that we're ethnics, we're lawless. There's never mediation, just enforcement”*.[[36]](#footnote-36)

Some restrictions had little or no medical basis. Curfews, popularised by Victoria in 2020 had there survived legal challenge only by torturous ‘reasoning’ in the courts. There was little evidence of Covid transmission outdoors – with or without facemasks – a fact testified by the NSW Government claiming the primary spread was within households and within businesses.[[37]](#footnote-37)

More generally, the ‘go-hard, go-early’ pro-lockdown advice of most so-called experts, commentators and State Governments lacked evidential support. Indeed, later evidence from Victoria suggests policies based on such advice undermined the credibility of health experts/rules and contributed to community disobedience and thus spread of the disease.[[38]](#footnote-38)

That, and extensive media coverage of apparently uneven enforcement of health rules in the areas - like the targeting of people who fitted preconceptions of breakers-of-rules, particularly rules preventing visits to beaches other than by ‘locals’ – gave the appearance of unjustifiable discrimination against residents of areas-of-concern. That troubled the relevant councils. As, no doubt, did the increasing disregard of all health-rules throughout BigTown.[[39]](#footnote-39)

### 3.4 Trouble

Publication of vaccination rates triggered more trouble. Vaccination had been portrayed -since mid-2020 – as the solution to the pandemic. The expectation being those vaccinated would have and present lower risk and, logically, not face restrictions. For them, the emergency – justifying otherwise illegal curtailment of their lives – would be over. Irrespective of infection rates.[[40]](#footnote-40)

The initial expectation/mythology may have been vaccination rates would be highest among the well-heeled and better educated e.g., eastern suburbs residents. There would be hesitancy among less wealthy and ethnic communities. This proved – increasingly – to be not the case.

Areas in Western Sydney had among the highest and fastest rising vaccination rates. Nonetheless, there were suggestions they needed higher rates than other areas in order to be ‘released’.[[41]](#footnote-41)

By end August, Mayors of western Sydney councils sought meetings with the Premier to raise concerns about discrimination. The concerns included a supposed failure to lockdown the eastern suburbs at the initiation the outbreak. The Premier refused to meet.[[42]](#footnote-42)

For a time, the claim of discrimination had been rebuffed by reference to the lockdown of the Northern Beaches only at the end of 2020 - a simultaneous outbreak in the Bankstown area had not led to a lockdown there.[[43]](#footnote-43)

However, the Northern Beaches lockdown occurred prior to vaccines being available. In conjunction with restrictions on movement, and apparent police enthusiasm for checking addresses and aversion to checking face masks on eastern suburbs beaches – the appearance was a form of geographic apartheid. The Toilet Gang would salute Ms Berejiklian. Again![[44]](#footnote-44)

### 3.5 End of curfew

Eventually – after several weeks – on 13? September the Premier did front an on-line meeting with the Mayors. It was reportedly ‘*fiery’* and she was given ‘*both barrels’*. Yet, she reportedly stood her ground. And at least one Mayor then threatened legal action to overturn some restrictions.[[45]](#footnote-45)

Within a few days the curfew disappeared. Soon after, differential restrictions disappeared. The Government had caved in, probably to the likelihood of significant civil unrest in the areas housing over half Sydney’s population. [[46]](#footnote-46)

Nonetheless, there remained a belief that the Government had imposed – with the urging of some experts, parts of the media and police – discriminatory restrictions on Sydney’s west. Some self-styled left-commentary seemingly wanted more such restrictions for longer – raising stupid arguments, citing misleading statistics and relying on modelling yet to prove any worth.

Apparently, the commentary was intended as some sort of criticism of the NSW Government for being soft – in comparison with say, Victoria and Queensland – forgetting about the pathetic political parochialism, resort to fascist terminology and obnoxious abuses of power in those States. Such attempts to outflank the Government from the right - replete with less-than-self-aware charges of ‘politicisation’ – could only push Western Sydney listeners and readers towards a lesser evil.[[47]](#footnote-47)

Together with distance and local government rules, the Government - and some critics - appeared to be talking along the lines of a broader policy to enclave advantage. This is a sort of hyper-privatisation - of expropriating benefits of the most valuable public property by debarring uninvited outsiders from ‘our locality’. Celebrities and footballers excepted. This built on previous intimations by former Labor Premier Carr – member for Maroubra – about fencing beaches and cancellation of an extension of the railway to Bondi, and the Berejiklian Government’s three cities of Sydney and transport policies.[[48]](#footnote-48)

A similar expropriation was sought by some politicians and loud ‘locals’ from the outset of the pandemic - who perverted ‘everyone-stay-home’ into ‘visitors-stay-away’.[[49]](#footnote-49)

Leading to expression of sentiments from Western Sydney such as from a political candidate:

*‘there is an undeniable stigma with coming from the area. Living out west brings with it certain baggages that are hard to shed. This doesn't mean we are any less valuable or don't have much to contribute’*.

With this background, promises such as NSW could ‘*have it all*’ reflected particularly poorly on the Premier and her Government. It is unlikely the State Government would be electorally rewarded for its intentions displayed in recent pandemic actions. It was well and truly on the nose. Leaving fertile ground for State and Federal Labor.

Into which they, like some of their self-styled supporters, poured salt.

Eloquently summarised as: **‘The Last Week In Politics Proves Yet Again That Nobody Gives A Fuck About Western Sydney.’[[50]](#footnote-50)**

## 4. Salt

Shorn of the swearing, an expansion of that summary is:

*‘There are two warnings that comes out of the last few weeks. The first is, as has been pointed out by many before me, that many young people of colour, migrants, and Western Sydney residents will feel too disillusioned by what the Labor Party have pulled off to consider joining the ranks of their local political or activist group…..*

*The second warning is, frankly, worse: that as Labor, the Greens, and other progressive organisations take Western Sydney for granted, these seats will be eventually lost.’*

### 4.1 Nobody’s girl

Which brings up the proposed appointment of another het to (contest) the seat of Fowler.

Senator The Hon. Ms Kristina Marie Kerscher Keneally. Senator since 2018, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate. NSW Premier 2009-11.

A little more: born in Las Vegas, USA in the late 60’s, emigrated to Australia in the 1990s and became a citizen in 2000.

In 2003, elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly, seat of Heffron in Sydney’s eastern suburbs. Commentary had this flowing from pre-selection for Labor as an ‘affirmative action’ i.e., female, candidate – in preference to her husband who was reportedly more interested (than she) in entering politics and who was friends with Mr Tripodi.[[51]](#footnote-51)

Ms Keneally held NSW Ministerial portfolios in Disability Services and the Ageing (2007-08), Planning (2008-09). [[52]](#footnote-52)

She was Infrastructure Minister for 14 days in 2009. That came to an end when she was appointed Premier, displacing Mr Nathan Rees. Mr Rees, aware of internal Labor ructions, had just prior famously declared any challenger to his leadership would "*be a puppet of Eddie Obeid and Joe Tripodi*".

Among the reasons for the declaration was Mr Rees had dumped Mr Tripodi from the Ministry – in mid-November - supposedly for plotting to appoint Mr Della Bosca as Premier. By early December, Ms Keneally had challenged and defeated Mr Rees in Labor’s caucus and was appointed Premier.[[53]](#footnote-53)

Following elevation she - equally famously - claimed to be ‘*nobody’s girl’*. Her time as Premier was:

*‘marred by a disintegrating and scandal-ridden government, which was obliterated in the biggest election defeat in New South Wales history in 2011.’*

Speculation put her installation as Premier as an attempt to ‘*save the furniture’.* One wag unkindly said this was done by burning down the house.

One unambiguous positive, though, was she cancelled then idiotic plans for Sydney Metro. As against that, that cancellation set the scene for an even more idiotic ideas under Liberal Transport Minister, then Treasurer, then Premier Ms Berejiklian.[[54]](#footnote-54)

### 4.2 Nobody’s girl goes to Canberra

Ms Keneally resigned from State Parliament in 2012. In 2017, she contested, unsuccessfully, the Federal seat of Bennelong.[[55]](#footnote-55)

In 2018, she was appointed to the Senate by NSW on the resignation of Senator Dastyari, who had been similarly appointed in 2014. His resignation followed claims he was too close to China.

Those appointments meant the Senate seat held by Ms Keneally is to be contested at the next general election in 2022. Speculation was Ms Keneally would be placed 3rd on the Labor ‘ticket’ making her return to Canberra unlikely.[[56]](#footnote-56)

Ms Keneally’s political career had attracted praise and criticism from Labor sympathisers. Some claim she consistently benefitted from being ‘parachuted’ into roles. Others suggest her appointments were more like hopes for divine winds – kamikaze - than parachute drops.[[57]](#footnote-57)

Senator Keneally currently lives on Scotland Island. An exclusive area in the exclusive northern beaches. Quite some geographic and economic distance from Fowler as seen in part 2.

### 4.3 Het#2

Why talk about Ms Keneally? Because the headlines in September had NSW Labor Head office again deploying a parachute or e.g. Yokosuka D4Y for the Senator.[[58]](#footnote-58)

This time to replace the current, retiring member for Fowler, Chris Hayes. As Labor’s candidate for the forthcoming Federal election, which, given the nature of the seat at its current 14% margin, Labor would expect to win. Unless an ill wind blows.[[59]](#footnote-59)

A breeze is likely.

Six months earlier, Mr Hayes publicly ‘nominated’ someone else as his preference to contest the seat – the report of the day adding Senator Keneally had ruled out shifting to the lower house. The nomination: Ms Tu Le.[[60]](#footnote-60)

Ms Tu Le, at 31 is a little younger than Ms Keneally, Mr Whitlam and current Labor leader Mr Albanese when they were first elected. She is presented as something of a community leader, working among other things in a migrant legal service in the inner west.

Stories were put around about her being regarded by some local Labor party members as a ‘one year ring in’. One issue: accuracy of Mr Hayes’ description of *“someone who has grown up in our local area”.* Evidence: her current residence in the electorate for only a year, previous residences e.g. Bankstown, Birrong in other electorates – 6km-15km from Cabramatta. The other issue: prior membership of the Labor Sefton Branch, Blaxland electorate. Sefton is even closer to Cabramatta.

The issues were raised in a Sydney Morning Herald article. The Herald is regarded as the tabloid for inner and eastern Sydney – and Scotland Island? - rather than Cabramatta or Fowler.

For the benefit of Herald readers: at least Bankstown and Birrong and especially Sefton are locally regarded as being in the same local area as Cabramatta. Charges dismissed. Reinforced by former Herald stablemate – the Age – in emphatic terms.[[61]](#footnote-61)

Hence a summary of the rival claims: invitee (of head office and some branch members) who has a passion for social justice v. young face of the community? Faces please?



### 4.4 Factional warlords v. community?

Perhaps another summary, of the debate, is: ‘*faceless Labor warlords*’ v community say?[[62]](#footnote-62)

Senator Keneally has offered to ‘*live in, love and represent*’ Fowler. Presumably conditional on her pre-selection and election. She also offered the following:

*‘“The communities in Fowler, while it is geographically different to the area I represented in the state parliament, it’s actually similar in many ways,” the former NSW Premier said.’[[63]](#footnote-63)*

Presumably meaning she has done the necessary – and similar - type of work before. Whatever, from there it descended into a debacle.

Kicked off by the Senator’s proposed nomination being sponsored by a local Labor branch member.

Who allegedly had an un-doctored – now removed - Facebook page depicting her handing out how-to-vote cards in another nearby electorate, Banks, on Federal polling day 2019? For a candidate from the opposing Liberal party. A provocation by the Australian – of course?[[64]](#footnote-64)

### 4.5 Words from heavy weights

While Labor’s head office – ‘Sussex Street’ – and powerbrokers from the NSW right were said to be behind the drop-in, some other political heavyweights chimed in.[[65]](#footnote-65)

Reports had former Prime Minister Keating praising the Senator’s het. One, on SBS – the ‘ethnic TV channel’ - referred to his local, Western Sydney - credentials. It also contained an implicit put-down of candidates like Ms Le:

*‘Keating - who was raised in southwestern Sydney's Bankstown and served 26 years as the member for Blaxland, which neighbours Fowler - has also defended the decision to select Senator Keneally.  “Local candidates may be genuine and well-meaning, but they would take years to scramble to her level of executive ability, if they can ever get there at all,*"[[66]](#footnote-66)

That report missed some biographical detail: Mr Keating was elected to Blaxland when five years younger than Ms Le is, taking six further years to reach the Ministry; he left Parliament at the age Senator Keneally is now; since then, he has resided in Woollahra in Sydney’s eastern suburbs.

The report was not a heavyweight contribution. A burning issue in Western Sydney is opportunity over experience – or patronage. Does the Keating argument point to a fundamental – at least State-wide – problem for Labor: lack of respect for het? Viz: inability to find a more marginal seat where Ms Keneally’s talents would lead Labor to a better electoral position; failure to adequately support her re-contesting the Senate?

The Senate is the better place for showcasing huge executive talent drawn from senior State Government experience. It is the States’ House.

Its origins, as Gough might remind us, were ancient Rome. There the Senate comprised mature-aged politicians - a forum for considered contemplation. Of the nine Australian ‘Premiers’ who entered post-war Federal politics, at least six were Senators.[[67]](#footnote-67)

Senator Keneally’s (presumed) reference to previous relevant experience gives rise to a question: what did she achieve for the Fowler electorate area while in the the NSW Executive as a Minister and Premier over four years? An answer, yet to be widely disseminated, will no doubt be forthcoming if she contests Fowler.

The reported Keating comments did not dissuade Ms Le. She claimed people were furious about the Keneally ‘debacle’. She made an extraordinary Facebook post starting:

*‘I am not a political hotshot. I have no political capital. I have not served my time. I grew up in South-West Sydney’.*

Ending with:

*‘I am proud to be an Australian woman of Vietnamese heritage from South-West Sydney.*

*I don’t know what is going to happen with the pre-selection for Fowler.*

*But I know I will fight until the end. And regardless of what happens, I will always put my community first.’*

Another heavyweight to share thoughts was former Federal Labor leader – now leader of One Nation in NSW - Mr Latham. Apart from having similar local credentials to Mr Keating – including holding Whitlam’s old seat of Werriwa for over a decade from the age of 33 - he was famously a commentator on Sky TV circa 2017 at the same time as Ms Keneally. Even if he was no fan.[[68]](#footnote-68)

He claimed the Senator’s most recent candidacy – and prior form - was a vote loser, lacked connection and affinity with the area, and could lose any Labor seat in Western Sydney. He regarded the Fowler candidacy as a ‘*slap in the face*’ for the electorate and an ‘*insult to the Vietnamese community’*. He is not alone in suggesting Labor’s vote might drop as a result.[[69]](#footnote-69)

Another Federal Labor heavyweight, current leader Mr Albanese – who entered Parliament when two years older than Ms Le - tried for a bob each way. He told Ms Le not to be discouraged. There were words of praise:

*‘I think Tu Le is an outstanding Australian and she has a great commitment to the country and to political change," he said.*

*"She's an articulate, very talented, passionate advocate for her community and for the cause of Labor, and I certainly hope that she hangs in there."’[[70]](#footnote-70)*

He supported her opponent.

### 4.6 Jumping the shark

Mr Albanese did not explain where, or how, Ms Le should ‘hang-in’. A report said he:

*‘sought to defend why a local lawyer, the daughter of Vietnamese refugees in one of the nation's most diverse electorates in south-west Sydney, was set to be shoved aside to solve party infighting and*[*salvage the political career of Senator Kristina Keneally*](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-10/kristina-keneally-fowler-preselection-labor-western-sydney-tu-le/100450682)*…...’*

So far almost passable. Then came:

*"Senator Penny Wong is our Senate leader,"….*

*"We have, in western Sydney, people like Ed Husic, the first Muslim elected to the House of Representatives. And we have Anne Aly in the [West Australian] seat of Cowan.*

*"We have enormous diversity in our ranks.*

*"And guess what? At the next election there's someone called 'Albanese' running for prime minister. And in terms of diversity, that's a first too."*

Which didn’t look good even at first glance. It looked worse in light of prior damnation of the parachuting by the referred-to Ms Anne Aly:

*"multiculturalism can't just be a trope that Labor pulls out and parades, while wearing a sari and eating some kung pao chicken to make ourselves look good. This is a huge failure".*

Worse yet was Mr Albanese cited as making the argument – against Ms Le – that Senator Keneally was a *‘great migrant success story’.* Which indeed is a point of difference between the rivals – Ms Keneally being a migrant, Ms Le not. This was immediately seen as a ‘jump-the-shark’ episode. Illustrated by one Labor observer saying a *‘bamboo ceiling’* is impeding the indigene.[[71]](#footnote-71)

Mr Albanese’s contribution to the beagle’s BigTown files? Almost getting the State Government out of the lockdown naughty corner? No.

Rather, it is Senator Keneally being known as *‘a Western Sydney migrant success story’*. As subtle as depicting the Senator a ‘boat person’ because of her rowing from Scotland Island to the mainland.[[72]](#footnote-72)

It is not quite as good as the paraphrasing of bible text from the summit of the west - Panthers World of Entertainment. Not too shabby nonetheless.

## 5. Suggestion

So much for getting het about problems, what about some solutions?

Before that, it is worth noting if history is not repeating, it is rhyming in Cabramatta. With verses including the powers that (think they) be in eastern Sydney stigmatising the area and faceless-forces regarding it as a playpen for ‘naked political ambition’.

Given their obduracy, it might be best to build on such rhymes.

Part 1 noted the Colossus’ Cabramatta house needs renovation. The Senator, if elected to Fowler, needs some new digs from which to love and represent the community. Why not move in and renovate the place?

Were the Senator to sell-up Scotland Island, at median price and use one-year’s salary, $1.43m would be available – significantly more than the estimated cost of renovation.[[73]](#footnote-73)

Given the savings to the Commonwealth – who would otherwise pay for the reno – the messiah from the shire surely could convince the Tax Office to forego its take of the salary for just one year. And given Ms Berejiklian’s State Government needs to brown-nose its way back into showing its face in ‘areas-of-concern’ like Cabramatta surely it would forego any stamp duty/GST etc?

Leftover funds would be more than enough for pho every night of the year and a banquet for volunteers across the political divide. A tip: Canley Vale might be good for a change of dining location. A walk from there to Gough's old house would shave off any unwelcome kj's and contribute to 10,000 steps per day – no need for rowing.

Think of the credibility gain for the former Senator. Not only would she live in the area, but effectively would have built in the area and restored a national treasure. Take that Mr Latham.

PS: it better be tasteful atomic age decor or hauntings by Gough and Margaret might turn a bit sour.

Would she have the time? The House of Representatives does sit more frequently than the Senate. Yet around 300 days would be free for house and yard work. In the electorate. After some sitting days a member for Fowler could even zip back to Cabramatta, say for the weekend clean-up – it’s under 3 hours by car, and not as if it’s a drive to say, Newport.[[74]](#footnote-74)

I understand the house has a bit of a yard. Ideal for a dog or two.

Not bad snaps those.

But the competition has a beagle:

30 September 2021

1. Colossus of Werriwa: EGWhitlam <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/het-up> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [*https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/good-intentions-are-not-enough-paul-keating-backs-keneally-as-the-mp-fowler-needs-20210914-p58rid.html*](https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/good-intentions-are-not-enough-paul-keating-backs-keneally-as-the-mp-fowler-needs-20210914-p58rid.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.thejadebeagle.com/doublet-of-ramses.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.bible.com/bible/111/MAT.4.1-11.NIV> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/mar/20/michael-daley-gives-unqualified-apology-for-claim-asian-workers-taking-jobs> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://labourhistorycanberra.org/2015/05/alan-reid-and-the-thirty-six-faceless-men/>. Sir Frank Packer was, among other things, chairman of TCN 9 and the Daily Telegraph, an opponent of Labor, father of Kerry and grandfather to James. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [https://www.whitlam.org/.../whitlam-cabramatta-home-to-be...](https://www.whitlam.org/publications/2021/6/18/whitlam-cabramatta-home-to-be-restored-and-preserved-as-national-heritage-asset?fbclid=IwAR3mK8WLxRbmS3SQKiUUz12q5YA5JXf7TCv14w0vPk_s-s62IpG8_umPq3w) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://theconversation.com/the-story-behind-the-footage-of-whitlams-kerrs-cur-speech-49748> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.memphiscurrent.com/post/the-memphis-trouser-affair>

   <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Benbow> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2015/apr/21/40-years-on-from-fall-of-saigon-witnessing-end-of-vietnam-war> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://andrewjakubowicz.com/publications/vietnamese-in-australia-a-quintessential-collision/>

    http://www.mannkal.org/downloads/links/Gough\_Whitlam\_cheered\_Hanoi%E2%80%99s\_brutal\_victory.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Publications_Archive/CIB/cib0001/01CIB08> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Vietnamatta> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC10740> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC10740> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://www.smh.com.au/healthcare/hooked-for-30-years-the-changing-faces-of-australias-drug-misuse-20180126-h0ole9.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/AltLawJl/2004/40.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/true-crime-scene/phuong-ngo-murders-rival-john-newman-in-australias-first-political-assassination-in-1994/news-story/1decc6dd38429c74338931e7d2883f9b> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <https://www.smh.com.au/national/i-was-offered-seat-the-night-mp-was-shot-reba-meagher-20081108-gdt20v.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/practice_notes/nswsc_pc.nsf/6a64691105a54031ca256880000c25d7/f1ef2541db38ae82ca25759b00052606/$FILE/Report_Phuong_Ngo_140409.pdf>  [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. <https://www.crikey.com.au/2007/12/13/to%20%20night-the-right-toasts-its-young-labor-might/>

    [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. <https://www.crikey.com.au/2009/02/16/reba-meaghers-tabloid-return/> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. <https://www.hawkerbritton.com/archive/resignation-of-premier-morris-iemma-new-premier-nathan-rees/>

    <https://www.smh.com.au/national/rees-i-knew-about-reba-20080915-gdsv06.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/member-details.aspx?pk=2129>

    <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/life-and-times-of-reba-meagher-20080907-geabwf.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. <https://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/nsw/fowler.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/member-details.aspx?pk=48> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. <https://www.fairfieldchampion.com.au/story/6819418/iconic-seat-in-limbo-alp-proposes-to-scrap-cabramatta-electorate/> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. <https://www.thejadebeagle.com/sydney-update-nov-2020.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Forthcoming – ‘f..k a wolf’ [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-26/nsw-covid-19-lockdown-rules-explained/100246644> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-10/nsw-covid-outbreak-two-signs-showed-it-had-lost-control/100277840> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Areas of concern, Council areas of: Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, Parramatta, Strathfield, and some suburbs of Penrith. The omission of Camden was mysterious, given its close proximity and travel between Campbelltown and Liverpool. Other mysterious omissions include: Sydney (4 wks to 28 Sept. 1,333 cases, 1.3% of tests); Randwick (805, 1.1%) – rates of which exceeded Campbelltown (1145, 1.0%). <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-local.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. E.g. From mid-August <https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/news/crowds-flock-to-bronte-beach-as-authorites-issue-mask-warning-ahead-of-new-rule/news-story/1cc79afd005240853602f3f63789385f> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. <https://7news.com.au/lifestyle/health-wellbeing/a-thousand-times-more-infectious-huge-problem-inside-sydneys-virus-epicentre-as-premier-threatens-tighter-restrictions-c-3417907> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-area> [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. E.g. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-10/nsw-covid-19-response-is-a-tale-of-two-cities/100281710>

    <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-30/adf-soldiers-to-arrive-in-sydney-covid19-lockdown/100336124> [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. For a discussion of curfews see <https://www.thejadebeagle.com/acrpa.html>

    Outdoor transmission: <https://www.9news.com.au/national/nsw-health-no-covid-transmission-confirmed-outdoors-during-pandemic/ea6b1847-21da-47cb-b580-d7600119a1f7>; despite headlines to the contrary: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-06/nsw-covid-delta-outdoor-transmission-risk/100353394>. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Since the initiation of their mid-2021 Delta outbreaks, Victoria has recorded consistently higher cases – with far lower testing – than NSW. This is despite Victoria having a far higher rate of vaccination at comparable times and ‘despite’ Victoria having – and its Government bragging about imposing – tougher restrictions at an earlier time than NSW. Some figures for day 49 outbreak: NSW 5 August; Vic. 23 September:

    Cases: NSW 291; Vic. 733.

    Tests: NSW 109,547; Vic. 56,520.

    Vaccinations. Dose 1: NSW 43.8%; Vic 73.4%. Dose 2: NSW 21.0%; Vic. 45.9%.

    <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20210806_00.aspx>

    <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-update-victoria-24-september-2021> [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. <https://www.9news.com.au/national/sydneysiders-flock-to-beaches-as-temperatures-soar/00b0cda9-7dfe-4358-be6a-944b835913c5> [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Vaccination was not expected to prevent infection. However, it was expected to radically reduce sickness, and to reduce transmission of infection. The effectively vaccinated would not be (at such) risk. <https://johnmenadue.com/vaccination-controversy-shouldnt-compromise-efforts-to-protect-australians/> They would present lower risk to others (than the others). With some (large) majority of people vaccinated it would not be effective, efficient or equitable to limit, by law, their normal freedom. Rather, the indicated approach would be for people to voluntarily assume risk and/or to impose restrictions on only the (small) minority who remained unvaccinated. This would be independent of ‘herd immunity’ calculations, and the degree of restriction on the unvaccinated would relate to the objective of ‘assuring the hospital system’. See e.g., <https://www.thejadebeagle.com/covid---may.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. The suggestion e.g. <https://johnmenadue.com/reaching-80-vaccination-isnt-the-same-for-all-communities-the-vulnerable-will-continue-to-suffer/?fbclid=IwAR1kvy9V552uj1rdC6OVdKVlqlH6OOx8Y9j66q7NZb-teOtRsiuW73W_4ko>

    Statistics the day before publication of that article, and the meeting between Premier and Mayors: Western Suburbs e.g., Blacktown first dose 89.5%, Campbelltown 87.1%, Fairfield 80.9% - demonstrating the 80% threshold would easily be met in each of these areas. Eastern suburbs: first does Sydney 64.9%; Randwick 71.3%, Waverley 75.3%, Woollahra 82.0%F at the time of the meeting of Premier and Mayors: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-local-government-area-lga-13-september-2021> [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-01/sydney-news-premier-wont-meet-with-hotspot-mayors/100422538> [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Lockdown: <https://www.thejadebeagle.com/happy-new-fear.html>. Experience in Victoria suggests an earlier or harder lockdown would have made little if any difference – see note 38. Among the reasons is that control of spread of infection requires compliance with health orders, and such compliance likely relies on those orders being seen by all as clearly justified and proportionate. The Victorian orders, and the practice of its Government and decision makers during the pandemic, are likely to have been seen by an increasingly significant part of the population as unjustified. In NSW, An earlier lockdown would have occurred at a time of fewer cases, suggesting non-compliance would not have been lower. As non-compliance is seen as a major contributing factor behind the spread, an earlier lockdown would likely have been ineffective, at best. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. <https://www.thejadebeagle.com/sydney-salutes-the-toilet-gang.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-14/nsw-premier-heated-meeting-with-lga-mayors-covid19/100459154>

    <https://www.fairfieldchampion.com.au/story/7430204/strong-message-mayors-meet-with-nsw-premier/> [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. <https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/coronavirus/gladys-berejiklian-lifts-curfew-on-12-sydney-lgas-of-concern-after-heated-meeting-with-local-mayors/news-story/78bab10fc5074120b079aec07bc97556>

    <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/sep/22/new-nsw-covid-lockdown-restrictions-update-to-sydney-regional-nsw-and-canberra-act-coronavirus-rules-explained> [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. e.g., <https://www.crikey.com.au/2021/09/14/overwhelm-intensive-care-covid-19-nsw/>

    <https://johnmenadue.com/nsws-reopening-plan-is-risky-and-signals-an-end-to-a-national-approach/?fbclid=IwAR3tXz-9U_LprljpdimZh33CnJq14uPX8NGoqfOU0-kK0df65h6GOMlP1Xg>

    <https://johnmenadue.com/reaching-80-vaccination-isnt-the-same-for-all-communities-the-vulnerable-will-continue-to-suffer/?fbclid=IwAR1J_JfEw-JWK9z1C8KDUtR9QPd6zYIgEubL1zRMZJ0B0Zv4NU5RB4Q9fqI>

    <https://johnmenadue.com/how-the-doherty-model-has-been-politically-weaponised/?fbclid=IwAR3vSJdIA6PxfNi-sdtmGErcNUA60gvTWbfnuVeLSxYddfNoVXrrdKughrI> [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. See note 44. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. <https://www.thejadebeagle.com/covid---may.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. <https://junkee.com/tu-le-kristina-keneally-western-sydney/309125>? [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. <https://www.theage.com.au/national/labors-least-likely-20091204-kb2i.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. <https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Parliamentarian?MPID=LNW> [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-14/what-kind-of-premier-was-kristina-keneally/9148572> [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/burning-down-house-to-save-the-furniture/news-story/357b82bed7c825f2d4a911aa914637ff> [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Formerly held by Prime Minister Howard, then ABC-TV personality Maxine McKew (2007-10), and incumbent former tennis star John Alexander (2010 to present). [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/western-sydney-lawyer-tu-le-to-fight-for-her-community-against-kristina-keneally/ce339a35-752a-4a11-b7f1-d9b99032e636>

    [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Divine wind: <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-mongol-invasions-of-japan-195559>

    <https://www.heraldsun.com.au/business/work/joe-hildebrand-labors-worst-of-all-possible-worlds/news-story/aaf88ac04dec550efb3137a812bc09ee>. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. According to Wikipedia, the D4Y, ‘Judy’ dive bomber, was among the aircraft utilised on kamikaze missions: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamikaze> [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. The unduly attentive and informed would note this was occurring after the latest US-Australian etc. withdrawal from a foreign war – mid-August 2021 - with scenes of soldiers, officials and civilians leaving Kabul in a degree of disarray. After the US administration made an agreement with its opponents in Afghanistan to withdraw from the country.

    [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/long-serving-labor-mp-chris-hayes-to-quit-politics-20210324-p57dk6.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. The Sydney Morning Herald is now in the same media stable as TCN-9 (see note 6) <https://finance.nine.com.au/business-news/fairfax-media-nine-merger-history/4d593a1a-f016-40cf-b317-4d370fe2ca75>. The Packers do not own this stable.

    The Age: <https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/parachuting-pollies-into-safe-seats-fuels-political-cynicism-20210916-p58s7y.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-12/kristina-keneally-fowler-labor-diversity-woes-tu-le/100451344> [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. <https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/politics/keneally-comes-out-swinging-at-criticism-of-her-huge-failure/news-story/9784fd371b5281b923793f97ab8ad271> [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/kristina-keneally-backer-linked-to-liberals/news-story/4ceafbe76fee0b9c1d4ba101fc9faae9> [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/nsw-labor-powerbroker-backs-kristina-keneally-switch-amid-backlash-20210909-p58qdu.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/tu-le-says-people-are-furious-about-labor-s-kristina-keneally-selection-debacle/350086bd-3c34-4b8a-85cb-70c6d16ae64b> [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. *‘The word Senate is derived from senatus, itself linked to senex or ‘old man’. The Senate was originally composed of elder statesmen who had above a certain minimum threshold of wealth, with some arguing that it was the successor of the advisory council of the expelled king. See RF Pennell, History of Rome from the Earliest Times to 476AD (Echo Library, 1890) 9–10.’* Green, A *Permanent States of Emergency and the Rule of Law* Hart Studies in Security and Justice 2018.

    Post War Senators who were Premiers or Chief Ministers: Gair, Steele-Hall, Lawrence, Humphries, Carr, Keneally. Post War Member of the House of Representatives who were Premiers etc: Lang, Everingham, Fahey. The fact the Northern Territory has only two seats in Representatives implies the election of Everingham was similar to that of a Senator. [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. <https://www.afr.com/companies/media-and-marketing/sky-news-staff-warned-not-to-attack-each-other-before-mark-latham-unleashes-on-kristina-keneally-20170323-gv4iyv>

    <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4337580/Sky-News-Kristina-Keneally-complains-Mark-Latham.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. <https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/politics/keneally-comes-out-swinging-at-criticism-of-her-huge-failure/news-story/9784fd371b5281b923793f97ab8ad271> [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-14/albanese-tells-tu-le-hang-in-there-keneally-swap/100460226> [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/643903/when-fonzie-jumped-the-shark-happy-days-tv-show> [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/in-clash-of-the-targets-were-all-the-big-losers/news-story/285d2992af998949534abf50a2865ffe> An article which overlooked the Senators previous controversial pronouncements on immigration and boat people e.g. <https://www.smh.com.au/national/do-we-really-care-about-plane-people-20191010-p52zgi.html>, <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/kristina-keneally-is-wrong-to-lecture-us-about-immigration/news-story/9378fcd222db6563d3c8b611e5c78c75> [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. Some facts: Median real estate price Scotland Island $1.17m.  Member of House of Representatives salary $0.21m. Shadow Minister loading 20% to 25%. Shadow Minister salary say $0.26m. [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. <https://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Events_Calendar/Events_Search_Result#range=yearly&display=calendar&from=2021-01-01&to=2021-12-31&senate=1&> [↑](#footnote-ref-74)