

31 August 2018

To whom it may concern

Ms Katherine O'Regan has informed me she is seeking to run as a candidate for the Liberal Party at the forthcoming Bi-election in the Federal seat of Wentworth. I am pleased to provide a testimony in support of her candidacy. I have known Katherine for over 20 years.

I believe it is highly unlikely that any of the other candidates for pre-selection for Wentworth will have the same affinity and connection as Katherine with the voters of Wentworth. For over 20 years she has lived in the seat, worked in the seat and served the voters of the seat in her roles as a Woollahra Councillor and Deputy-Mayor and as an office bearer and President of local Chambers of Commerce. She is the authentic local candidate and she has worked in both the private sector and the three tiers of Government.

I met Katherine in her role as an advisor for the Sports Minister in the first Howard Government. I was the Minister for Finance and Administration. She joined my office as an Advisor in 1999. She diligently and conscientiously applied herself to obtaining knowledge and competency in the economic policies of the Howard Government. Within a short time she was preparing briefs and background material on budget savings and the rationalisation of the Commonwealth property. On the latter issue, the outgoing Labor Government had vacated around seven hectares of office space still under lease as they constantly moved to what they regarded as a more modern or more convenient location or a better view. Taxpayers were paying a small fortune on dead rent on these abandoned offices.

My close working relationship with Katherine for three years allows me to say without qualification that she has considerable talent, she has the capacity and dedication to cope with a large workload, she is both practical and objective and she is balanced and even tempered. She also understands the value of teamwork and she was popular in the office with her colleagues.

In recent years I have been aware that Katherine has worked in the difficult area of city and suburban planning with the objective of achieving liveable cities and towns with adequate transport systems and the right infrastructure for social cohesion and sustainability. It is without doubt that her adult working life in a

number of areas has given her a perspective that is so relevant for a Federal member.

Katherine has been a loyal servant of the Liberal Party in a number of roles at branch and state executive level. She is an independent thinker and not afraid to ask the right questions when necessary.

I am confident that if pre-selected she will be both an outstanding candidate and Liberal member. She carries my gratitude for her loyalty and friendship to me and also my best wishes and support for all she seeks to achieve.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Fahey', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Fahey AC