



A community campaign to get lifts installed at Redfern Station, under the banner “Lift Redfern”, is being supported by a wide range of organisations including business, the arts, the Aboriginal communities, community services, resident groups and local political party branches.

An open letter from the community behind Lift Redfern

Lift Redfern is a broad-based community campaign with no political affiliation

The organising group of the Lift Redfern campaign has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for improved mobility access to Redfern station. An example of this was the 11,000 people who signed the Lift Redfern petition in a little over a month to force a debate in NSW Parliament on the issue.

Redfern Station is one of the major points in the Cityrail network, not only in terms of through-fare but also due to increasing residential, education and employment density in the area. The lack of access to the station has been ignored by Governments for over 20 years. This continuing neglect of Redfern Station has been brought to the Government’s attention many times over these years. Lift Redfern is only the latest iteration of our community’s continuing campaign for lift access.

Recently the Lift Redfern campaign has been incorrectly characterised as a politicised campaign.

This misrepresents the broad swathe of community members who have come together to campaign for increased mobility access to the station. Founding members and supporters of the campaign included local community organisations, resident groups, the South Sydney Chamber of Commerce, the University of Sydney, unions and local businesses. Also key to the success of Lift Redfern has been the co-operation between the local branches of different political parties and groups.

These groupings form the basis of civil society, and it should be of no surprise that activists and organisers from the communities around Redfern are also involved in organisations outside the Lift Redfern campaign. The strength of Lift Redfern has been the coming together of these diverse groups to work together towards a common goal.

Lift Redfern has enjoyed the unanimous support of current Councillors on the City of Sydney. Councillors representing the Clover Moore Independents, the Greens, Labor and the Liberals unanimously supported a Mayoral Minute calling on the State Government address access to Redfern Station (which is a property in State Government ownership and under the direct responsibility of NSW Transport and RailCorp).

There is an approach to social change that promotes the forming of diverse alliances in order

to achieve common goals. In Lift Redfern, we are seeing this in action.

The Lift Redfern campaign endorses no single candidate for this weekend's Local Government elections.

The Lift Redfern campaign looks forward to working with all successful candidates who commit to working in coalition to achieve increased mobility access for Redfern Station – as we look forward to working with all residents, businesses, workers and visitors in our LGA who support the aims and approach of Lift Redfern.

We believe that this bipartisan approach is key to the success of the Lift Redfern campaign.

Signed,
Geoff Turnbull and Michael Shreenan
On behalf of the Lift Redfern co-ordinating group

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