

Declaration:

Independence: I declare that I am not currently affiliated with a political party.

1a I have been a member of a political party in the past 3 years (circle) YES / NO
if YES

1b I am a former member of a political party (please specify which party, date joined and resigned).

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY NOT KNOWN / 22/7/2021

2 Disclose whether and when you have worked as a paid political staffer;

NO

3 Disclose whether you have made donations to a political party of more than \$50 in the last three years

NO

4 Disclose whether you have an immediate family member or partner who has held political office as a member of a political party, or who has been an officer of a political party within the last 5 years.

NO

5 If I am included in a 'group' in the local government elections, this is an indication of the shared values of representation and behavior. If elected I will vote as an individual not as part of a group.

Representation: I declare that I will represent the interests of my electorate as a whole and give effect to the ideals of democratic government by;

- Being inclusive and respectful of the views and priorities of the diverse range of people I represent;
- Actively engaging with the community I represent, by developing participatory and deliberative processes that draw on reputable evidence and analysis to identify and address issues of interest and concern to the community.
- Advocating in public, to government and in Council, and voting for, the policies that are informed by and in the best interests of my constituents as a whole

Behaviour: I declare that if elected, I will conduct myself honourably, with dignity and care¹ and

- Put the community's interest before any personal, sectional or partisan interest;
- Refrain from exploiting my rivals' private failings for political gain;
- Hold myself accountable for conduct for which I am responsible;
- Act in good conscience so as to strengthen the trust and respect of the community for our democratic institutions;
- Be transparent in all my actions when in office, by publicly disclosing all donations and meetings within a reasonable timeframe.

Name MERKITH ANNE SOUTHWOOD

Signed



Date

2/8/2021

¹ This section based on St James Ethics Centre_SHM Politicians Pledge: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/take-the-pledge-nsw-politicians-urged-to-sign-ethics-agreement-20150306-13x1c7.html>