

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0016

## Read, Robyn

---

**Occupation** Journalist, Parliamentarian, Political candidate, Politician, Public servant, Tutor, Writer

---

### Summary

Robyn Read was an independent member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly in the seat of North Shore from 1988 until 1991. She failed to gain re-election in the 1991 by-election. Prior to her parliamentary career, Robyn was a successful local councillor and was Alderman for the North Sydney Municipal Council from 1970-77 and 1987-91 and was also Deputy Mayor from 1974-75.

### Details

#### Parliamentary and Local Government Career

##### Local Government

Alderman, North Sydney Municipal Council, 1970-77, 1987-91  
Deputy Mayor 1974-75

##### State Government

Independent Member, North Shore, 1988-1991  
Party: Independent

A lifelong resident of Sydney's lower north shore, Read completed her BA and MA in Town and Country Planning at the University of Sydney.

From 1971 to 1977 and 1987 to 1991 she was Alderman of North Sydney Council, including periods as Deputy Mayor and Acting Mayor. During this time the Council introduced innovative programs such as public participation in precincts and the first New South Wales neighbourhood centre at Kirribilli. North Sydney became an acknowledged leader in the local government industry because of programs such as these.

The mother of three children – James Hamilton, Sophie Read-Hamilton and Cassandra Read-Hamilton – Read has also held positions with the Byron Shire Council, the New South Wales Water Resources Commission, the New South Wales Department of Environment and Planning and the Universities of Sydney and Macquarie.

### Events

**1988 - 1991**  
North Shore

**1988 - 1991**  
NSW Legislative Assembly

## Published resources

### Book

The more things change, Read, Robyn, 1995

### Report

Report on prisons following visits to Bathurst, Goulburn and Parklea gaols, Read, Robyn... [et al.], 1990

Burnside : Just twenty six suburbs, Read, Robyn, 1977

Burnside needs study, research & data document : Part 2., Read, Robyn, 1977?

### Newspaper Article

Writer Read Takes a Leaf Out of Her Own Book, McNicoll, D D, 1995

### Site Exhibition

Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches: Women Candidates for the New South Wales Parliament, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2006,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/pssb/home.html>

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### ACT Heritage Library

[HMSS 0039 Robyn Read Papers](#)

### National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Robyn Read, author, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

### State Library of New South Wales

[Robyn Read further papers, 1972-1998](#)

[Robyn Read - further papers, 1974-1991](#)

[Robyn Read - papers concerning the Water Resources Commission of NSW, 1983-87](#)

### Stanton Library

[Oral history interview with Robyn Read \[sound recording\] / by Margaret Park](#)

## Author Details

Elle Morrell

**Created** 23 August 2000

**Last modified** 26 February 2019