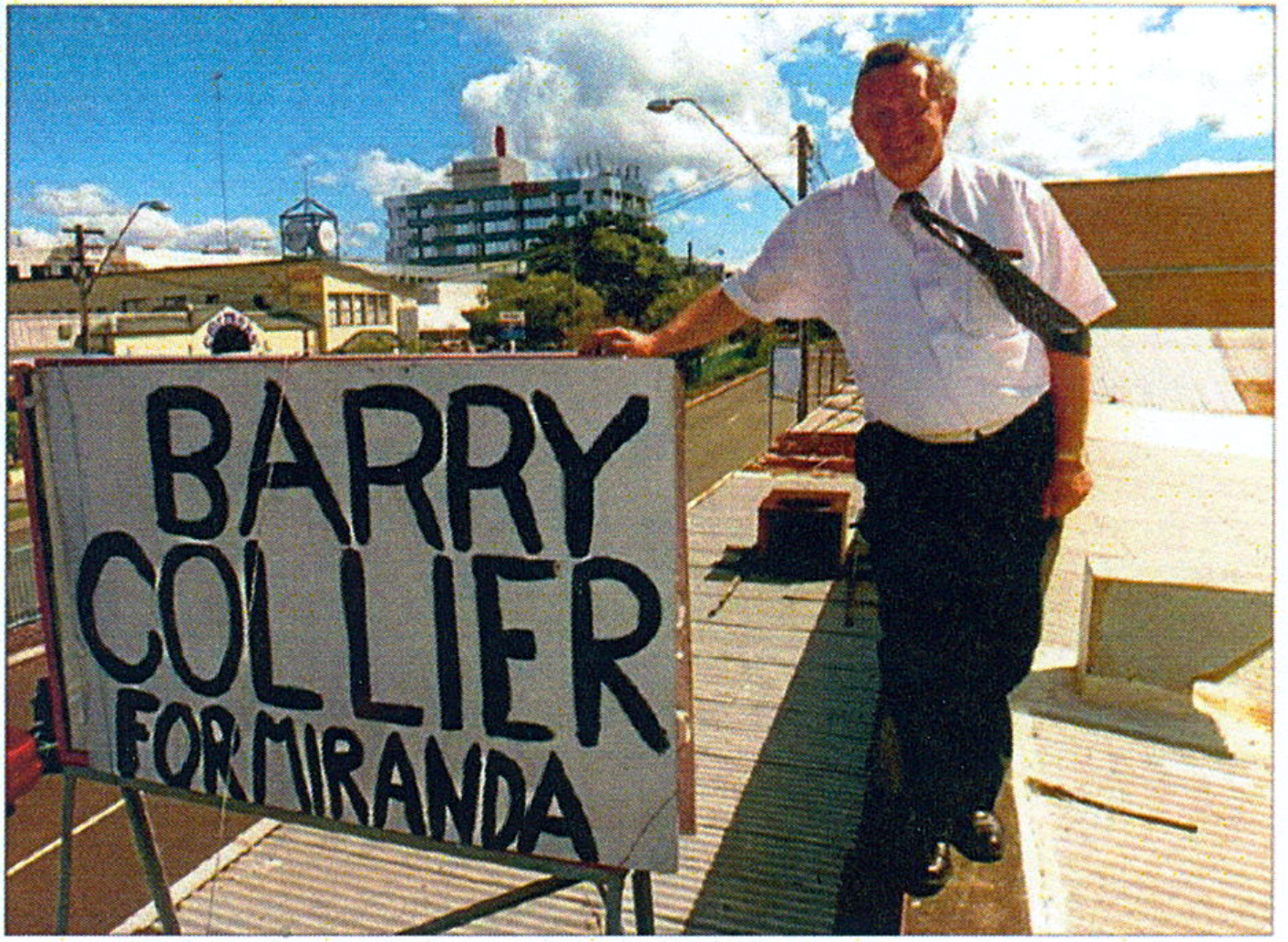

SHOESTRING BUDGET: Barry Collier with the hand-made sign above his campaign office opposite Westfield Miranda in 1999. **Picture: Steven Siewert**

Story of major election upset

THE issue of overdevelopment in Sutherland Shire was as big an issue 20 years ago as it is today.

A new book tells how an inexperienced political newcomer tapped into residents' anger to pull off one of the biggest upsets in shire political history.

Barry Collier defeated deputy Liberal leader and Health Minister Ron Phillips to win the blue-ribbon Liberal seat of Miranda at the 1999 state election.

Mr Collier's self-published memoir details the campaign, which was conducted on a shoestring budget because Labor Party officials gave him no chance of winning.

Former roads and police minister Carl Scully launched *Collier for Miranda - The 1999 Labor campaign* at Sutherland District Trade Union Club (Tradies).

Mr Collier went on to hold Miranda for 12 years until his retirement at the 2011 election, before returning in a 2013 by-election, and later moving to the council.

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– **MURRAY TREMBATH**