

Community consultation

Council has been conducting community consultation on several issues and this has been done through 'Your Say' and other more active methods such as surveys. Many in the community feel that even though the consultation is conducted, the input from it is not considered since many decisions made more recently by the Council seem to be at odds with community wishes. If elected, what would you do to ensure that the community consultation conducted by Council had more influence on decision making?

Bree Hunter: I am a strong believer in best practice community engagement (IAP2). If elected, I will both advocate for and work towards the following:

- ☑ The executive leadership team and council staff need to value community engagement and resource it appropriately (adequate training for project managers in facilitation and IAP2, a robust and dedicated engagement team, factor in ample time for engagement in projects timelines).
- ☑ The community needs to better understand the role they can play in local government decision making processes and the processes/ tools available to do so.
- ☑ Elected members advocate for improved engagement processes within the organisation, assist and educate the community in how they can use their agency to be involved and then listen to and act upon that feedback when it comes to making decisions.

Climate Change

Every year we are seeing increasingly devastating impacts of climate change across Australia and the world. Many councils have declared a "climate emergency", along with delivery of Climate Emergency Plans which include actions such as 100 percent renewable energy, zero net emissions, divesting finances and pledges to lobby state and federal politicians for stronger action.

What are your views on this and in your role as councillor what sort of actions would you support to mitigate or adapt to climate change?

Bree Hunter: I accept that climate change is happening and want to ensure we adapt wherever possible, mitigate foreseeable risks and build resiliency within our communities. These are issues that affect everyone in our community and as an elected member, I will make decisions with the future of our climate in mind. Actions I will support include:

- Reducing emissions from Council owned infrastructure and services
- EV charging stations and associated infrastructure
- Improved infrastructure of cyclists, pedestrians and public transport
- Assessing developments on future climate impacts (i.e. Council should not be approving development in flood zones nor should Council spend rate-payer's money on infrastructure that hasn't been engineered to withstand the heavier rainfall that comes in ever more frequent extreme weather events)
- Declaring a Climate Emergency. Even if this is a token effort – there's no harm in doing it
- Advocating for changes to be made to the State Wide Planning Scheme (overseen by State Government) to ensure future development is appropriate and can handle expected environmental changes
- Increasing the number of street trees in our communities for cooling and improved quality of life

Public Land

In the last 10 years we have seen proposals put forward or invited by Council for the building of private developments on public land (such as Arm End, Kangaroo Bay, Rosny Hill). These proposals have been controversial suggesting that they will have significant impacts on community.

If you were elected and you received evidence of significant community opposition to a proposed development on public land under Councils control, how would you act on it?

Bree Hunter: I understand the value of public open space and do not believe public land should be sold or leased to private developers unless it provides significant health and wellbeing benefits to the community and has its support.

Once land is gone, it's very difficult to get back (as seen at Kangaroo Bay). Therefore, I would not support a proposed development on council land if there was evidence of significant community opposition. Council has control over developments on its land and staff can easily knock back such proposals before it gets to the point of lodging a DA (such developments have to get General Managers Consent, aka GMC, in order to lodge a DA for a proposal on Council land). I believe GMC is given too generously and that the community should be consulted PRIOR to GMC approval, not after.

Urban Growth

In the last ten years, the Census shows that the population of Clarence has increased by almost 10,000 people, and there has been a corresponding increase in dwellings of 3,500. With new suburbs still being developed, further growth is underway.

What challenges and opportunities do you think this level of growth presents to Council?

Bree Hunter: Many subdivisions are currently being built in Clarence while more are being planned. These developments will have a significant impact on the way people live and the feel of our community. The next four years are critical as Council has a significant opportunity to either improve or destroy our community by what they approve in these developments. One of my main drives for running for council this term is because I'd like to see our community grow sustainably. Subdivisions should be planned in a way that improve the health and wellbeing of residents, are resilient to climate change and are accessible to everyone.

Ferry service

The new ferry service between Hobart and Bellerive is anticipated to continue. The current patronage of the service is already putting pressure on the parking around Bellerive, and this will only increase if the service grows.

Do you support the service and, if you do, what would you do to address the parking pressures especially if the service was to be expanded in the future?

Bree Hunter: I absolutely support this service and would like to see it extended to other parts of the eastern shore. I think more stops would actually reduce parking pressures because fewer people would need to drive to access the ferry.

However, the location of any new ferry stops need to take into consider whether parking is available any impacts it would have on nearby residents.

Your key issues

What new initiatives are you eager to champion if you are elected and why do you see these as important to the future of the Clarence community?

Bree Hunter: As someone who's working in local government for nine years, I understand the role of elected members. They are there to make strategic decisions and to not get involved in operational matters.

I also understand the disruption elected members can have on the organisation when they 'champion' pet projects. There are twelve Councillors and hundreds of employees, so in order for an idea to get off the ground it needs to support of others.

I will therefore advocate for and work with others to address the following:

1. Planning holistically and sustainably

Increasing tree canopy, having footpaths on both sides of the road, access to public open space, ensuring transport and other services are provided for in the early stages of development and not

down the track when demand has well exceeded availability.

2. Increasing community participation

Supporting grassroots/ community initiatives (Town Teams etc.), co-design community engagement for large plans/ projects & strategies, educate and inform the community about the tools to engage with Council and effect decision making (workshops, forums, teaching young people) and supporting Council staff in the great work they do.

3. Improving Council culture

Holding team building sessions for elected members before the first council meeting of the term.

These sessions should be repeated regularly throughout the four year term to improve and maintain the culture and functionality of the Council.