

Answers from Dave Tilley

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?

Community consultation is a key in any decision-making process undertaken by council. I would seek to make access in having a say easier for community members. This may include pop up stalls, expanded use of social media and an easily navigated website where people in the community can view what matters are up for decision and what the status of projects are. The announcing of consultation and time frames for decision making should be made early, publicly and allow for enough time for interested people to look into a matter (if they so wish) and make comment easily without technological or bureaucratic barriers.

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?

Climate change is a topic that is beyond debate. It's proven, it's real and it's happening right now. Climate change is a global issue but that doesn't mean we can't take appropriate steps to address it.

Declaring a "climate emergency" is an important step as it commits the council to preparing longer term for the effects of climate change. Rising sea levels and more frequent and harsher weather events put our municipality at risk. Every time we experience a "one in 100-year rain event" (that seems to now be happening every 3-4 years), we see flooding throughout the community partly because our infrastructure is not equipped to deal with the surge of rainwater.

If elected, I will:

- support the declaration of a "climate emergency"
- promote to council to undertake a study on the risks posed by climate change to the municipality
- to actively drive future-proofing in council decision making to ensure climate change is considered, assessed and its effects mitigated
- ensure council actions are focused on reducing our contribution to climate change.

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?

Councillors need to balance the sentiments of the community with good governance and ensure the future plans for the municipality are based on evidence, need and positive sustainable growth. Opposition may not be fatal to a plan; it may mean however that a plan needs to be revisited to ensure it is inline with community need and expectation. The integral step is ensuring there is genuine consultation and the views of the community are met with balance and without bias.

If elected and I was met with opposition to a decision, I would take action to understand the issues being raised by engaging with the community to ensure I had the appropriate information to make an informed decision on whether to support a proposition or not.

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?

The community is growing as is our population, there's no question of that. However, planning must be smart and future proofed. I have said publicly that I am for smart, sustainable development. What this means for me is that in planning for an increase in houses, consideration needs to be provided for how the municipality will look in 10 or 50 years. It needs to have consideration for our natural environment, our supporting infrastructure (are our roads and waste water enough to support an increase in population), our community's views and expectations and for supporting services such as schools, shops and community services.

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?

The ferry service is a wonderful idea that was thought up and implemented in a short space of time. It's clear now that little consideration has been given to parking, access and disruption to the immediate community. If the ferry service is to be expanded by the State Government, the Council as a key stakeholder needs to promote the views of the community but also ensure the logistical and operational aspects are considered and actioned. I believe that the current state of the ferry service has provided excellent data for assessment in any expansion of the service but it should not be expanded without consideration to parking, increased traffic in key areas and community safety.

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?

My aim is to bring a community focus back to council and I will do this by reducing social isolation, promoting community engagement and ensuring that everyone's voice is heard.

Mental health is a critically important element in all of our lives and is vitally important to the community. More needs to be done in reducing social isolation and ensuring everyone in the community feels they are connected and heard. I will focus on expanding community activities, sporting opportunities and ensuring council spaces are available for other activities that support community groups and community services.

If elected, I will focus on the usability of our open spaces so everyone in the community has access. Whether it's our beaches, parks, trails or playgrounds, I aim to promote access so that everyone, whether you're a parent, dog owner or someone with a disability or mobility concern, you will be able to enjoy our open spaces.

Community safety is an issue that has been raised repeatedly with me during this campaign. I will ensure council takes seriously their part in addressing anti-social behaviour through community engagement, youth activities and providing public spaces that are safe, monitored and focused on inclusion. We can't give up on our young people and we can't walk away from our responsibilities of ensuring that everyone in our municipality has the right to be safe in their homes, catching a bus or visiting the shop.