

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?

I like the idea of citizen juries for vexed issues, which in Clarence might have included the Kangaroo Bay development. A Citizens Jury is a panel made up of a randomly selected and demographically diverse group of people (Jurors) who listen to and examine information on complex issues. In a nutshell, the way it works is: Witnesses (representatives on the issues being explored) present their case to the Jury and respond to questions.

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?

We all understand the risk that climate change poses to every aspects of our day-to-day life. I have always supported a pragmatic, science-based approach to fighting climate change, at all levels of Government. I support the Council's 40% emission reduction target. Very important will be increased use of public transport, including ferries and initiatives to reduce congestion at the Tasman Bridge and the Mornington Roundabout, like upgrading Pass Road and the Flagstaff Gully Link Road.

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?

From personal experience, it's often the squeakiest wheel that gets greased. Loud, assertive extroverted, often alpha males prevail whilst the views of large numbers of quiet, introverted yet intelligent introverts are ignored. That's why I support the idea of Citizen Juries to ensure that the voices of the introverts are heard when it comes to important public land use debates.

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?

Clarence has a problem with affordable housing. Too often young, working Tasmanians are being priced out. I support building high quality, affordable and medium density social housing close to services. This should preferably be built in newly approved subdivisions, rather than small blocks in existing suburbs. Great care need to be exercised with any decision to extend urban growth boundaries, which perhaps could also benefit from a citizens jury.

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?

I support the ferry service, bus routes that to connect to it and potentially park and ride services, as is common place in Sydney. Perhaps the location of park-and-rides could also be informed by a citizens jury?

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?

Increased Co-operation with other councils.

I support increased sharing of contracts and services with other councils. Bigger is better when it comes to negotiation, particularly with expensive items like IT. Shared services can potentially result in lower rates, better service delivery and an improved ability to respond to unforeseen circumstances, like failures in rubbish collection! Most importantly, more efficient delivery of core services may free up the time of councillors to focus on other important tasks; like improving public amenities, parks and reserves, community services and combating loneliness and ageism.