

Heather Chong Answers

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 wishes are a very important part of any decision. Views are considered but, I feel, this is not reported transparently enough – giving the impression that the input is not considered.

Consultation responses and direct communications are all an important part of informing ourselves about all sides of any issue. Ultimately, however, we have to make what we feel is the best decision for the city as a whole, which may not align with individuals opinions.

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?

Council is already working on an emissions target reduction and is actively looking at reduction emission methods for Council and the community. Green waste, recycling are all ways we can reduce waste to landfill.

All decisions need to have climate change lens – the planning scheme has changed because of the work Clarence has done to map flood risks. We can't undo previous decisions but we can make sure it is front and centre in the future.

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?

That is such a wide question and one that it is impossible to give a single answer to. I feel it is very important to listen to all views and information, and take all community consultation into account but, at the end of the day, Council and councillors need to make what we collectively feel is the best decision overall.

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?

There are obvious opportunities for businesses and community groups with potentially more workers, customers and volunteers. Challenges include:

- 1. Ensuring appropriate infrastructure, e.g. stormwater**
- 2. Ensuring adequate road networks, both Council and State Growth especially major intersections e.g. Shoreline and Mornington roundabouts.**
- 3. Facilitating adequate housing**
- 4. Making sure that we have appropriate recreation facilities**
- 5. Ensuring adequate council resources – from funding capacity to staff resources.**
- 6. Helping people feel Clarence is their community, not just where they live.**

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 service as part of an overall strategy to reduce traffic on the roads and the bridge. Council is already considering some parking restrictions to alleviate the problems for the local residents. I also think we need to move on initiatives such as park'n'ride, connecting park'n'rides with fast, regular buses it would reduce road traffic. There is government funding to support one to Pass Road and this would be a great working example.

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?

- 1. Increase Council communications to provide better transparency, including a monthly column in the Eastern Shore Sun**
- 2. Work with younger people in the community to encourage engagement, discuss the possibility of a "Youth Mayor", providing young people's views to Council**
- 3. Consider ways to ensure people are more connected into the community, whether young or more senior, long-term or new resident. I would love all Clarence residents to be proud to call Clarence home.**