

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?

If elected, I would align my decision-making with any consensus from community consultation – that is, as an elected representative, I would represent the clear wishes of those within the electorate. I would not assume to know better than the constituents and would represent their collective will in my votes on council. I would also engage with other councillors in order to advocate for them to vote in a way that upholds community wishes.

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?

I wholeheartedly support the declaration of a climate emergency, and the delivery of a climate emergency plan. I would work with other progressive councillors to develop a timeline to net zero emissions for Clarence Council. This would include the delivery of renewable initiatives such as solar panels on council-owned buildings, electric vehicle charging, and electrification of council vehicles. I would also aim to implement emissions reductions strategies such as increased tree coverage, increased public transport, waste reduction and circular economy initiatives. In terms of mitigation, I've already talked with residents that have experienced prolonged flooding; as such, I would seek to assess and improve drainage, keeping future climate-driven weather variances in mind, as well as working on strategies to prevent erosion and flooding. Given the risk of increased bushfire, I would also advocate for council to be more proactive on bushfire reduction plans, including engaging with traditional owners for cultural burning. The aim of increased tree coverage would be pursued in accordance with these plans, to further reduce bushfire risk and health impacts from heatwaves.

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?

If elected and I received evidence of significant community opposition to a proposed development on public land under Council's control, I would oppose the development completely, until such time as it is either withdrawn, or modified sufficiently to meet community desires.

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?

I believe that one of the largest issues this presents is the threat of greater urban sprawl. The bushland in Clarence is increasingly being seen as an opportunity for private developers to make quick profits, and their inherent natural value is dismissed. I would support developments that instead use land more efficiently, such as low-rise multi-storey apartments with social housing and community shared spaces as priorities. I also see population growth as a real opportunity for Clarence to develop culture and business that can match what exists over the river – increasing time spent here by those who live here and providing more drawcards for people from the Western shore.

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; it has been an extremely popular form of public transport and has opened an alternative route across the river. I would advocate for Council to work with the State Government to expand the ferry service, opening new routes in addition to the existing one. I would also advocate for Council to work with the State Government to increase public transport services, to close the apparent gap in public transport from people's homes to the Quay.

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?

If elected, I would champion causes largely falling under three umbrellas: social justice, environmental sustainability, and transparency and accountability. I've largely covered environmental sustainability and transparency and accountability above, so I won't repeat those responses here. In terms of social justice, I would advocate for Council to put a cap on Airbnbs, and to work with the State Government to increase high quality accessible, sustainable social and affordable housing. I would also advocate for Council to lift the bar on disability access, so that our community can be accessible to all, and for increased community shared spaces and initiatives like the repair café. Finally, I will champion initiatives to make Clarence safer and more welcoming for people from marginalised backgrounds.