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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?

The premise here is that community consultation does not have enough influence on decision making, which may overlook legislation that enforces decision outcomes and/or simply poor communication. If proven true however, underlying reasons may be due to many individual factors. I would make no assumptions, seek specific understandings of how this has occurred in the past or present, determine the impact and the number of people involved, and work with all toward improved future outcomes.

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 real. Budgets are finite; therefore, we should review areas within the municipality to determine at risk areas. Future planning should allow for environmental change with multiple funding options explored. We should seek businesses that invest in renewables that will also employ more people within our community. I am not a scientist or climate change expert and will seek the engagement of those who are to advise on appropriate courses of action.

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?

Firstly, I would collaborate with the community and proponent to explore areas of conflict (difference) to see if alterations could be made to achieve an outcome where significant impacts on the community are minimised or reduced to a point of mutual acceptance. If this could not be achieved, significant community opposition remained, and it was within my ability to oppose the proposal, I would champion the community view.

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?

Not an exhaustive list, challenges include access to health services, transport infrastructure, enough green space (gardens/sportsgrounds/playgrounds/bushland) and increased living density. It is well researched that our lived environment plays a big part in our health and wellbeing. Our greatest opportunities are the sheer size of Clarence and the collective knowledge we have. Harnessing these aspects is our best opportunity to maintain our lifestyle and way of living. Therefore, community involvement is so important.

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?

With increasing congestion on our roads, lack of public transport options and affordable city parking, having a ferry service provides an excellent option for commuters. Easing parking pressures will require consultation and professional planning advice. Some options may include a multi-level carpark, additional ferry terminal departure points, bus services that operate to and from the ferry terminal, along with encouraging the use of bikes and e-devices.

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?

I have no grand plans for Clarence. I will be guided by the community to set priorities in line with what can be funded. I will advocate proposals that encourage active lifestyles across all ages and abilities. The benefits of an active lifestyle are well known, including improved mental health and physical fitness, both of which reduce the likelihood of negative health outcomes that impact quality of life and place strain on essential services.