

Simon Walker 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 consultation is very important and should remain and I think there is more room to change things in this space and how its conducted, community workshops need to be conducted wider and broader to assess and discuss all impacts, monetary, environmental and planning with the aim to get preferred 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 and effects every person currently and into the future and now is the time to start working as a wider community and embedding small changes incrementally with a desired timeline for complete changes to specific things, I don't think it's yet reached emergency status but is real and change has to occur.

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 Council's control, how would you act on it?

I would act in what is best by the community of Clarence environmentally, economically and consider all impacts associated before making determination, things can be balanced with similar desired outcomes when people can reach agreement.

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?

Such things as the Urban Growth Boundary or UGB can have significant impacts however such boundary removal or realignment must occur in some locations due to growth, all developments need to be considered on an individual basis with considerations taken into account on long term impacts and non-appropriate future sustainable developments, decisions need to be made in consideration of the next 50 years not just for the now and all are impacted by the environment and the economical and growth aspects.

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?

This needs further consideration and planning, commuters or people whom catch the service need to look at other ways of getting there the idea of a ferry service in this nature is more a link to the city from people of close proximity, further planning needs to be considered and will form part of wider discussions when the Kangaroo Bay issue is sorted, I use the service and support a whole network of these over the next decade to remove cars from our roads and entice behavioural change and shift to locals driving everywhere.

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

- Unlock more open spaces for use example Lauderdale tip site for further public use
- Unlock further off lead dog space with water access
- A full connection of cycle paths to link Lauderdale and other parts of the community
- Establish and assist the youth with further services and programs for youths to prevent crime.
- Assist in further home safety initiatives.
- Further open green space such as new parks in underlying outer suburbs.
- More gender and cultural inclusion activities within community.
- Further development for facilities to accommodate the age brackets of 12 to16 year old's in the community.
- Better decisions if elected need to be made with a cultural and behavioural shift required
- and a new panel of faces to lead for the next four-year term.
- Making smart well discussed informed decisions with the agreement we all should get a required outcome of what's best for the community not just from a minority.
- Working with sporting clubs to ensure further work can be done to encourage physical well being ideas in all areas of the municipality.
- Last point we may be individuals but we must work together as 12 people and a team to deliver what is right for the future of Clarence.