



City of Greater Geelong Candidates Survey Responses – Bellarine Ward

The Greater Geelong City Council is divided into 4 wards with a total of 11 councillors: Bellarine, Brownbill and Kardinia wards each have 3 councillors and Windemere ward has 2 councillors. [Geelong Sustainability](#) in collaboration with the local citizens who led the [Geelong Community Survey](#) organised this 2020 CoGG Candidate Survey to ascertain the views, aspirations and priorities of candidates standing in this important local government election. All candidates standing for Geelong Council were invited to complete the Survey and received a reminder email and text. 8 of the 10 candidates submitted responses, which are shown below **in ballot paper order**.

The following candidates did not complete the survey: **Trent Sullivan** (<https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/trent-sullivan/>), **Tom Harrison** (<https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/tom-harrison/>) Links to candidate statements and/or information published by The Pulse are included where available. In addition, Bellarine candidate statements to the VEC can be downloaded [here](#).

Candidate	Tom O'CONNOR	Elise WILKINSON	Stephanie ASHER	Naomi ADAMS	Jim MASON	Michael FAIRWEATHER	Cory WOLVERTON	Steven SIMMONDS
Pulse Candidate Information	https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/tom-oconnor/	https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/elise-wilkinson/	https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/stephanie-asher/	https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/naomi-adams/	https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/jim-mason/	https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/michael-fairweather/	https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/cory-wolverton/	https://mitchellsfrontpage.com/candidates/stephen-simmonds/
Affiliation with a Political Party	Independent	Independent Put Climate First Alliance	Liberal	Animal Justice Party	ALP	Independent	Greens	Independent
Motivation for standing for Council	Ensure CoGG positively builds confidence in the quality of life for all.	I want to be part of change and accountability in local government for action on Climate Emergency.	To listen and act on behalf of Bellarine residents and ratepayers	For animals, humans and the environment. For more women in local government. For community wellbeing	More to protect environment, climate action, better social, cultural housing and transport.	To address issues on the Bellarine	Environmental sustainability, community health programs, strategic vision for town boundaries	Want clean out and new people and ideas
Top three personal priorities, if elected	LG Act 2020 principles. Quality of life Sustainability Framework	Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030 Localise goods and services Regenerate eco-social systems	Higher standards Clear, transparent comms Sustainability focus	Domestic animals Recovery from COVID-19 Environment & wildlife	Environment, Climate, Waste Social and Cultural services Monitoring and communications	Represent the Bellarine Liaise with ward constituents Help grow business, Tourism	Community health Environmental sustainability Town boundaries	Community Infrastructure Transparency
Ways to ensure regular consultation with their constituents								
Respond to emails in 2 weeks	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	(☺ see below)	☺	☺
Drop-in sessions monthly	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺
Community meetings quarterly	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	(see below)	☺	☺
Deliberative high-level community engagement	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	X	☺	☺
Set up community advisory panels to inform Council	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺
Other method	Open an office within the Ward for community to meet regularly with Councillors.	I will advocate for Council to set up Citizens Democracy to enable true represent community on key/important issues.	Continue to answer phone calls, attend meetings, have coffee catchups and online meetings as I have done for the past three years.		Consider all submissions on their merits through a lens of science, evidence and good governance.	Emails will be answered daily and we already have community groups that meet regularly and would love councillor involvement	We are stronger together than divided. I will do my best to work with others to get things done	Represent the community ahead of big developers

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Top three Clever and Creative Vision aspirations								
Top three Clever and Creative Vision aspirations that they will prioritise in the next Council Plan	1. A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities 2. An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community 3. Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment	1. A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities 2. An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community 3. Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment	1. A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities 2. Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment 3. Development and implementation of sustainable solutions	1. People feel safe wherever they are 2. An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community 3. Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment	1. A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities 2. An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community 3. Development and implementation of sustainable solutions	1. A fast, reliable and connected transport network 2. A destination that attracts local and international visitors 3. An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community	1. An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community 2. Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment 3. Development and implementation of sustainable solutions	1. A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities 2. A leader in developing and adopting technology 3. An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community
Impact of population growth on infrastructure & the environment								
"Geelong's infrastructure and services are keeping pace with its population growth."	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
How concerned are you about the impact of population growth upon our natural environment?	Very concerned	Very concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Very concerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Very concerned
Support for the natural environment								
Adopting science-based biodiversity targets KPIs for environmental targets for senior executives	☹ ☹	☹ ☹	☹ ☹	☹ ☹	☹ ☹	☹ X	☹ ☹	☹ X
More resources for Biodiversity	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	X	☹	X
Fast track environmental works for COVID economic recovery	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	X	☹	X
Support for active transport – Public transport, walking and cycling								
Develop comprehensive public transport plan as priority	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹
Expand walking/shared trails infrastructure	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹
Fast track Principal Bike Network	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	X	☹	X
Other ...	Encourage investment in Uber type water taxi transport. Design and build roads to ensure safe cycling	Review and implementation of active access and public transport plans for all development across Bellarine. Investment in recharge stations and technology to shift to electric modes of transport. Exploring funding from Federal Government fund to look at manufacturing electric vehicles- public and private.	Noting that public transport is a State Government responsibility, I certainly continue to support active transport and an integrated public transport plan however the more directly achievable aim is the creation of linked shared trails throughout the region. This a project I have driven for three years and would continue to drive if re-elected.		Identifying significant funding for land private land purchase to establish priority shared pathways		Ensuring safe and active transport will be a priority for Geelong as our population grows and people return to the CBD.	More roundabouts which Geelong used to do well and can do again

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Support for waste minimisation and improved resource recovery								
Fast-track a food organics processing system Fast-track a materials recovery facility	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ X	☺ ☺	☺ ☺
Educate the community to rethink, reduce, reuse & recycle Expand the resource recovery at the Drysdale Landfill Other ...	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺	☺ ☺
	Continue development of the closed loop type hub for the repurposing of all waste. Develop the Adelaide type of small waste collection centres. Heighten awareness of CDL for plastic and glass containers. Replace disposable plastic bags with recyclable and / or paper bags. Build awareness of resource recovery into the education system curriculum.	Accessing State funding (\$28 million) to support investment. To support local programs and initiatives in the community around waste reduction.	Investing in clear and updated communications and community engagement about how to resolve waste management barriers, continue the work I've done with lobbying State Govt for a CDS and offering Greater Geelong as the ideal trial site for any and all potential circular economy solutions.		Elimination of single use plastic. Container deposit scheme. Encouraging local economy and markets. Advocacy for sustainable packaging.		We need a food waste solution far before 2030. This needs to be prioritised. Investment needs to be made now in our waste system. Further, we should be using recycled materials for our roads as other councils have done.	Hard waste collection and a more local based sorting and collection points
Support for climate action								
Support a municipal-wide zero carbon emissions target by ... Develop a comprehensive Climate Change Response Plan Organise a citizens' assembly on climate change Provide more resources in budget for sustainability & climate action Educate and support households & businesses to transition to a low emissions economy. Establish a stakeholder reference panel to advise the City on climate action.	2030 ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	2030 ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	2030 ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	2030 ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	2030 ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺	2030 ☺ X X ☺ X	2030 ☺ X ☺ ☺ ☺	2050 ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺
The results from the Geelong Community Survey showed the community was unsure of progress on many aspects of the Clever and Creative Vision. They were seeking more information and accountability about the City's progress.								
If elected, how will you ensure that the public is better informed?	Council is fully aware of community views, needs and expectations. An office for community and Councillors. Encourage townships to build on their individual strengths.	Determine clear actions, timelines and outcomes that Council are ultimately responsible for. Use of all media. Review for accessibility and seek feedback.	Review the frequency, methodology and communication channels used to communicate progress. Set higher and more relevant targets, benchmark against the world's best.	Creating opportunities to meet with the community to discuss how they require information to be disseminated, then ensuring a wide range of methods are used to ensure the whole community is engaged	Advocate for improved communications of vision and council plan implementation and continue monitoring effectiveness.	By talking to them as well as using the resources available to communicate council decisions	What we needed was a climate audit to understand where our emissions were coming from in both council and community. Then we can target the areas that need most attention first.	By personally explaining by publication reasons for decisions made

Key election dates:

- Thursday 8 October - Ballot pack mail-out ends
- Friday 23 October - Voting closes 6 pm
- Friday 13 November - Results declared

An election office has opened at: Geelong West Town Hall, 153 Pakington Street, Geelong West T: (03) 8619 1427

More information: Victorian Electoral Commission, www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2020-local-council-election/elections/greater-geelong-city-council