

Yarra Langridge and Nicholls Ward Candidate Councillor Questions 2020

Q1. Why have you decided to stand for the Yarra City Council?

As a local resident with my first child on the way, I decided to run for a Councillor to make Yarra a safe, sustainable, prosperous and livable place for our children to thrive and reach their potential.

Q2. Are you a member or supporter of a local group or organisation?

I am a member of various ethnic organizations. For example, I am currently an acting Vice President of Korean Society of Victoria (KSV). Furthermore, my family and I strongly support local businesses.

Q3. Have you been a participant in a local project or campaign?

I have been campaigning for prevention and elimination of domestic violence which has been recognized by various parts of the community and the Government. Furthermore, I have drafted and made submission to the Victorian Legislative Assembly on the amendment bill on Racial and Religious Tolerance Act.

Q4. What experiences have you had with the Yarra City Council?

I peruse quarterly and annual reports by the Yarra City Councils, review planning applications and attend council meetings. Just like many others, I am a rate payer as well as a beneficiary of the collected rates. In our lives, we constantly interact with the Yarra City Council.

Q5. What role does the community play in council decision making? How can this be made more effective?

Our Council, especially during the last four (4) years, has not performed enough stakeholder consultations. This has resulted in decisions that are not in the best interests or consensus of the local community. There must be community engagement through democratic discussions to find optimal solutions.

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Q6. How do you propose to communicate with the community if elected as a councillor?

There are various means of communication that Councillors may adopt to communicate with the residents and ratepayers. I would utilize Facebook and email as my primary channels of communication.

Q.7. What are your priorities if elected to the Council?

My key priorities are a transparent decision-making process within the Council, suspension of rate increases through better financial management, improvement of our public transport capacity, relocation of the injection room and timely development of the Walmer Street Bridge.

Firstly, our Council has not performed enough stakeholder consultations. This has resulted in decisions that are not in the best interests or consensus of the local community. I will engage our community through democratic discussions to find optimal solutions, not repeating past mistakes.

Secondly, our council rates are going up again at this challenging time when many of us are struggling financially. I will suspend any rate increases and instead evaluate the expenditure. I will ensure that every rate dollar spent returns value to you, the ratepayers of Yarra.

Thirdly, our trams and buses are congested, making it difficult for ordinary residents to commute to and from work. I will work with relevant agencies to have public transport running more frequently.

Fourthly, over 3,500 pedestrians and cyclists use the deteriorated Walmer Street bridge every day. We have waited long enough, and I will strongly advocate for the construction to begin in 2021, not 2023.

Last, the injection room is currently placed adjacent to our children's school and within a high-density residential area of Richmond. Its location is not in the best interests of the residents.

Q8. The FRA has identified the following key priority areas:

- Heritage Protection and Conservation
- **Planning Permit Information and Advocacy**

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- **Yarra Council Strategy, Policy and Guidelines**
- **Homelessness and Social Issues**
- **Climate Action**

What priority would you give to each and how would you respond to your top 3 if elected as a councillor?

My priority areas can further be elaborated:

- Community health, safety and well-being.
- Social inclusion where diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated.
- Sustainability and enhancement of the natural environment.
- Livability with carefully controlled development for preservation of our characters.
- Prosperity through creativity and innovation.
- Connectivity and integrated travel options.
- Transparency, performance and community participation.

I would strongly advocate for things I believe in the best interests of our community and the priority areas as stated above.

Q9. What should be the role of Yarra City Council in relation to State and Commonwealth governments?

A Councillor may advocate for the local community at various levels of Government, whether State or Commonwealth. The Yarra City Council may be more unique in its advocacy. Our community is diverse and open to differences, which I consider a perfect place for innovation to thrive. We can come up with and try new initiatives that may positively affect our community, State, Nation and World. We can be a leader of the innovative cycle.

Q 10. What relationship should the Yarra City Council have with neighbouring councils?

Yarra City Council must have constructive relationships with the neighbouring councils. We often need to work collaboratively with them and especially more so on certain items. We can achieve more and better together for our community. For example, Yarra has been working with Boroondara Council in relation to the redevelopment of Walmer Street Bridge. As the bridge is

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divided into three (3) sections where each section is in charge of different councils, it has been necessary that we work together. We are still collaborating in pushing the Minister for Planning to act faster and commence the construction in 2021.