

Yarra Langridge and Nicholls Ward Candidate Councillor Questions 2020

Q1. Why have you decided to stand for the Yarra City Council? (200 words)

To lead a team of progressive independents to gain a majority in Council and finally do what locals have been seeking for years: a root and branch rewrite/revolution in local planning laws and culture. We are well and truly over developers running this city. We also have 9 other changes we'll introduce before Easter 2021.

Q2. Are you a member or supporter of a local group or organisation? (100 words)

I have been a Councillor at Yarra for 16 years so I've helped, worked with and am supported by almost every local community and sporting group in my Ward.

Q3. Have you been a participant in a local project or campaign? (200 words)

Yes. I co-led the successful fight to save Richmond Secondary College (now Melbourne Girls College); worked with locals to stop the Bin Tax; organised public housing tenants to save the open space at Atherton Gardens; fought alongside locals against reckless development and hundreds of other campaigns.

Q4. What experiences have you had with the Yarra City Council? (200 words)

I've been Councillor since 2004.

Q5. What role does the community play in council decision making? How can this be made more effective? (200 words)

Consult locals properly in the languages on all important decisions; have a new planning advisory committee to work with planners and Councillors to change the rules and culture at Yarra on planning matters

Q6. How do you propose to communicate with the community if elected as a councillor? (100 words)

I distribute a newsletter to every home in my ward every six months and have done so for the past 16 years. This will continue. I host weekly street/zoom meetings for different parts of my ward every week and

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have done so for 16 years. This will continue. I also communicate daily on social media; and answer every text, email and phone call from locals. This will continue.

Q.7. What are your priorities if elected to the Council? (300 words)

A council commitment to building more low cost housing Council to use its unused land and buildings to **build low cost housing**. Alongside lobbying the State government to build more public housing, this will help keep our community diverse and deal with rental stress, couch surfing and homelessness.

Real action on climate change by mandating all new big developments to use renewable energy. 86% of carbon emission in Yarra come from powering of buildings from fossil-fuel derived energy and this single act will slash emissions more than any other act.

Matching local infrastructure to local needs Identify the missing links in local infrastructure for our growing population and fixing as a matter of priority

More support for the public housing tenants

Council to return to weekly rubbish collection and re-introduce the original plan to have a food and organic waste bin.

Stop the re-valuation of property rort and increase the pensioner rate rebate. Have an independent review and appeals process to ensure biannual rate re-valuation is fair, unlike now.

Increase bike infrastructure, so that we become the no. 1 municipality in Australia by making sure **we have community input from the start.**

An annual street festival in Yarra.

A root and branch reform of Yarra's planning rules. At the moment they are biased towards big developers. Changes necessary should ensure all big, new developments have to be **environmentally** first class (eg no bedrooms with no natural light and are powered by renewal energy. Stricter adherence to the

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rules as they stand and a requirement that **all big developments include a minimum of 20% low cost housing**. Hold a Peoples' Conference on planning in Yarra, with the election of a committee of locals to draw up a list of changes for Council to vote on.

Q8. The FRA has identified the following key priority areas - (500 words)

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

1. Climate Action. Make all new big developments use renewal energy – this is the single biggest way to slash emissions. 86% of emissions locally comes from powering our buildings with fossil-fuel derived energy.
2. Homelessness and Social Issues. Build low cost housing on some Council-owned land eg near Collingwood Town Hall. Advocate for State government to stop their ban on building new public housing. Make all new developments have 20% low cost housing ie inclusionary zoning.
3. Planning Permit Information and Advocacy. A massive change to planning in Yarra as outlined earlier in this questionnaire.

Q9. What should be the role of Yarra City Council in relation to State and Commonwealth governments? (300 words)

We need to advocate strongly and not be subservient to either State or Federal. With community support, Council had advocate and negotiate from a position of strength – that's how we stopped the East-West Tunnel for example.

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Q 10. What relationship should the Yarra City Council have with neighbouring councils? (200 words)

By Yarra at last meeting community expectations instead of lagging behind them, we can be a beacon to other communities and Councils.