

William Ginn <billginnforyassvalley@gmail.com>

To: John Connelly

Tue, 16 Nov at 15:57

Hello John,

Thank you for giving all the candidates the opportunity to let the people of Yass Valley know what they stand for. Every community group should be doing the same thing.

I look forward to receiving a copy of your summary of all the responses from the candidates. (BOLDED by JOHN CONNELLY)

My response is below.

Regards,

Bill

On Tue, Nov 16, 2021 at 1:33 PM John Connelly <percyconnelly@yahoo.com>

=====**RESPONSES**=====

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LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR YVC LGA CANDIDATES

A group of Wallaroo / Springrange / Nanima / Jeir residents are seeking your responses to the following list of questions to guide them how to vote in the upcoming Local Council elections on Sat 4th Dec. We hope you can find time to address them.

- 1) Can you briefly outline in one or two sentences why you are standing for Council.

I think the southern end of Yass Valley needs a representative on Council. I am the only candidate based in the Wallaroo, Springrange, Namima, Jeir and Sutton area.

- 2) Please rate, number in order (1 being the highest), your interests as a potential future Councillor:

I would put good governance on the top of the list, but that option is not listed. Good governance starts with Councillors being willing and able to consult with all members of the community to develop a community agreed vision for the future. Policy and planning should be based on that community agreed vision. Development, environmental and road issues need to be part of the strategic plan designed to implement the community agreed vision.

- a. planning:
- b. environmental issues:
- c. development issues:
- d. road maintenance:

e. community consultation:

f. Other: (please name):

3) The relationship between Councillors and the Council Executive is very important, as too is the need to seek supplementary external expertise to support Council decision-making, where necessary. Using the example of environmental issues, how do you see important decisions being made and who is ultimately responsible for those decisions?

The most likely source of the many problems in Yass Valley, including environmental problems, is flaws in Council's current policies and procedures.

In simple terms, the role of the 9 Councillors (The Council) is to set policy and approve procedures. Procedures in this case would include identifying problems, defining priorities and approving a budget plan. The role of the Yass Valley Council General Manager is to implement policy set by Councillors using the approved procedures.

The Council has a responsibility to assess the actions and performance of the General Manager. The Mayor for example had the power to hire and fire the General Manager.

Authority is given to the General Manager to implement policy using the approved procedures. The General Manager is accountable for his/her actions if the policy and procedures are not followed.

The Council becomes responsible when a problem is not resolved after the General Manager has acted in accordance with The Council's policies and procedures.

You could ask your elected Councillors to state whether the issue is the result of the General Manager acting within the approved policy and procedures. That will identify whether it is the General Manager or Council that needs to address the issue.

An issue in the near-border areas of Wallaroo / Spring Range is the dumping of spoil from ACT building construction sites. Please explain your position on this issue; specifically:

4) What are the 'pros' for the dumping of ACT construction spoil in the near-border region?

Assessment of the pros and cons needs to be done by appropriately qualified persons. Unless they are appropriately qualified, Councillors should seek expert advice to help produce appropriate policies and procedures.

There may be situations where fill from the ACT produces a benefit, but the environmental consequences may not justify the benefits. Council needs to improve the procedures that are used to assess this type of activity. Part of those procedures should include penalties for illegal dumping of spoil.

5) What the 'cons' of dumping of ACT construction spoil in the near-border region?

Obviously "dumping" of anything is not acceptable.

6) What do you understand is the business case for the conduct of dumping of ACT construction spoil in the near-border region?

The business case is simple, it is cheaper to dump it in NSW than the ACT. For the NSW landowner, fill appropriately managed might be beneficial to the landscape, but that needs to be assessed as part of a development application.

7) What should be the main features of a compliance regime for the dumping of ACT construction spoil in the near-border region?

The place to start is to review the existing policy and procedures to see if they are working as intended. If not then the new Councillors should seek expert advice on how to restructure the policy and procedures.

Groups of ratepayers and residents could privately sponsor investigations into issues such as illegal dumping. It might help Council if draft policy and procedures were produced as part of the private investigation. That might get a review done quicker than waiting for resources to be made available within Council.

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William Ginn

Candidate for Yass Valley Council

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