

Mike Reid <mike\_reid@southernphone.com.au>

To:'John Connelly'

Thu, 18 Nov at 13:46

**Good day John**

**Thanks for giving me the opportunity to address your concerns below:**

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

*I am a Councillor for the Yass Valley – at least until the next election. I originally stood for Council as a long standing resident of the Yass Valley (some 40 years now) as I wished to officially give something back to the ratepayers and to represent the Murrumbateman Community. When I first stood my ambition was to get a school for Murrumbateman and improve the infrastructure for sport and recreation which are sadly lacking when compared to Yass and even some of the Villages. I also wished to expedite the Master Plan which was reportedly due prior to the previous election. In this regard I have both succeeded and failed. Our School is scheduled to be opened in 2023, we now have a Stage on our Recreation Grounds, we have lights for night time events and we have installed 11 bus stops. However we still do not have a Masterplan and severely lack any play equipment for other than toddlers. During my time I have been across the length and breadth of the Valley and have realised the issues facing our broader communities (Illegal dumping, Development concerns, Affordable Housing matters and far more). Should I be elected I will continue to do the best I can to resolve these matters by consulting as widely as possible, looking for consensus and then communicating the outcomes to Council and likewise their deliberations and resolutions back to the community.*

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

*I would prefer not to try to categorise or prioritise these matters as I believe we need to be considering all of them in any matter before Council. For instance, road maintenance should be a planning matter in any new development (e.g. truck movement impacts) as should the impact on the environment, heritage values etc. I also believe we should always be trying to involve the community as much as possible in any matter of significance and have done my best to ensure this occurs.*

- 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?

*I agree that the relationship between Councillors and the Executive is important (and from hearsay has not always been the case for Yass Valley). I am happy to say that the relationship during my tenure has been good if somewhat robust at times. We have certainly sought and consulted external expertise on many recent projects and matters and I trust will continue to do so these include the new Civic Precinct, Master Plans for the Villages and Murrumbateman, and much more. Of course the progress of these projects takes significant funding and has to be balanced with other pressing matters*

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?

*From my position there are no 'pros' for dumping of spoil. I accept that individuals may need to import materials for landscaping (making lawns or rockeries) or for road base for a driveway and the need/requirement to seek authority for such if it goes beyond the boundaries of what we might call a normal sized project. I do not agree with wholesale storage or dumping of material at all.*

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

*The 'cons' of dumping include a) undue truck traffic and its impact on environmental noise, road maintenance and general well being of residents, b) dangers to the environment from soil*

*or other matter being washed into water courses, c) introducing weeds and possible toxic materials into an otherwise pristine environment and d) loss of scenic beauty. There is also the matter that if this were necessary and controllable then the Yass Valley should be getting revenue from such practice.*

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

*It is my belief that dumping i.e. excessive importation of spoil of whatever material is fuelled by avoidance of ACT fees for disposal.*

*There is a two step approach to this 1) Authorisation/ approval with fees attached to cover legitimate needs (e.g. road building or house base etc) and 2) A compliance regime to ensure legitimate approvals are adhered to and illegitimate dumping penalised with enough authority to eliminate or substantially reduce its occurrence. The first problem is to determine if a given truck is on legitimate and approved business, in this regard Council is requiring DA approved trucks to display their DA number for better recognition but of course not all truck movements need to have a DA. A second problem is observation of the act itself and the ability to respond in a timely manner. Council cannot afford to permanently station staff on any of the mainly affected roads and must therefore rely on the residents to notify it of any undue activity. Council has, however, recognised the need for more compliance officers in order to be able to respond more quickly and is moving to fund and place these. The third issue is that of enforcement and the power that Council has (or has not) to force compliance and fine or have the land owner make good the damage done. This is on going and has not been resolved to my personal satisfaction however I believe we have the will within Council to try to address this vexing problem.*

Thanks John and the Wallaroo / Springrange / Nanima / Jeir residents.

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