

From: **John Connelly** <

Date: Tue, 16 Nov 2021 at 13:34

Subject: QUESTIONS for CANDIDATES. RESIDENTS Wallaroo / Springrange /Nanima /Jeir

Dear John

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are responding as a group (Adrian Cameron, Saan Ecker, Iain Fyfe, Tanya Cullen and Steve Crabb), as all YVC Greens candidates have a similar position on this. Please find responses below and feel free to contact us for more information.

### **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.

We are standing because we want to see our values of environmental sustainability and social equality become core values in Yass Valley Council operations. We also want to see more accountability and responsibility in decisions made by Council. As you know I actively campaigned for over a year along with locals, ecologists and fire experts against council approval of proposed development plans for the future Ginninderry development which I considered dangerous and irresponsible, unfortunately to no avail.

- 2) Please rate, number in order (1 being the highest), your interests as a potential future Councillor:
  - a. planning: 1 (because having a proactive approach to planning encapsulates the other issues)
  - b. environmental issues: 4 (obviously this is very important to us and we recognise that council's responsibility is to manage planning, development and operations to reduce impact on environment)
  - c. development issues: 3 (because this is potentially the most pressure that is being placed on the other issues – e.g. environment and roads)
  - d. road maintenance: 5 (this is a core issue for the region and is within priority 1 which is planning – we need more transparency and consultation in how road maintenance is managed by council)
  - e. community consultation: 2 (because this also directs prioritising of the other issues through engaging community knowledge and concerns)

f. Other: (please name): Climate change adaptation and mitigation (also priority 1) – should be incorporated into all planning decisions to enable to move Yass Valley Council towards a carbon neutral future and support residents to do the same.

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?

We have developed a proposed community engagement policy for the Yass Valley and a key part of this is voluntary community panels who can advise and support Council decisions. In regards to environment, a specific concern for us is the need for non-biased assessments of environmental impacts from developments, whereas currently these are potentially biased by developer interest. We also require more detailed assessment of our environmental resources. For example, a study more than a decade ago suggested ground water is significantly over-used. We need better monitoring and reporting of environmental and natural resource issues and this information needs to be better integrated into planning policy.

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?

Minimal pros for Yass Valley community and environment unless there is a specific well-managed site, such as a disused quarry, which with the right protections including stronger action to limit dumping elsewhere (including increased presence of rangers and enforcement staff), may enable revenue raising.

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

Potential for contamination of soil and water, increased soil erosion, damage to roads from transport, loss of soil and other biodiversity, community conflict

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

Likely to be financial benefits for some individuals but not likely for many.

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

Environmental impact assessment by a non-biased party, community and neighbour consultation, testing for contaminants, cost:benefit analysis including estimation of

true costs to community. Council staff should enforce any consent and regularly monitor the situation.

Regards

Saan Ecker for the YVC Greens Candidate group

Dr Saan Ecker

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