

COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
South Ward

Note: All information received has been copied verbatim into the tables.

Name	Q1. The City of Frankston declared a Climate Emergency in November 2019. What do you see as Council's role in mitigating Climate Change?
HILL, Bradley	
HARVEY, Claire	<p>We are incredibly supportive of the Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency in November 2019. As much as some people are critical of such gestures, suggesting that they can be mere tokenism, I think it demonstrates a level of seriousness and commitment, which remains incredibly important when we have a Federal government that is still sitting on their hands (or worse, in continuing to support and subsidise the fossil fuel industry).</p> <p>Council must lead by example, so reducing its own emissions related to operations, travel and public amenities (e.g. street lighting) is crucial. Supporting investment in renewable energy is vital too. As importantly, however, is their capacity to influence, lead and support local residents in their own decisions around solar panels, insulation, energy efficient lighting, purchasing habits, management of waste and compost, and travel and transport. Frankston Council is the level of government that is closest to people and their lives, and most able to bring tangible practical change. If supported by local communities, and considered the new normal, action on climate change will in time become the only acceptable 'common sense' response to the threat of an unstable climate: before long it will be untenable for any major political party to fail to act with a similar level of seriousness and decisiveness.</p> <p>Local Council's also have an important role extending beyond mitigation to also include adaptation. This includes emergency management, as well as planning. Heat waves, floods, fires, storms, coastal erosion and inundation: these all have serious consequences that we need to expect and prepare for as communities. I am also reminded of Bill McKibben's response to those who ask him where to live in order to be safe from climate change impacts: "Wherever there is strong community". Local Council's also have a vital role to play in facilitating the strengthening of social fabric and in building strong communities and neighbourhoods.</p>
MCDONALD, Stephen	<p>Council has a number of roles in mitigating climate change including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encouraging (and where possible enforcing) climate friendly urban planning and design 2. Ensuring council operations are energy efficient and where possible utilising renewable energy and other low/zero emissions technology 3. Working with the community to ensure Frankston City is more climate resilient, including addressing issues with respect to urban heat effects, rainfall increases, and mitigating the impact of wildfire risks (in a conservation sensitive manner) in our urban/rural interface. 4. Taking advantage of the change in work patterns post-covid to encourage more employers and individuals to live and work locally, thus reducing emissions stemming from commuting 5. Support improvements in making Frankston 'walkable' and cycle friendly, as well as better connecting public transport to reduce the number of vehicle journeys required. 6. Encourage replanting and restoration of trees on public and private land, but also coastal and maritime vegetation where appropriate (there is some good data emerging on Blue Carbon) 7. Assess both public and private infrastructure across Frankston City in order to determine what
TAYLOR, Darrel	<p>You know you would not have a bigger support of you guys then me. You know what my thoughts are about the Frankston environment.</p> <p>If elected I will always continue to work with you and your organisation so you can continue to the great work you do.</p>
CLOW, Evalyn	
MALONE, Peter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having declared the Climate Emergency, a future Council must ensure that this declaration is left extant and revised/strengthened in light of new and emerging information. 2. Work with and advocate to the State Government to put into action transport plans that would reduce greenhouse gas combustion engine exhaust. 3. Accelerate where possible street tree and other similar actions to both capture carbon and reduce the 'hot' urban environment. 4. Work with and advocate to the State Government to continue to support and supplement renewable energy uptake such as solar and wind. 5. Examine the feasibility of a reviewed city plan and planning regulations that encourage 'greener' building construction and the greening of existing buildings and areas between.
HUGHES, Liam	

Name	Q1. The City of Frankston declared a Climate Emergency in November 2019. What do you see as Council's role in mitigating Climate Change?
GRIFFITHS, Carmen	
TOMS, Steve	By retrofitting buildings to make them more energy efficient, investing in solar panels on our buildings, increasing the installation of energy efficient LED lighting in Council buildings, limiting the amount of plastic used at Council events, continued sustainable waste management, continuing to run environment educational workshops for our community, and increasing the tree canopy coverage in Frankston City.
HUGHES, Jerome	

Name	Q2. Are you aware of Frankston Council's environmental policies and strategies, including the GWMP? If so, please list and comment on the ones you have looked at and considered.
HILL, Bradley	
HARVEY, Claire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Green Wedge Management Plan - this vital document presents a 20 year vision for Frankston's non-urban open spaces, spanning six different precincts, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carrum Downs - Seaford Wetlands - Skye - Skye South / Langwarrin - Langwarrin South - Frankston South - Langwarrin <p>Frankston's Green Wedge areas are of vital importance. If elected to Council I would work hard to protect our green space, with an awareness that once these places are lost to development it is generally impossible to later reclaim them. As the city that acts as a gateway to the rest of the Mornington Peninsula, with a thriving tourism industry that increasingly includes forms of eco-tourism (e.g. local wines, farm gate sales, kitchen gardens) I think we are strategically positioned to continue to utilise green spaces for agricultural and horticultural purposes with a focus on regenerative agriculture (over mon-crops). This would also help to boost our region's own food security in the face of an increasingly hostile climate.</p> ● Greening our Future (10 year strategy plan: 2014 to 2024) - This lengthy document contains a lot of really helpful information and useful research data, however given that we are nearing the end of 2020 (with just three years to go) there are significant aspects of this document that remain aspirational in nature, rather than 'realised'. It is unfortunate that just as we were gaining more traction in the community with regard to acceptance of the reality of human-induced climate change and the crucial need to address the issue of waste we have seen COVID-19 and related impacts capture people's attention. Council and other bodies seeking progress in these areas will have to work even harder to ensure that crucial issues remain on the agenda. As I have articulated before in other settings, we need to push past binary modes of thinking that set economic growth over and against ecological conservation and care: these two priorities don't need to be mutually exclusive. Indeed, tackling some of these pressing environmental projects will require significant investment and will in turn create significant jobs (e.g. public transport infrastructure, bicycle paths, increased take up of rooftop solar panels, retrofitting homes with other energy efficiency/conservation measures). ● Waste Wise Events (2019) - these strategies are vital if we are to have any chance of reducing waste at local events and also changing behaviour over the long term (at the level of consumer choice and patterns of household consumption). That said, in its current form the policy is quite limited in its scope and effectiveness, in that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it only applies to Council-run or larger events requiring an event application form and; - only really bans balloons, plastic bags and styrofoam and encourages recycling (even plastic straws are not banned, but rather required to be 'out of sight'). <p>Much more can and must be done.</p> ● Towards Zero Emissions Plan (2019) - I am deeply encouraged that Frankston City Council has adopted a plan to achieve zero net emissions by 2025. For a number of years I worked for the local business CarbonetiX Pty Ltd (previously Energy Doctor P/L) and during my later years working with Energy Efficiency Engineer Bruce Rowse I conducted training at Swinburne TAFE and then worked as a Carbon Accountant. Some of my CarbonetiX clients included Geelong Council and Glen Eira Council - preparing and/or auditing their carbon accounts. This work has given me a strong understanding of the energy-use and emissions profile of various Council buildings and activities, which range from massive aquatic centres (with horrific energy usage and associated emissions) to individual parking meters - each with their own 'utility account', with neighborhood centres and kindergartens and libraries somewhere in between. Carbon neutrality is not at all difficult to achieve - there are reputable offsets that can be purchased to achieve a net zero amount. Being strategic and cost-effective is another matter entirely, and with earlier efforts to reduce emissions picking off the low-hanging fruit it will most certainly be the case that a serious attempt to achieve net zero emissions in a way that is cost-effective and that has integrity will require a significant investment of resources. This particular area is of great interest to me.

Name	Q2. Are you aware of Frankston Council's environmental policies and strategies, including the GWMP? If so, please list and comment on the ones you have looked at and considered.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (2015) - This is another area of Council planning that interests me greatly. In my own life sorting waste and recycling are very much a normal part of life, and I can't remember a time when they haven't been. I currently have at least seven 'collections' happening within my own home, including (by order of volume): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recyclables (I'm looking forward to the 'glass only' bin with the purple lid) - Compost (using the Council-provided caddy, but recycled in my own yard) - Soft plastics - Waste to landfill - Bottle lids (for making prosthetics) - Boxes and containers for 'craft' (taken to my local kinder for the kids to 'upcycle') - Other 'difficult' items: e.g. corks, batteries, light-globes, <p>Council investing more resources in community education and behaviour change in order to reduce waste seems like a win:win scenario to me, as waste-to-landfill costs money (to safely dispose of) and also generates emissions (even in the fleet of trucks that do pick-ups). Again, I think we are on a cusp of a new era of 'awareness' regarding the impacts of waste, and the benefits of reusable products (over single-use). This presents some really exciting opportunities, but again we need to ensure that the need to create jobs and have our economy recover from COVID-19 doesn't mean that these important priorities are neglected.</p>
MCDONALD, Stephen	<p>I am familiar with a range of policies and strategies, and also conscious that many of these also need to work alongside the policies and strategies of neighbouring councils, as well as State level policies. Specifically I have read the Urban Forest, Environmentally Sustainable Design, Environmental Sustainability and Biodiversity Policies as well as the GWMP.</p> <p>Each of these will need regular review to ensure that they are up to date with the latest science, however in many respects they are already reflective of good practice (though of course there is always room for improvement). A couple of reflections - there is clearly a need to find ways to firstly stop the loss of existing tree canopy, and secondly to restore tree canopy in areas where it is substantially depleted. In saying that, it also needs to be done in a way that also ensures households can access rooftop solar (shadowing issues) as PV generation will reduce carbon emissions. Whilst each of the policies link to each other, I do think there needs to be a greater intersection and strategic connection between the different policies, particularly when they relate back to planning, development and council operations. There is a risk with the current policy framework of 'disjointed incrementalism' which can make it more difficult to have a coherent approach to managing the environmental issues.</p>
TAYLOR, Darrel	
CLOW, Evalyn	
MALONE, Peter	<p>Urban Forest Action Plan 2020-2040 : A comprehensive plan loaded with information, action indicators and tools for measuring success. Perhaps it should provide robust directions linked to planning rules for compulsory tree replacement related to capital works? Perhaps a review of the action plan should take place more frequently than every 4 years.</p> <p>Urban Forest Policy: Concerned about having 'out of area' natives. Not sure that residents are consulted WRT nature strip tree planting position. Contractors sometimes destroy tree shape aesthetics through overzealous pruning.</p> <p>GWMP: This is very topical at the moment by interest groups. In the hands of the I can be relied on to support the plan particularly after the extensive communication process in its formulation. I understand that the Planning Scheme Amendment will be placed on public exhibition at which time interested parties may make submissions to Council. I agree that "Frankston's green wedge is an important asset for the city in terms of sustainable land use and management, biodiversity protection, extractive industries and landscape amenity."</p>
HUGHES, Liam	
GRIFFITHS, Carmen	
TOMS, Steve	<p>I am well versed in Council's environmental strategies, including the GWMP, having served the last 4 years as an elected Councillor.</p> <p>The GWMP is so important as the strategic framework for the protection and management of our green wedge.</p>
HUGHES, Jerome	

Name	Q3. Please list and comment on the Natural Reserves that you are familiar with, and visit periodically. What natural values do they have?
HILL, Bradley	
HARVEY, Claire	<p>Frankston Foreshore; Kananook Creek; Seaford Wetlands; Sweetwater Creek; Frankston Reserve; Reservoir); Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Park; Jubilee Park; The Pines Flora and Fauna Park.</p> <p>Over my 14 years living in Carrum Downs, Frankston Heights and Frankston I have been a regular visitor to all of the wonderful places listed above, including with my young children. They are not only wonderful places for exercise, but also for watching and observing and sitting and listening and learning, and resting. Not only are they all unique in their features and history, they draw in different people from their local area (and sometimes further afield), and they are hubs where local volunteers from various Friends groups serve their community and shape lives of connection and meaning and purpose. Being within walking distance of the Foreshore for the past five years has been an immense privilege, and I have on occasions volunteers with the 3199 Beach Patrol. Even when not volunteering formally I can't help but collect at least a few nurdles, each time I find myself sitting in the sand. Indeed, nurdle hunting has become a rather addictive meditative practice!</p>
MCDONALD, Stephen	<p>The reserves I currently frequent are the Botanical Gardens, Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve, Sweetwater Creek Reserve, Seaford Foreshore, Seaford Wetlands, Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve, Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve - as well as making use of the extensive cycling/walking tracks throughout the city, eg the rail trails, Peninsula Link trails - normally with my children, and we often stop to investigate particularly interesting plants or animals we spot on our journey.</p> <p>Additionally, though my involvement as a fire brigade volunteer I am regularly involved in visiting these sites in that capacity to look at the risks and understand the fire prone vegetation in these areas, as well as understand what the environmental risks are if we need to undertake firefighting operations in these areas, as well as those parts that we need to defend if possible due to the biodiversity risks that exist.</p> <p>I am impressed by the variety of flora that exists in these different locations, though I am concerned about some of the invasive species that are in some of these areas, and would be keen to find ways to remove these, but also recognise that some are too well established to remove.</p> <p>Additionally, I am conscious that as more people become familiar with these areas and make more use of them we need to protect those with intact flora and fauna whilst still enabling access</p>
TAYLOR, Darrel	
CLOW, Evalyn	
MALONE, Peter	<p>Studio Park Reserve - A very good piece of representative remnant bushland. Vegetation: Heath Tea-tree , Silver Banksia - paperbarks (Scented and Swamp Paperbarks, Prickly Tea-tree, sedges, rushes in swampy areas). Feral animal trapping performed in this reserve.</p> <p>Seaford Foreshore Reserve - Coastal Banksia Woodland. Yellow Tailed Black cockatoos often sighted here. - -- Langwarrin Fauna and Flora Reserve - hundreds of plant species and interesting sharp and more gentle ecoclines. Regrettably New Holland Mouse now not present. Should we consider measures such as cat proof fence construction (with Parks Vic for their areas) for some reserves and then reintroduction? In the interim, wild cat trapping. Also for this and other sizeable reserves where feasible, small-scale mosaic burns which will not endanger other vertebrate species should be pursued/planned which will benefit native plants. --- Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve - Disaggregation due to freeway with no expenditure to maintain fauna mobility is regrettable - Aggregation of areas and protective measures against introduced predators where possible is highly desirable from a population viability perspective. I have visited most other popular reserves including: Sweetwater Creek, Frankston Reservoir - invasive plant species from gardens a challenge - great team work to keep them at bay. Witternberg Reserve - degraded but much potential. Visited others - no room.</p>
HUGHES, Liam	
GRIFFITHS, Carmen	
TOMS, Steve	<p>I regularly visit the Frankston Foreshore, the Kananook Creek walking trail, the George Pentland Botanical Gardens and the Sweetwater Creek Reserve. Each are unique in their natural values and are popular destinations for many residents. We must preserve, maintain and invest in these natural assets for generations to come!</p>
HUGHES, Jerome	

Name	Q4. What other environmental facilities is Frankston Council responsible for, and how are they run?
HILL, Bradley	
HARVEY, Claire	<p>Council also has involvement with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Gardens (various) - generally run by committees/groups with the assistance/support of Council? - Frankston Indigenous Nursery - run by Council

Name	Q4. What other environmental facilities is Frankston Council responsible for, and how are they run?
	- Other open spaces including play-grounds, gardens, dog parks etc.
MCDONALD, Stephen	<p>Aside from council parks and reserves, council is also responsible for waste management and recycling including the FRRRC, as well as for animal management which is important for protecting biodiversity particularly in relations to cats and dogs and the impact they have on local wildlife. I am concerned in particular about the impact of cats on our biodiversity and would like to see changes in the approach to managing them. With regards to waste and recycling, I do think there is more that can be done - both in terms of encouraging better separation of materials, but also looking at accepting other recyclable products such as styrofoam.</p> <p>Whilst I am impressed at the improvements such as the home composting bins and acceptance of food waste into green bins, I would like to see how we can reduce or minimise the use of single use plastics in Frankston, as well as look at options such as 'sea bins' which are used in other locations to better address issues of waste in our waterways and bay. This may rely on more of an education and advocacy approach given some of the limitations on council powers, I am sure that more could be done to address this issue. The 'reuse' facility at the FRRRC is great, but I do think we can do more to support the community to repair or reuse things, and I have seen some great examples of local industries being developed for repair and reuse in Sweden.</p>
TAYLOR, Darrel	
CLOW, Evalyn	
MALONE, Peter	Municipal Parks and Gardens maintained by Council. Environmental newsletters, environmental grants and rebates, frankston Indigenous nursery, street trees and program implementation, Local Laws for Trees.
HUGHES, Liam	
GRIFFITHS, Carmen	
TOMS, Steve	Council is responsible for a number of environmental facilities. Of particular mention is the Frankston Indigenous Nursery in Seaford which is run by Council staff and regular volunteers.
HUGHES, Jerome	

Name	Q5. What do you understand about the management and maintenance of our natural reserves, and the relationship with other bodies?
HILL, Bradley	
HARVEY, Claire	Community engagement and support is vital for the ongoing health, management and enjoyment of our natural reserves. Frankston City is privileged to have a very strong group of people who serve in various ways in various places under the banner of the Frankston Environmental Friends Network (FEFN). Additionally, Frankston Council relates to a range of other bodies in relation to the management and maintenance of open spaces. I would think that these include state bodies such as DEWLP (Dept of Environment, Water, Land and Planning), Dept of Sustainability and the Environment, EPA, Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority, Melbourne Water, South East Water. Parts of Frankston also fall within the boundaries of the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve.
MCDONALD, Stephen	<p>Management and maintenance of our natural reserves is complex and involves multiple stakeholders including residents, indigenous groups, council staff, Parks Victoria, private landowners bounding our reserves, neighbouring municipalities, community, sporting and recreational users, managers of industrial sites, South East Water, Melbourne Water, United Energy as well as Emergency Management agencies such as the Country Fire Authority/Fire Rescue Victoria (both regionally and at local brigade level).</p> <p>These diverse stakeholders need to work together for our reserves, but often they are consulted in isolation of each other, which can often lead to conflicting priorities rather than having a coherent approach to maintaining good land management practices as well as preserving natural values and public access.</p>
TAYLOR, Darrel	
CLOW, Evalyn	
MALONE, Peter	Our natural reserves are maintained in terms of infrastructure provision, repair and replacement, vegetation maintenance control/eradication of a pest or non-native species, by the Council Parks and Reserves team, FEFN groups, and Parks Victoria. Volunteer help is essential. After speaking to Council officers on the job, I believe that given the size of the challenge, there is a case to argue for more Council staff.
HUGHES, Liam	
GRIFFITHS, Carmen	

Name	Q5. What do you understand about the management and maintenance of our natural reserves, and the relationship with other bodies?
TOMS, Steve	Council staff manage the maintenance of our Council parks and reserves. However, as a Council we work with State Government Departments such as Parks Victoria and DELWP to maintain their assets in our community.
HUGHES, Jerome	

Name	Q6. How important do you think the natural environment is for the well-being of residents? Do you think this is an area Councillors can make a difference, and how?
HILL, Bradley	
HARVEY, Claire	<p>Natural environments are vital for wellbeing. We are part of our natural environment, and not separate from it, and being immersed in natural environments has a range of benefits for individuals and communities, as well as obviously having importance of their own as a part of a broader eco-system.</p> <p>Doctors in Scotland are prescribing time in nature for their patients - which is an encouraging sign indeed!</p> <p>Councillors can indeed make a difference, by advocating for the protection of green spaces, resourcing groups that work to maintain and protect natural areas and open space, formulating appropriate policies to ensure progress toward key environmental objectives, funding strategic priorities, championing and highlighting the work that others do in the community as individuals and groups, leading by example, supporting education (including through facilitating networking between schools), running key events, helping businesses see strategic opportunities to grow sustainability-focused businesses in sustainable ways, advocating for those who want to live with a lighter environmental footprint to ensure that this is both possible and desirable within Frankston!</p>
MCDONALD, Stephen	<p>There are numerous studies that show the importance of interacting with the natural environment and human well-being. Aside from the environmental benefits, engaging with and having easy access to the natural environment can improve both individual and social mood, deliver healthy lifestyle benefits by encouraging more outdoor activity and physical exercise.</p> <p>Additionally, improvements in areas such as more grassed areas and restoration of tree canopy can have a beneficial effect in addressing the urban heat effect, which as we know has an impact on human health and psychological well being.</p> <p>Furthermore, having health local natural environments will also encourage local flora and fauna to find homes in residents gardens, which again can improve overall well-being.</p> <p>Councillors can make a difference by encouraging healthy, active lifestyles, promoting environmentally friendly planning and design, making it easier for residents to connect to local parks, reserves and open areas, and to encourage environmentally sensitive business activity throughout Frankston.</p> <p>I would also like to see Council encourage residents to actively engage in supporting and maintaining their local parks and reserves, and well as encourage more community gardens.</p>
TAYLOR, Darrel	
CLOW, Evalyn	
MALONE, Peter	<p>Very important - of course anyone can say that. Can you trust I am sincere? My record: Bachelor of Applied Science major Biology. Wrote the course book Field Zoology and taught this program for a number of years as well as Ecology. Taught Statistics for Biologists in the Diploma of Environmental Management program. Have been a member of one or more environmental groups for over 45 years starting with Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society in the early 1970's and East African Wildlife Society at that time as well. Many years ago as a 16 year old I fell in love with the natural environment and zoology/animal behaviour after reading Animal Behaviour by Konrad Lorenz. I went to Uni and Majored in Biology. I did some Oceanography work in the Navy. I have always been in a conservation groups like ACF. I worked at CSIRO Long Pocket laboratories with two iconic Biologist/Ecologists and often worked with my National park Senior Ranger friend.</p> <p>Council can encourage community composting reducing methane production; reverse vegetation reduction; 'green' the CAD; advocate to remove redundant urban Optus HF cables; connect natural areas providing wildlife pathways/viable population zones; establish cat proof fencing and more.</p> <p>I can be relied on to argue in Council for greater funding/support for friends groups and to be very personally involved. I look forward to being very connected so that I can listen and support groups and argue on a qualification, experience and knowledge basis.</p>
HUGHES, Liam	
GRIFFITHS, Carmen	
TOMS, Steve	The natural environment is extremely important for our mental and physical health and well being.

Name	Q6. How important do you think the natural environment is for the well-being of residents? Do you think this is an area Councillors can make a difference, and how?
	<p>Councillors have a role to play in making sure our unique natural environment is protected for current and future generations to enjoy. We must make sure, where appropriate, that our natural spaces are enhanced and managed appropriately working with our local friends groups.</p> <p>The natural environment is so important for our native fauna, and our community's health and well-being.</p>
HUGHES, Jerome	