

**COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
North West Ward**

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

Note: Claire Harvey (South Ward) submitted a detailed response, which was endorsed by Gabriel Norris, who had severe time restraints against her.

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?
TURNER, Justin	
TORRES, Jocelyn	
MIDDLETON, Alan	
HUGHES, Steven	
AITKEN, Glenn	Engaging within our community to encourage a diverse range of achievable initiatives that people can embark upon within their life.
BAKER, Sue	<p>It is reassuring to read about the Council's two pronged approach to address and adapt to climate change through 'Mitigation' and 'Adaption'. There are many actions every individual can take as well as collectively as a community to change the way we all do things to tackle this issue.</p> <p>I am aware of the two plans Council has in place - Towards Zero Emissions Plan and Climate Change Impacts and Adaption Plan. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss with Council colleagues who these plans can be built on.</p> <p>In my view the Council has an important role to inform, educate and role model for the community what can be done to mitigate the effects of climate change. The EnviroNews e-letter is a great initiative along with the green caddy and changing bulb types in city street lights. Incentives to change behaviour, activities to influence attitudes and visible targets with the impact of successes to educate could be some of the ways Council takes a role.....and continues to.</p>
DORIC, Stan	
NORRIS, Gabriel	<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>
WONG, Banson	
SHELLEY, Jeff	
BOLAM, Kris	
O'REILLY, Michael	

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.
TURNER, Justin	
TORRES, Jocelyn	
MIDDLETON, Alan	
HUGHES, Steven	
AITKEN, Glenn	I am conversant with all of our environmental positions and initiatives and strongly, fiercely, supportive of our local environment.
BAKER, Sue	<p>Yes - some....</p> <p>Environment Events - currently facilitated via webinar these provide educational opportunities for residents to adopt skills and practices in their own backyards.</p> <p>GWMP - sets out how the areas in its remit will be protected and managed over the next 20 years. A document like this will assist all landowners and users of these areas with guidelines on correct use.</p> <p>Waste and Recycling policies are in place to reduce waste and ensure environmentally aware ways to dispose of a range of items of different size and material.</p> <p>Frankston Indigenous Nursery - provides a local source of native plants for the area, which residents can buy to create their own natural backyard environment.</p>
DORIC, Stan	
NORRIS, Gabriel	<p>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:</p> <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 mono-crops). This would also help to boost our region's own food security in the face of an increasingly hostile climate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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

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.
	<p>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.</p> <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>
WONG, Banson	
SHELLEY, Jeff	
BOLAM, Kris	
O'REILLY, Michael	

Name	Q3. Please list and comment on the Natural Reserves that you are familiar with, and visit periodically. What natural values do they have?
TURNER, Justin	
TORRES, Jocelyn	
MIDDLETON, Alan	
HUGHES, Steven	
AITKEN, Glenn	Seaford Wetlands, Kanabook Creek, Seaford Foreshore, Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve and Belvedere Bushland Reserve. They are the last bastions, the magically preserved remnants of our original native vegetation
BAKER, Sue	<p>As a keen cyclist and walker I have made a point of finding a number of the reserves in the North West Ward where I live. These include: Pat Rollo Reserve, Rosemary Reserve, Worland Park Reserve, Riviera Reserve, Weatherston and Frank Street Reserves. I have also found a number in other parts of Frankston and as an occasional dog walker have found Ballam Park, Hadley and Monterey Reserves</p> <p>Of the natural features I enjoy seeing the range of trees and shrubs and noticing the bird life that is attracted. The green areas are all different shapes and sizes with various undulations, so it's good to see the natural landscape being worked with. The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve is particularly enjoyable to walk in. The cycling is a tad harder on the sandy tracks! The 360 degree views are spectacular from the highpoints. Whilst I wouldn't want to come into contact with all the wildlife that is attracted 24/7, it's good to know there are places where they can live and ideally thrive.</p>
DORIC, Stan	

Name	Q3. Please list and comment on the Natural Reserves that you are familiar with, and visit periodically. What natural values do they have?
NORRIS, Gabriel	Frankston Foreshore; Kananook Creek; Seaford Wetlands; Sweetwater Creek; Frankston Reserve; Reservoir; Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Park; Jubilee Park; The Pines Flora and Fauna Park. 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
WONG, Banson	
SHELLEY, Jeff	
BOLAM, Kris	
O'REILLY, Michael	

Name	Q4. What other environmental facilities is Frankston Council responsible for, and how are they run?
TURNER, Justin	
TORRES, Jocelyn	
MIDDLETON, Alan	
HUGHES, Steven	
AITKEN, Glenn	Council owns and manages large a range of parks throughout the the whole city, many of which have elements of native vegetation, also Council governs and controls naturestrips and road reserves which collectively along with Council's parks and bushland reserves forms a vital link in the local ecosystem and is the lifeblood of biodiversity.
BAKER, Sue	The FRRRC is a facility I have used. Having worked for a waste management company in the UK over 25 years ago it is heartwarming to see how this type of facility has evolved. More to do though! The hard waste kerbside collection is an important service. Many households have items that people really do not know what to do with when disposing of them. I'd be interested to know more about ths area of Council responsibility.
DORIC, Stan	
NORRIS, Gabriel	Council also has involvement with the following: - Community Gardens (various) - generally run by committees/groups with the assistance/support of Council? - Frankston Indigenous Nursery - run by Council Other open spaces including play-grounds, gardens, dog parks etc.
WONG, Banson	
SHELLEY, Jeff	
BOLAM, Kris	
O'REILLY, Michael	

Name	Q5. What do you understand about the management and maintenance of our natural reserves, and the relationship with other bodies?
TURNER, Justin	
TORRES, Jocelyn	
MIDDLETON, Alan	
HUGHES, Steven	
AITKEN, Glenn	Tremendously dedicated staff in our organisation and also great cooperation with other levels of Government along with the community with volunteerism. However I see need for a large increase in the budget towards the environment.

Name	Q5. What do you understand about the management and maintenance of our natural reserves, and the relationship with other bodies?
BAKER, Sue	<p>Talking with David Cross on 29 September in a discussion with other Council Candidates was a terrific eye opener to the number of organisations involved with the management and maintenance of natural reserves. With so many aspects to understanding what is meant by biodiversity, how to manage, plan and support all that is required to do this effectively, really is a multi-stakeholder activity. I now know a lot more about what I don't know!</p> <p>It is something as a local resident and if elected, a Councillor, I am very interested to learn more about. Education and information are great influencers. To know what I can do and where I can make a difference in the areas of environment and climate change is important to me.</p>
DORIC, Stan	
NORRIS, Gabriel	<p>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.</p>
WONG, Banson	
SHELLEY, Jeff	
BOLAM, Kris	
O'REILLY, Michael	

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?
TURNER, Justin	
TORRES, Jocelyn	
MIDDLETON, Alan	
HUGHES, Steven	
AITKEN, Glenn	Without vegetation we have a bare planet. With bare we all die.
BAKER, Sue	<p>Personally, I know the natural environment is good for my well-being. During the pandemic the volume of people walking and cycling in Frankston's green spaces has noticeably increased, so I can deduce that local people are also benefitting from having these natural spaces to go to. With mental health issues known to impact 1:4 of the population, natural, open air spaces are an important part of helping people connect with themselves and the natural resources to manage anxiety, depression and stress. They are beautiful places with lots to see and explore, which can stimulate feelings of happiness in us all.</p> <p>I do think Council has a role in working with local Community, State and Federal organisations to maintain and preserve these spaces, providing access opportunities to all groups of people in the community. This may include addressing the need for footpaths, parking, cycle tracks, dog poo bins, tending trees, planting new ones and ensuring fire danger is managed.</p>
DORIC, Stan	
NORRIS, Gabriel	<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,</p>

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?
	advocating for those who want to live with a lighter environmental footprint to ensure that this is both possible and desirable within Frankston!
WONG, Banson	
SHELLEY, Jeff	
BOLAM, Kris	
O'REILLY, Michael	