

Mitchell Shire Council Elections 2020
BEAM Mitchell Environment and Community Energy Groups Questions
to Central Ward Candidates

In addition to this survey, Candidates' Statements are included with Ballot papers that you will receive in the mail. You can also download **North Ward Candidate Statements** and responses to a short Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) questionnaire [here](#).

1. What are the three most important things that you would like to achieve over the next term?

Annie Goble:

No response.

Bob Humm:

- A. Sports Pavillion for Clancy Reserve to support the sporting youth in Kilmore.
- B. Land acquisition for a New Transfer Station to support Kilmore and Broadford growth.
- C. Wallan /Kilmore Bypass completed financial funds to build from Government.

Louise Bannister:

1. Expanding our waste services to include green waste and hard rubbish. I would like to see these services implemented along with more accurate recycling. For example the green waste re-used as either compost, woodchips etc., the hard rubbish either recycled to its components or re-vamped and sold as pre-loved items, with money re-invested into recycling program. I would also like to see better contracts with recycling organisations to ensure our waste is properly recycled, and also more extensive education programs and incentives for community.
2. Preserving our open spaces - currently there are a lot of master plans being developed for major towns in our Shire which do not make open space a priority, or even ensure there will be open space. I would like to make sure future planning makes open space a priority.
3. Footpath connections - I would like to make footpath connections in our major towns a priority to encourage more active transport.

Jasdeep Kochar:

No response.

Nathan Clark:

No response.

2. Climate Change is a rapidly looming existential crisis, reading the science. What role do you think Local Government can play in action on climate change?

Bob Humm:

Investment in Solar Panels on Council owned Buildings.

Louise Bannister:

I think there are a multitude of ways Local Government can contribute to lowering carbon emission and preventing climate change. For example - installing renewable energy sources (solar panels etc.) on all Council buildings, provide incentives to local businesses and locals to install renewable energy sources, use efficient lighting and appliances across Council buildings, set minimum energy requirements in all future planning applications (especially for large developments), increase opportunities (footpaths) for active transport through towns, ban the use of single plastics in our Shire, lobby State and Federal governments for renewable energy and sustainable transport, support renewable energy and sustainability efforts of community groups, provide education and behaviour-change programs for community and set the goal to become a carbon-neutral Shire.

3. Please explain why (or why not) the Council should join the Cities Power Partnership, a grouping of 125 LGA's and 500 cities and towns across Australia seeking to take meaningful action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. <https://citiespowerpartnership.org.au>

Bob Humm:

This is an area needing further Information and discussion for consideration.

Louise Bannister:

I think it would be a great opportunity for Mitchell Shire to join the Cities Power Partnership. This alliance would provide knowledge, guidance and most importantly support, in an issue that needs to be addressed in multiple ways by Local Government.

4. Please explain why (or why not) the Council should develop an Action Plan to become Net Carbon Neutral by 2030. Include any ideas you have about reducing and offsetting greenhouse emissions from Council activities and across the broader Local Government Area.

Bob Humm:

Same as item three.

Louise Bannister:

We should set this goal as this is an issue which needs to be addressed now. Council should ensure that all buildings have renewable energy sources and have energy efficient appliances and lights in order to lead by example. Council should also look to making its car fleet electronic and investing in quick-charge infrastructure.

5. BEAM Mitchell Environment Group has been active in our Shire for 32 years. Are you aware of some of the issues BEAM champions? What are the top two environmental issues that you are concerned about?

Bob Humm:

A. Roadside vegetation needs further work to protect infrastructure of fire damage.

B. Re-use water needed for recreation spaces to protect and save our drinking water. (This could also show a cost saving to Council.)

Louise Bannister:

Yes I am - you are involved in a variety of issues including climate change, food security, biodiversity decline and social justice. My main concerns at the moment are climate change, plastics contamination in our environments and loss of land due to over-development.

6. In your opinion, what should be the relationship between community groups and Council? For example, Mitchell Community Energy promoting Council use of electric vehicles over the next five years.

Bob Humm:

Electric vehicles should come in slowly depending on costs and workload required.

Louise Bannister:

I think Council should form strong partnerships with community groups to help achieve a carbon-neutral Shire.

7. Given the importance of tourism in Mitchell and the inevitable increase in the number of electric vehicles on our roads, what do you think about the installation of charging stations around Mitchell Shire?

Bob Humm:

I believe electric charging stations will come with Private Investments and this should be supported by Council.

Louise Bannister:

I think Council should support the installation of charging stations; it's the future so let's be the innovators.

8. In light of Victoria's continuing biodiversity loss, what can Council do - internally and externally - to advocate and implement policy, procedure and resourcing for the management of our natural environment?

Bob Humm:

This is covered in Question 5.

Louise Bannister:

Council can introduce policy internally that prioritises the environment such as looking after and protecting our wildlife corridors, preventing over-development and planting more trees across the Shire. Externally they can introduce policy and requirements to developers to ensure open-space minimums are compulsory and cannot be 'bought out;', as well as offer incentives to residents and business for planting trees, using worm farms and composting.

9. In Mitchell Shire, plans are being made to accommodate rapid growth in our population in parallel with Melbourne's growth. As a Councillor, would you encourage the increasing rate of growth, and how would you manage the opportunities and impacts of this growth of our towns and countryside?

Bob Humm:

By creating Township Master Plans which are supported by and with the Local Community Input of acceptance to retain the Regional design and open spaces such as possible Botanical Gardens set up in each Ward.

Louise Bannister:

As a Councillor I would be cautious in encouraging too much growth. Neighbouring Councils and their estates are proof that development en masse without proper planning, services, infrastructure and open spaces results in low socio-economic outcomes and poor outcomes for the environment. Proper analysis of planning policy and requirements for developers to meet including larger lot size minimums, infrastructure into existing town centres that encourages active transport and renewable energy targets is needed to ensure our Shire's liveability is not affected.