

Mitchell Shire Council Elections 2020
BEAM Mitchell Environment and Community Energy Groups Questions
to South 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?

Bikram Singh:

No response.

Bob Cornish:

No response.

David Andrew Lowe:

Declined to respond.

Vasalia Govender:

No response.

Christine Banks:

I have lived in Wallan for approximately 38 years, I am passionate about saving our Wallan Community Park / Wildlife Corridor that is why I chose to run for council.

I believe that my honesty and experience in both the local area and Real Estate, that I have a good knowledge as to what appropriate development for the Shire would consist of.

Neal Langborne:

No response.

Rob Eldridge:

Rob responded at some length, but we did not receive his response due to some technical difficulty.

Rob has a strong interest in many of the questions in the Questionnaire. His Candidate Statement bears witness to some of these.

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?

Christine Banks:

A Council should play a fair and equitable role in the environment by making sure that open space is maintained and expanded and by being sensible in the way developments are done in a way that there can be enough trees and open areas so that we can lessen the carbon footprint.

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>

Christine Banks:

To be honest I do not know enough about it to comment.

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.

Christine Banks:

This is something that I would have to look into as much as I am a tree hugging hippie, I think all aspects should be looked at.

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?

Christine Banks:

No not until now.

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.

Christine Banks:

It would depend on cost factors as I know that the Council is short on funds and are not managing to maintain the roads in the south ward, however it is something to be considered whenever they are updating vehicles if they are reliable and cost effective.

I am a great believer in alternative energy as long as it works and all aspects of its implementation have been considered.

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?

Christine Banks:

Yes I think I would again depending on cost and the amount that would be expected.

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?

Christine Banks:

No. 1 by not putting busy roads through existing parkland and by not passing draft plans that will basically allow developers to do as they please.

We need to start petitioning the government to assist to provide more parkland / greenspace within the shire.

Education is great thing the more that you can teach people on the importance of protecting nature and the environment the more chance you have of creating the change needed to be able to save it.

I must admit I had no plans to run for council until I discovered the Council's plan to completely destroy the Wallan Community Park / Wildlife Corridor with a major road.

I am passionate about trying to stop this and to protect this parkland for now and generations to come, especially for the wildlife and the residents that love this parkland as much as I do.

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?

Christine Banks:

I would be more than happy to have a discussion with you about your views at your convenience so as to get a better understanding of where you are coming from.