

**Combined Residents of Whitehorse
Action Group (CROWAG) Incorporated.**

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2020

Name of Councillor candidate: [Mark Lane](#)

Whitehorse Council Ward: [Mahoneys Ward](#)

The *Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group Inc. (CROWAG)* represents a number of community groups and individual members across the municipality. In the current COVID-19 environment we are seeking to assist candidates to reach our members, helping them to make informed decisions when they vote.

CROWAG advocates for appropriate and sustainable development concerning built-form, public amenity, and the natural landscape within Whitehorse to all tiers of government. It seeks to promote the quality of life for residents and the natural landscape of Whitehorse. It lobbies Whitehorse Council to improve its relationship with its constituents in the areas of public accountability, public transparency, good governance, community engagement, fairness and equity.

Your responses to this questionnaire will be made available:

- a. to all CROWAG individual and group members and their networks within Whitehorse
- b. on the CROWAG website at www.crowag.com

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Please answer all questions and keep written responses to each question to less than 150 words.

1. How long have you been a resident of Whitehorse?

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 20+ years

2. Do you live in the council ward for which you are a candidate?

Yes or No

3. List the community, political and/or professional organisations with which you have been involved during the last 10 years.

Whitehorse Netball Association
Blackburn South Cricket Club
JCI Eastern (JayCees – Junior Chamber International)
Freemasons Victoria
Liberal Party Victoria (Forest Hill)
East Burwood RAMs Football Club
ACES Netball Club
Blackburn South Netball Club
Whitehorse Sports and Recreation Network
Whitehorse Mustangs Basketball Club
KANDO Karate Club

4. What positive achievements resulted from your membership of these groups?

Having involvement with a variety of groups ensures my knowledge of the key impacts and issues confronting the community are more complete. In many of these groups I have been a leader and helped to guide the organisation in success. Others I have been a member/parent providing support and assistance whenever required. It is important to be able to be both a leader and a supporter.

5. Please state what you want to achieve as an elected Councillor

During this term of council I will be striving to ensure we have the representation we deserve by providing better governance than what we have experienced in recent times. One of my goals is to be part of a council team that provides great outcomes for our great city through working together and ensuring our Home Care Services are improved, build a regional playspace for all to enjoy, ensure long term financial viability of the city and strive for appropriate planning decisions are being made. I will introduce Mahoneys Ward forums to ensure residents have a say and we get to meet face-to-face regularly.
Your Community is My Community.

6. What are the top five issues you believe could improve the functioning of the *Whitehorse City Council* in representing its ratepayers and community?

- 1) Greater governance for better leadership
- 2) Financial viability short and long term (ensure value for money on rates)
- 3) Introduce mandatory solar panels on all new buildings
- 4) Complete and build cycling and walking paths and other recreational infrastructure
- 5) Better planning decisions in keeping with Community amenity

7. There are many important roles of Local Government. As a Councillor you will need to make difficult decisions with many issues of importance competing for your vote, council action and finances. Whitehorse Council’s responsibilities are listed below.

In the boxes below, please **rank the roles that are most important to you** from 7 (Most important) to 1 (Least important). Please do not use the same ranking number more than once.

7	Children and Families including childcare, kindergartens, maternal and child health, playgroups, immunisation
5	Health and Wellbeing including disability services, home and community care, meals on wheels, food safety
6	Residential and Commerce including strategic development, planning, and building, business development, animal registrations, rubbish collection and recycling
3	Sport and Leisure including sportsgrounds and pavilions, aquatic and leisure centres, Morack golf club
1	Non-structured Recreational activities including cycleways and shared use paths, parks and gardens, bushland, and open space
4	Roads and Safety including management of roads and footpaths, streetscapes (including street trees), street lighting, car and bike parks, pedestrian and cycling safety and security, disabled accessibility
2	Community including library services, theatre and the arts, community centres, volunteering, community grants

8. The following Issues of specific interest to CROWAG.

In the boxes below, please **rank the priority of the issues** in order of importance **to you** from 10 (Most important) to 1 (Least important). Please do not use the same ranking number more than once.

6	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
8	Transparency and governance in council matters
4	Council response to Climate Change and Sustainability issues in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and urgency

5	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
7	Council rates and capital expenditure policies
9	Administration of Council's planning and building provisions in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme (WPS) e.g. overall level of development in the city, building site compliance requirements, general administration including inspections, Planning Permit Conditions compliance, administration of tree and vegetation controls, tree retention and protection on building sites, ensuring compliance with landscape and planting plans, community consultation, fines and prosecution for transgressors
3	The city's natural landscape, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity considerations
4	Provision of infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
2	Management and utilization of the city's parks, open spaces, and linkages (e.g. shared use paths, waterways, and residential streets)
1	Traffic issues in Whitehorse

9. If you have any further comments please note them below:

Very difficult to rank the issues (as above) as many of these are equally important and I will give all issues my utmost attention and consideration for our community.

Thank you for completing the CROWAG questionnaire.

For further queries contact CROWAG secretary David Berry on 0413 457 184

Please save your completed questionnaire and send it as an attachment by email to 'Whitehorse Councillor Candidate Responses' at: crowag.inc@gmail.com