

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

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2024

Name of Councillor candidate: Jeffrey Rickard

Whitehorse Council Ward: Cootamundra

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 are a member during the last 10 years.

AGDA: Australian Graphic Design Association

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

Effective communication

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

I am committed to improving the planning and building process for better outcomes that recognise architectural quality, community amenity and streetscape quality. I am concerned that with the increasing residential developments along Whitehorse Road and deeper into the heartland of our Ward we will lose the treed character and open spaces that characterise Blackburn generally. Whilst the Victorian State Government has taken much control by demanding a doubling of the housing density in Blackburn and surrounding areas we have the opportunity, now, to reframe regulations so that the forecast increase in numbers be balanced with better planning for more sensitive building outcomes. This can be achieved by using shared amenities, environmentally effective technologies and creative architectural solutions. The planned Activity Centre in Box Hill in addition to local development will impact established infrastructure and services such as schooling, healthcare, asset maintenance, prevention of vandalism and waste management. These matters need to be addressed more thoroughly than are currently. Whitehorse Cootamundra Ward is a fine example of how nature and residential development can co-exist harmoniously. Residents are proud of their surrounds and appreciate the responsibility we have as a community to maintain and improve all of our circumstances. I am keen that Council contribute to that attitude rather than become an imposition to it.

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) Integrity
- 2) Environment
- 3) Planning and Building
- 4) Healthcare
- Vandalism

9. **The following Issues of specific interest to CROWAG.**

In the boxes below, please **rank** the **priority of the areas of interest** in order of importance

to you from 1 (Most important) to 10 (Least important). Please do not use the same ranking number more than once.

2	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
6	Transparency and governance in council matters
9	Managing Climate Change and Sustainability.
1	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
3	Retaining council oversight for planning and development
10	Speeding up Planning and development by reducing council oversight.
8	Advocating for the Federation Brickworks site to be parkland
4	Enhancing the city's natural landscape, parks, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity
5	Improvement of Infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
7	Managing traffic and parking

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

The priority listing is difficult to negotiate since many issues have equal importance

Thank you for completing the CROWAG questionnaire.

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