

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

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2020

Name of Councillor candidate: Jason Martin

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

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

Blackburn Lake Primary School Committee

- What positive achievements resulted from your membership of these groups?

Completion of several facility projects in collaboration with my fellow committee members

- Please state what you want to achieve as an elected Councillor

Action in the areas I am raising as priorities to the community in the Mahoneys Ward. Better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. Best practice waste and recycling management and outcomes in Whitehorse. Protection and improvement of existing parks, reserves and green spaces for current and future generations. Support for business and community through COVID recovery.

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

- Councillors need to work together and respect each other – listen.
- Better communication from Council to community.
- Diversity in representation and workforce
- Focus on safety for community and council employees.
- Aim for best practice, innovation and be a leading local government.

- 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.

Rank	Children and Families including childcare, kindergartens, maternal and child health, playgroups, immunisation
Rank	Health and Wellbeing including disability services, home and community care, meals on wheels, food safety

Rank	Residential and Commerce including strategic development, planning, and building, business development, animal registrations, rubbish collection and recycling
Rank	Sport and Leisure including sportsgrounds and pavilions, aquatic and leisure centres, Morack golf club
Rank	Non-structured Recreational activities including cycleways and shared use paths, parks and gardens, bushland, and open space
Rank	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
Rank	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.

Rank	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
Rank	Transparency and governance in council matters
Rank	Council response to Climate Change and Sustainability issues in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and urgency
Rank	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
Rank	Council rates and capital expenditure policies
Rank	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

Rank	The city's natural landscape, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity considerations
Rank	Provision of infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
Rank	Management and utilization of the city's parks, open spaces, and linkages (e.g. shared use paths, waterways, and residential streets)
Rank	Traffic issues in Whitehorse

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

I think questions 7 and 8 are extremely difficult to answer since all areas are important for community and local government. My major priorities are noted above for reference. Wellbeing for residents and business will be the biggest challenge for local, state and federal governments for the next 12 months especially and beyond.

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