

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

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2024

Name of Councillor candidate: [George Manos](#)

Whitehorse Council Ward: [Terrara](#)

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.

Weeden Heights Primary School (School Council Vice President), Whitehorse Soccer Club (Coach/volunteer), Livingstone Netball Club (President - current), Whitehorse Netball Association (Board Member/Chair - current)

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

I have been a passionate advocate for improving the services offered to our local community, and I have a history of volunteering with organisations in the area that have a direct impact on peoples lives. Not only have these organisations benefited from my contributions, but I have also learnt many new skills and build strong relationships with my community.

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

My priorities include supporting our community to support the financial burden many are facing with the cost-of-living pressures. I would like to see the council take the lead on effective programs and initiatives that relieve some of this pressure, ensuring we are set up to run efficiently reducing any financial leakage. I would like to see our community feel safer and would be keen to collaborate with our partners to ensure we have the right strategies in place to execute on this, as well as ensuring our local sporting organisations and associations have adequate support to enabling them to flourish. Encourage our community to get moving is important to me and manage their mental health, this may include through our existing walking tracks and parklands, supporting current programs in place or exploring new opportunities - there needs to be something for everyone. I also want to support our local small businesses by exploring opportunities to promote their businesses whilst encouraging residents to 'buy local'. It is incredibly important that we always overlay the consideration of what is in the best interests of our community, what impact are we having on our environment and at what cost to the ratepayer.

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) Review on holding or reducing costs on our community, whilst ensuring efficiency in process.
- 2) Ensure we have the right personal and property safety plans for our residents, working closely with our partners.
- 3) Supporting the introduction, growth and further development of our sporting organisations and associations.
- 4) Promotion of initiatives that support both the physical and mental health for all residents.

5) Support local small businesses by promoting their businesses whilst encouraging residents to 'buy local'.

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.

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

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

As a resident of Whitehorse of over 20 years, I love where I live. We have some great parklands and pathways available for walkers, runners and cyclists. The council already manages many different centres which provide great places for our residents to gather and connect with each other. The opportunity to work closely with my community to add and improve to these offerings really excites me.

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