

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

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2020

Name of Councillor candidate: [Caroline Cook](#)

Whitehorse Council Ward: [Elgar 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.

I am the inaugural organiser of SAP Whitehorse Sub Branch, and have also been an active participant of RIJANELA. However, I have chosen to run Independent (and not be endorsed for this election) as I want to

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

I have loved meeting Whitehorse residents of SAP and hearing their opinions on matters. As part of this, I organised for SAP stall at Whitehorse Spring Festival in 2019 (to bring awareness to Overdevelopment & bad choice of NE Link Option A, etc). This resulted in new people signing up to SAP, and it was great to meet all residents of Whitehorse.

I have also been an active participant (for many years) of RUANELA. As part of my dedication, I printed and distributed leaflets in letterboxes prior to the VIC State election so that residents were made aware that there was a community consultation evening happening (to enable their opportunity to ask all standing candidates questions regarding NE Link). I also attended a peaceful protest in the city last year and as well as near-by park gatherings.

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

If elected, I would call for a look at Council Expenditure and Supply Chains. As part of this, I would call for a halt to hidden agenda expenditure and seek honest transparency. I would vocally advocate for: rate reduction, locals for local jobs, more cycle lanes and putting in cycling facilities, stopping Overdevelopment and selling off of Car Parks. I would advocate for action to be taken against property owners of derelict properties (that have failed to respond to notices), & take a look at Council signage in Elgar Ward (and install where there is none)!

I would like to organise Bushfire Information Sessions for Elgar Ward residents, advocate for community consultation approval regarding traffic management issues surrounding NE Link (given it will be a 7yr project). I would like to enable innovative ways to help businesses thrive after Covid19 lockdown, organise multicultural activities that cater to all nationalities within Whitehorse, advocate for business networking seminars to be initiated (and advertised on Whitehorse Council website), and to start a Whitehorse Bulletin!

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) Approving a Rate Reduction
- 2) Enabling Innovative Business Initiatives to help businesses thrive safely again
- 3) Planning for better parking and not selling off car parking
- 4) Making way for cycling lanes and putting in cycling facilities
- 5) Stopping Overdevelopment

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.

5	Children and Families including childcare, kindergartens, maternal and child health, playgroups, immunisation
1	Health and Wellbeing including disability services, home and community care, meals on wheels, food safety
4	Residential and Commerce including strategic development, planning, and building, business development, animal registrations, rubbish collection and recycling
7	Sport and Leisure including sportsgrounds and pavilions, aquatic and leisure centres, Morack golf club
3	Non-structured Recreational activities including cycleways and shared use paths, parks and gardens, bushland, and open space
2	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
6	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.

1	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
4	Transparency and governance in council matters
10	Council response to Climate Change and Sustainability issues in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and urgency
5	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
2	Council rates and capital expenditure policies
8	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
9	The city's natural landscape, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity considerations
3	Provision of infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
7	Management and utilization of the city's parks, open spaces, and linkages (e.g. shared use paths, waterways, and residential streets
6	Traffic issues in Whitehorse

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

I think it is imperative to initiate community feedback and engagement in order to foster a transparent Whitehorse Council. These are the first basic steps that need to be taken to ensure that we are acting for all nationalities within Whitehorse and not just a select few. Ensuring Accountability, public transparency, good governance, community engagement, fairness and equality, will lead to regaining the trust of citizens and residents of Whitehorse.

I also would like to see the Council take an initiative to enable a few traineeships within Council (especially as they have spent \$400K on a Japanese Matsudo Book with Artwork in their last term & allocated \$78 Million for a brand new extravagant Whitehorse Centre) !

Make your vote count and ensure to number all boxes (from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) alongside the name of the person you wish to vote for (to enable your vote to be valid). Thanks for taking the time to read my responses. I look forward to making a positive difference for the Elgar Ward (if elected).

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