

Climate Change Candidate Survey and Statement Local Government Elections 2008

Name:

Local Government Area:

Email address:

I believe that climate change is a real and serious threat to our environment, our economy and our society. I believe that all levels of government, business and the community must take urgent action to immediately reduce emissions and help stop dangerous climate change.

I absolutely agree that Climate change is a real and serious issue faced by all of humanity today, how we respond will not be measured by us so much as it is our descendants. Whilst climate change is a highly complex arena, and there is no "Silver Bullet" in sight we can do something. As the global community gains momentum in responding to this issue, it is becoming overwhelming evident that the changes needed will be driven from bottom. The position of waiting for the respective governments to deal with this problem is not a viable one. We can affect immediate flow on changes to our environment and need to do so, on a global scale. This starts with us as individuals. We choose to drive or walk when going a short distance for example, this has an immediate effect. Rather than turning up the heating, we can choose to put on a jumper. I believe that choices like these, if affected in an ongoing and global basis, will have a passive and positive affect.

If elected, I commit to playing my role in ensuring my Local Government:

1. Understands and promote to residents and businesses the likely local impacts of climate change for our community

Agreed.

2. Develop a Climate Change Impacts Response Program to ensure adequate and timely responses to local climate change impacts (i.e. heat wave and flooding events)

Agreed, this needs to be a part of normal town planning protocols in an ongoing basis.

3. Support local climate action groups and active citizens to engage local residents and businesses to take action against climate change.

Agreed provisionally. To get traction on this issue there needs to be a clear, cohesive message and vision promoted. In the past too many opposing or misaligned views has caused delays in gaining and effective response to an issue. I think that Castlemaine has a good mix at the moment but I could not say that I would support any and all future groups without first reviewing each on its own merit.

4. Host or support community purchasing programs for bulk buying of energy

efficiency or renewable energy products eg. Solar panels and solar water heaters

Absolutely Agreed. This co-operative approach should be done to utilise local business capability as well as saving local citizens real money by increasing our buying power and value for every dollar spent.

5. Supports lobbying of State and Federal Governments to:
- a. Increase and improve their policy responses to climate change in order to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Agreed under the current state of affairs

- b. Extend their funding of education on the causes of climate change and the local, national and global impacts of climate change for local communities

Agreed Provisionally. There is a strong set of people who still believe that we are not seeing the most dramatic climate shift in recorded history. I think that there is a need to stick to what we absolutely know and have as established fact. Some of the causes of climate change are still unknown. Incorporation into the current education system syllabus of core and base facts would be easy and immediate. I think that the state must always be very careful of 'regulated' teachings. Having said that, facts speak for themselves and there is no reason that they can not be stipulated by the Dept. of Education.

6. Develop and/or update a Sustainable Transport Plan to help the local community reduce their emissions from transport and cope with climate change

Agreed, again this needs to be a part of normal town planning protocols in an ongoing basis.

7. Improve local community access to sustainable transport options with funding from all levels of Government.

I would Disagree on this issue. I believe that this is cost shifting from Local to other levels of Government. I think the initiative in itself is fine but we need to look locally for funding. If we can not provide for this locally, then it is probably not sustainable in the long term.

8. Promote and support local community renewable energy schemes (eg wind, solar).

Agreed. Landfills and water treatment plants need to be reviewed to consider options for harvesting gas. Power generation can come in many forms – it is also possible to

look at passive geothermal power generation in and other alternatives such as the production of Biodiesel fuels. Our current brown coal electricity is possibly one of the most outdated and inefficient ways of generating power globally.

9. Achieve zero net emissions from Local Government buildings by 2020

Again I see this as being a change driven bottom up by the greater population. Having said that, if local government cant get it happening then we have a real problem. I agree with this but it must be real

10. Require Local Government operations (eg parks and gardens, cleaning, and whether internal or by tender) to identify climate change mitigation measures and targets by 2012.

I agree and again see this as a part of the town planning code that needs developing. If we are talking about public land then this should and must be governed by the public authority. Part of that is reviewing the current usage with a view to future plans and projections.

11. Develop and implement a carbon neutral plan for my local council and our operations to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020.

Agreed, see point 9.

12. Develop and implement a carbon neutral plan for our local community to achieve carbon neutrality by 2020.

Agreed, again see point 9. Local government has a responsibility (as do all levels) to guide and develop the local community. Having said that there are parameters within which you have to operate. People are by their nature reticent to change, this is seen in local government where the same people keep getting elected. There is a fear of the unknown perhaps that takes time to address. I do believe that council can have a better and more lasting effect by using processes such as the MAP 2020 to regulate ongoing business and residential development in a manner that grows our level of carbon neutrality.