

Question
01 This survey is for election candidates only. Are you standing for election in Whitehorse

✓ **Yes**

No

Question
02 Name:

David Coombs

Question
03 Ward you are standing for:

Cootamundra

Eley

Elgar

Kingsley

Lake

✓ **Mahoneys**

Simpson

Sparks

Terrara

Walker

Wattle

Question
04 Are you a current Councillor standing for re-election

YES

✓ **NO**

Question
05 Do you live in the ward?

✓ **YES**

NO

Question
06 For how long have you been a resident of Whitehorse?

Nearly 7 years

Question
07 List relevant community, political and/or professional organisations with which you are/have been actively involved with, your role(s) and the period of your involvement

Whitehorse City Council is independent meaning candidates and councillors are not endorsed or funded by political parties. Councillors should vote according to their conscience; the political affiliation of any candidate is not relevant to performing their role as a councillor.

Question
08 I'm standing for Council because my priorities are:

- 1 An enhanced emphasis on the local environment - trees, parks and streetscapes
- 2 Making sure local business is supported
- 3 Maximising walking & cycling opportunities
- 4 Climate change mitigation initiatives
- 5 To maintain Council services the way they are
- 6 Keeping a tight rein on Budget expenditures
- 7 Minimising the dominance of the car in our society
- 8 Ensuring rates are kept as low as possible
- 9 Other (please note below)

Question
09 If the list above didn't have your main reason(s), please note them here:

I'm standing for Mahoneys ward because as a local with young children I want to do everything I can to ensure this is a great place to grow up. Appropriate development, safe cycling infrastructure, great parks and playgrounds, a focus on our natural environment, and services which support our most vulnerable residents. Safer, convenient, and environmentally friendly transport options are a key part of wanting the City of Whitehorse to be a great place to live.

Question
10

What particular experience and strengths do you have which will help you address those issues and bring about change?

I'm an IT project delivery manager which means I'm constantly reviewing large amounts of data to complete complex tasks, regularly engaging and negotiating with stakeholders, working with people with a broad range of backgrounds and skills, and delivering to deadlines.

For over a decade I've been problem-solving and developing solutions for some of the largest employers in Australia. I'm good at identifying issues, managing my peers to achieve an outcome, and ensuring that stakeholders remain informed in a clear and timely manner.

I see a lot of cross-over between my skillset and the requirements of council; understanding complex issues, negotiation, and developing solutions which benefit our community.

Question
11

Many Councils have a publicly available Community Engagement Framework to ensure good mutual flow of ideas between Council and the community. In relation to Whitehorse adopting a Community Engagement Framework:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
It's essential for good communication				✓
It's important but not urgent at present		✓		
The community is consulted well enough now		✓		
Community views are vital before decisions are made				✓
Council surveys are too simplistic at present			✓	

Question
12

Do you think special interest groups should have agreed opportunities for regular engagement with relevant Officers to share plans and progress, and give specialised advice and feedback?

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
These groups have valuable special knowledge			✓	
Officers are professional and don't need additional advice		✓		
It's an interesting idea for the future but not now.		✓		
Officers consult well enough now		✓		
There are already many ways for groups to say what they think		✓		
These groups are just seeking special advantage for themselves	✓			

Question
13

Do you think special interest groups should have periodic opportunities for engagement with Councillors where ideas can be shared and discussed on a 'round-table' basis?

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
Ward meetings already serve that function			✓	
This could help reduce number of emails and phone calls Councillors receive			✓	
Councillors would benefit from getting specialised advice				✓
Councillors are well enough informed now by officers		✓		
There are already enough ways for groups to say what they think		✓		
Council meetings provide this opportunity to groups already			✓	
An annual round-table type of forum for these groups should be considered.				✓

Question
14

An effect of Covid-19 has been that people are exercising by walking and riding more than previously. Is this an opportunity for Council to take action to facilitate a sustainable, safer and permanent shift to people using Active Transport as a more common mode for local trips, school journeys etc?

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
It's a temporary thing and everything will pretty much go back to normal after Covid-19		✓		
Walking and riding is good for recreation, but it's not viable as a transport mode in Whitehorse		✓		

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
It's a good idea in theory, but Whitehorse can't afford the cost to do much about this	✓			
Whitehorse already does a lot and has longer term plans to make it better		✓		
This is a 'once-in -lifetime' opportunity and Council should do a lot more to ensure this happens				✓

Question 15

Do you have particular views you'd like to share in relation to the last question?

The City of Whitehorse presented the Whitehorse Cycling Strategy in 2016 which has been partially implemented, but one of the key findings referenced in that report was the economic benefit to local business. COVID has caused a great deal of disruption to retail with foot traffic essentially stopping. Moving forward with improved cycling and active transport infrastructure is going to be one of the ways we help revitalise that part of our economy.

Question 16

Do you support Council taking action to repurpose open space, footpaths and roadside parking at shopping centres so that cafes and restaurants can re-open with more patron space outside when restrictions are eased.

If it takes away car parking it wouldn't work

This is good for inner city areas but it's not really practicable in Whitehorse

Council should give this strong consideration

✓ **Council should do this immediately to help local businesses**

Comment: It's critical to support our local business at this time and utilising outside space (weather permitting) not only allows business to restart, but provides an incentive to bring back foot traffic.

Question 17

In your view, with so many more people walking and cycling, what will be the effect on parks, local streets, traffic and the community generally, and what should Council do about this?

With increased foot and cycle traffic we need to ensure there's investment in off-road paths, that our cycling infrastructure connects with local shopping precincts, and provide safer ways to cross the busy roads which run through the City of Whitehorse. My kids are 4 and 7, and are just beginning to ride. I'm acutely aware of the current state of our paths and roads and the options for bicycles.

Question 18

In the Budget, approx 20% of people get approx 80% of the capital budget for formal & non-formal recreation activities.. See the link above. Please choose one statement that best represents your view:

This is unfair and I think non-formal infrastructure should get a more equitable % of capital spent

✓ **It sounds a good idea in theory, but it's difficult to know where extra funds could be spent to redress this imbalance and make a difference to those who only participate in non-formal activities**

Council has always supported formal sports and I think that budget constraints mean that Council can't afford to spend extra on infrastructure for non-formal activity.

I don't see a problem with the way things are

Comment: I don't think any of the above choices accurately capture my thoughts on this topic. Formal sports require infrastructure and there is a positive effect for the wider community from having these formal sports available. I don't agree that these formal sports require significantly less funding but I do think that we need to find more capacity in our budget to support non-formal sports, and the way we maintain and develop our public infrastructure needs to adapt to support this activity. Shared pathways, improved lighting, and more regular maintenance are key to these initiatives.

Question 19

The Whitehorse Cycling Strategy includes building Easy Ride Routes. Considering the need for better cycling facilities identified in the Strategy, and the effects on cycling participation caused by Covid-19, what are your views?

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
Easy ride routes are a good idea and should be implemented quickly			✓	
Taking 4 years to start on the first route is not good enough			✓	
Taking over 10 years to get the first 6 of 20 possible routes is not good enough			✓	
These are a good idea but not particularly urgent		✓		
Council can't afford to spend more \$ on this to speed up implementation		✓		
Having these routes won't have much effect on people riding more	✓			
The routes are all on the road and these routes won't really add to safety for cyclists	✓			

Question 20

You can paste your Candidate Statement into the box below.

As a former CFA volunteer and an independent candidate, I believe it's our responsibility to be active within our community. I want to ensure that no matter whether you're new to the area, raising a family here, or are

anestablished member of the community, your views are represented.

My family and I have lived in (what's now) Mahoneys ward for over 6 years and my kids attend school here. I share your concerns about over-development, the protection of our environment, and the value for money we are receiving from our council rates.

- * If elected I will oppose inappropriate residential development and seek to maintain the character of Mahoneys ward. The city is growing and it's imperative that development is complementary.
- * I will support improvement to traffic management options on our local roads. Our ward is largely residential and traffic volumes must never pose a threat to the safety of our residents.
- * I will seek to improve the play equipment in our reserves. Our ward has a large percentage of families with children under 15 years of age who live near Mahoneys, Forest Hill, and Felicia Dale reserves. Our growing community deserves facilities which meet the needs of these families, and I will endeavour to deliver them.
- * I will support a review of composting programmes to reduce residential waste.
- * I will seek to ensure that our rates continue to provide value for our community. Council rates fund the services and infrastructure which makes living in the City of Whitehorse so special. It's crucial these services and public spaces are maintained.

If you have any questions or feedback please don't hesitate to contact me.
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