

## Your vision for Port Stephens

Pt Stephens Greens Questions for candidates for election to Port Stephens Council in 2017

Port Stephens Greens wish to assess where candidates stand on a range of issues, in order to assess which candidates share our values and priorities.

Candidates should preferably answer Yes or No to each question, but may add comments. In the absence of a Yes or No answer, or if comments qualify the answer, we reserve the right to make our own judgement about whether you do or do not support a proposition, and publicise your response accordingly.

If there is insufficient space for your comments, feel free to attach further pages with cross reference to the relevant Question No.

Please also feel free to send us any other information about your vision for Port Stephens, and what you see yourself offering in pursuit of that vision.

Please return as soon as possible to [email@portstephensgreens.org.au](mailto:email@portstephensgreens.org.au)

Based on your responses, we may invite candidates to address our Local Group.

Thank you.

Name of candidate: **Geoff Dingle** Standing for **Mayor**

Date: 7 August 2017

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</i>
<b>Governance, transparency and accountability</b>	
Q1. Will you support re-introduction of web-casting of Council meetings? <b>I original worked towards it introduction</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Q2. Will you support re-introduction of a Council committee cycle that allows for at least two weeks consideration in public of papers on the Council agenda? <b>Comment?</b> <b>I will work towards one Committee and one Council meeting per month</b>	<b>Y</b>
Q3. Will you support full disclosure of the detailed financial accounts of all Council business enterprises including its Holiday Parks? <b>Comment?</b> <b>I have been frustrated by Councils failure to answer my questions on this matter</b>	<b>Y</b>
Q4. Will you support full disclosure of the costs to Council of legal actions? <b>Comment?</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b><i>Issue</i></b>	<b><i>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</i></b>
<b>Goes without saying</b>	
Q5. Are there any circumstances in which you would favour a merger between Port Stephens and any other adjoining LGA?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>With adequate community consultation and substantive State funding</b>	
<b>Planning approvals and compliance</b>	
Q6. Will you support a minimum public exhibition period of 4 weeks (excluding public holiday weeks) for DAs and other planning proposals which are clearly of major interest or significance to the community?	<b>y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>More if required</b>	
Q7. Will you support giving greater priority and resources to monitoring of compliance with conditions of approvals, and, where necessary, to enforcement yaction?	<b>y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>	
<b>Ecologically sustainable development</b>	
Q8. Do you agree that protection of the natural environment needs to be given greater weight in Council planning and land use decisions? (e.g. to limit land clearing)	<b>y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>Habitat must be preserved across PS</b>	
Q9. Do you accept that man-made climate change is increasing risks from sea level rise and more frequent and intense storms and bush fires, and that Council should adopt policies to adapt to the risks, including by limiting development in low lying areas and in bush fire prone areas?	<b>y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>Current behaviour of ignored building levels, flood plain zones and bush fire zones is not acceptable</b>	

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</b>
Q10. What if any role do you think Council should play in relation to the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>Enforce regulation improve storm water outlet, reduce road pollution, change moorings to environmental systems</b>	
Q11. Do you see any potential for coal seam gas extraction in Port Stephens?	<b>N</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>No we have chased the drill teams out of Fullerton Cove and need to keep it that way</b>	
Q12. Do you agree that proposed expansion of sand mining and hard rock quarrying operations in Port Stephens would impose unacceptable levels of heavy vehicle traffic, habitat destruction and other adverse effects?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>I have fought to stop sandmining at cabbage tree rd and submitted submissions against proposed quarries in the west</b>	
Q13. Should Council actively promote the use of renewable energy and energy conservation, both in its own operations and in the general community?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment:</b>  <b>My Community centre was first to install solar panels on Medowie community centre. This should be happening on all Council buildings.</b> <b>Councils cars need to move to alternatives to oil fuelled engines</b> <b>Methane should be collected from the Bedminster and used to generate energy for reuse.</b>	
Q14. Should Council actively lobby the State Government to implement a ban on the supply by retailers of single use plastic shopping bags, to reduce both the environmental impact and the costs to Council of disposal?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment:</b>  <b>Not sure it's Councils role however I agree on banning plastic bags</b>	

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</b>
<p><b>Koala Protection</b> Q15. Will you support an urgent review and update of the Port Stephens Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management, with a view to stricter protection of koala habitat and movement corridors?</p>	Y
<p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p><b>The KP of M is a good tool just needs to be used correctly. Currently planning staff are ignoring advise from the Environmental staff on KPofM matters. Agree that more resources are required to update mapping in western areas of PS</b></p>	
<p>Q16. Will you support major Council expenditure (up to \$2.8 million) on a Koala hospital/tourist attraction at One Mile Beach which is based on an estimate of 45,0000 visitors a year paying \$15 each within three years of opening?</p>	Y
<p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p><b>If this facility places a focus on our wildlife in general then that's good thing. If it encourages more carers and volunteers that also a good thing. Whether the financial model stacks up remains to be seen.</b></p>	
<p><b>Social, health and welfare policies</b></p>	
<p>Q17. Will you support Council actively working with State and Federal governments to increase the supply of affordable housing in Port Stephens, including more not for profit social housing? (e.g. through Council's zoning and planning functions)</p>	Y
<p><b>Comment?</b></p> <p><b>Starting with my community that desperately needs over 55's and singles accommodation yes of course.</b></p>	
<p><b>Specific local issues</b></p>	
<p><b>Williamtown contamination</b> Q18. Will you support Council actively lobbying for State and Federal Government solutions to the problems of PFOS/PFOA contamination around the Williamtown airport and RAAF base, and back this up with Council action such as better drain management?</p>	Y
<p><b>Comment?</b></p> <p><b>Yes and stopping certain residents from infilling the salt Ash area with materials that potentially push contaminated water into drainage system is part of my motivation.</b></p>	

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</b>
<b>Mambo wetlands</b> Q19. Will you support Council lobbying the State government to buy back the land sold by the Department of Education in 2016 and incorporate it into the Mambo Wetlands Reserve?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>Absolutely</b>	
<b>Tomaree Lodge</b> Q20. Will you seek to ensure that when Tomaree Lodge closes (in 2018), the land is used for public purposes and not sold for private development?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>This is State matter and unless we see a change in the State Government this site will be sold to private enterprise the same will happen with Stockton Hospital if we don't make the political change.</b>	
<b>Nelson Bay Town Centre</b> Q21. Despite Council's recent approval of an apartment building more than double the current height limit, will you support new strict height limits on new buildings in the Nelson Bay town centre to ensure that they do not breach the tree line on the surrounding hills and ridges, when viewed from the foreshore?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>  <b>We have a strategy we need to stick with it or get community consensus on any major changes.</b>	
<b>Your affiliations and preferences</b>	
Q22. Are you a member of a political party, and if so which party? (whether or not you are standing as an independent)	<b>N</b>
<b>Comment:</b>	
Q23. Will you or your Group be directing preferences to any other candidate(s), and if so, which?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b>	

<b><i>Issue</i></b>	<b><i>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</i></b>
<p><b>I will preference any Mayoral candidates not aligned to the Mackenzie voting block current or future associates. I don't care about the colour of their politics.</b></p>	
<p>Q24. Will you be receiving more than \$1000 in financial or in-kind support for your campaign from any one or more donor(s) (person or organisation), and if so who?</p>	<p><b>Y</b></p>
<p><b>Comment?</b></p> <p><b>I have always self-funded and that's how it is this time round.</b></p>	