

## Your vision for Port Stephens

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

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: Ryan Palmer Standing for Mayor and East Ward

Date: 25 July 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?	Y
<b>Comment?</b> Open and transparent council meetings are very important. It will allow for more residents to be involved in our Council, which is very important to me. The more people involved the better results we will have.	
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?	Y
<b>Comment?</b> The current timeframe is too short and does not allow enough time for the public to be involved. It is a priority to review all processes to ensure maximum involvement of our residents	
Q3. Will you support full disclosure of the detailed financial accounts of all Council business enterprises including its Holiday Parks?	Y
<b>Comment?</b> There is no reason not to release any information on Councils enterprises unless there is confidentiality around partners or providers. We need to as transparent as we possibly can be.	

<b><i>Issue</i></b>	<b><i>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</i></b>
Q4. Will you support full disclosure of the costs to Council of legal actions?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b> <b>Total agreeance</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>Any merger would need to be the absolute best option for Port Stephens. Current discussions in my opinion as not in the best interest of Port Stephens residents.</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>Comment?</b> <b>This would be something I would consider and support. Just need to have the qualification of major interest or significance to the community.</b>	
Q7. Will you support giving greater priority and resources to monitoring of compliance with conditions of approvals, and, where necessary, to enforcement action?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b> <b>I agree this and this is of concern the conditions are placed for a reason</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>All applications should be assessed on merit and the natural environment we live in is obviously very important.</b>	

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</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?	Y
<b>Comment?</b> <b>Consideration should be given to all developments in low lying areas and bush fire prone areas. All developments need to be right for the applicants safety and for the rest of Port Stephens.</b>	
Q10. What if any role do you think Council should play in relation to the Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park?	
<b>Comment?</b> <b>Council has a responsibility to work with all agencies to ensure the health and future of our natural environment.</b>	
Q11. Do you see any potential for coal seam gas extraction in Port Stephens?	N
<b>Comment?</b> <b>From what I have seen to date and the response of the people leads me to say no.</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>Comment?</b> <b>A compromise between the community and the involved businesses needs to be found on current proposals. Some of the current proposals are unacceptable. Heavy vehicle along rural roads with Children waiting to attend school is a major concern, along the cost of maintenance.</b>	
Q13. Should Council actively promote the use of renewable energy and energy conservation, both in its own operations and in the general community?	Y
<b>Comment:</b> <b>From a cost point of view and an environmental view this is important.</b>	

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</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>Comment:</b> <b>This is something to consider.</b>	
<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?	
<b>Comment:</b> <b>I support a review of the management plan to ensure a great understanding of the current situation.</b>	
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?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment:</b> <b>I believe if we are going to build a facility like this we must build it right and ensure that it is top class facility (both for the Koalas and visitors). I do believe this will become a major tourist attraction for our area and we will be able to do the right thing by our ratepayers and koalas.</b>	
<b>Social, health and welfare policies</b>	
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)	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b> <b>This is an issue right across Australia and we need to be playing our part here proactively.</b>	
<b>Specific local issues</b>	
<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?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b> <b>I will ensure that we are the lead agency supporting the residents affected by this contamination. I will achieve this by supporting programs to ensure the wellbeing of our residents and working with lead agencies to ensure the quickest solution possible.</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>Issue</b>	<b>Yes (Y) or No (N)?</b>
<b>This should and no doubt should be an election issue at the next state election. I will lobby for the buyback with state counterparts.</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>Comment?</b> <b>I support looking for the most suitable use of the site when all proposals are considered</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>Comment?</b> <b>I support the growth of Nelson Bay by keeping the natural amphitheatre of the town. I support greater height on the ridgelines and towards the south. Even though the development in Church St has been approved (which I agree with), I don't believe it will be open slather. It is our town and we will control any development. If the Church St development had of been in another, more central part of the CBD I would not have supported it.</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> <b>Never have been a member of any political party</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>Yet to be finalised</b>	
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?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Comment?</b> <b>Yet to be determined</b>	

