

ALBURY COUNCIL CANDIDATES 2016 – CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY RESPONSES



Albury Council candidates were emailed four climate change questions in August 2016.

We were unable to obtain email addresses for the following candidates, hence they didn't receive our survey:

GOFF Ken	KUNDE Christian	LINDNER John	SPITTAL Helen	FRANKS Hayley
CLEMENTS Phil	MARION Rob	STUCHBERY John	MARTIN Chris	EMERY Teresa
MANNERING Ordette	HASSARATI Carolyn	KING Murray	HOGAN Jeff	FRANKS Brad
MOORE John	CAMERON Leanne	CALE Josh	VAN DE VEN Sue	

The following candidates were emailed but did not respond, in some cases their number one ticket holder replied on their behalf:

DOCKSEY Graham	MAMOUNEY Jennifer	HUDSON Geoffrey	HARBUTT Helen
GRAY Vicki	MITCHELL Ann	PATTINSON Jillian	JACKSON Ross

RESPONSES FROM CANDIDATES:

* Q4. How you/your ticket rates the importance of climate action on a five point scale, where one indicates climate action is a low priority and five indicates it's a high priority.

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THURLEY David	A	Yes the matter is critical and all the evidence is that the rate of change is increasing so urgent action is needed as well as the implementation of longer term measures	In my first 4 years I was a strong advocate for the installation of solar panels and along with the Mayor was responsible for bringing forward the programme to see earlier installation. This programme continues. In this term I will continue to advocate for clean energy alternatives wherever possible. For example, I will advocate for hybrid or complete electric cars when small fleet cars that only operate in and around Albury are to be replaced.	Yes I do because I would like to ensure that future generations, such as my grandchildren do not have to deal with the problems that will come with climate change. This is the first generation dealing with a problem that has such a long horizon and our political system and leaders do not have the ability or will to deal with this. It will need strong public pressure to make changes and I have to speak out.	5
CAMERON Darren COUNTRY LABOR	B	Yes	By supporting ethical investment and ensuring compliance where possible on council buildings and other works.	Yes. Because climate change is real and I fear for the future of our children.	5

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LIGHTFOOT Emily ALBURYCITY RATEPAYERS	C	<p>My response to your three questions can probably be summed up with a single answer:</p> <p>That is, that ACRM (AlburyCity Ratepayers) is here to represent the ratepayers and community of Albury. As lead candidate on the ACRM ticket, this is the cornerstone of my election platform & will be my primary guiding principle if elected to Council.</p> <p>If WATCH, which is a locally based advocacy group, has some specific ideas that can be put to Council as a motion, or alternatively has an objection to specific upcoming motions, then I invite WATCH to communicate them to me - my door is always open.</p> <p>If WATCH can also provide evidence of broad based support from the Albury community about the issue, then that will give WATCH's position additional weighting when I am considering how to vote on the issue(s) as Councillor. (This demonstration of community support may take the form of any combination of online or hard copy petitions, constituent correspondence, fundraising towards a project, street rallies, etc).</p> <p>One additional point I would like to make is that <u>at no time</u> will I ever turn down the opportunity for Albury to acquire six Tesla car charging stations <i>for free</i>, even if this requires a bit of work regarding locating a site and arranging some extra funding for installation and ongoing costs (whether it be sourced from the Council, the state government, federal government, directly from the community or a combination – where there is a will there is a way). I fear that offers like that come but once in a lifetime. I would love to see the names of the individuals that took it upon themselves to turn down this very generous offer, made to all the people of Albury, to be published in the Border Mail so they get the opportunity to fully explain themselves.</p> <p>http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3396423/plug-pulled-on-charger-by-albury/</p>			NR
GLACHAN Alice	D	<p>[One response on behalf of all five members of this ticket]</p> <p>Albury City's 2030 Plan identifies the issues you raise and therefore recognises they are ongoing considerations in the future planning for Albury and its community. To ensure a sustainable future for our city, we should always (OR whenever possible) seek to move towards more sustainable and cost effective types of energy, as well as development. There is no one solution and there should not be one focus by council.</p> <p>The 2030 Plan is a working document, created in consultation with our community and as such Albury City has already identified and implemented some strategies to reduce pollution, ensure cleaner energy and reduce climate change. Some of these are our 3 bin system, reduction of carbon emissions, reduced water consumption, encouragement of businesses and industry to participate in the Commonwealth's Clean Energy Future initiatives, support and encouragement to use alternate transport measure and in 2011 the establishment of the Sustainability Advisory Committee. These strategies are ongoing and should continue to be considered along with many others in the future planning for the City of Albury.</p> <p>The role of Councillors, is to ensure our community are informed, engaged and supportive of changes as we move towards reducing our footprint on the environment. Council is a leader in the community and therefore needs not only to be seen to be doing the right thing, but to also be actually doing the right thing!</p> <p>However, whilst a leader, Council must also be mindful to move towards greater sustainability in a responsible and managed way so as to not needlessly create overly onerous issues for the community in either radically increased costs or diminution of services. Eg: we could not, for example say that there will be absolutely no waste to go to landfill by 2017, or that all Council buildings will be lit by solar power by 2017, etc, as these will continue to need time for the community and our infrastructure to be able to accommodate this. However we do need to move at a sufficiently significant pace to make our end goals achievable as soon as possible.</p> <p>We would like to highlight the significant work done more recently with the increasing use of solar panels on the larger and more suitable council facilities, the significant work done with the waste facility enhancements, with more particularly the recycle opportunities and the organics waste programme, as well as the changes to the investment policy with regards to fossil fuel.</p>			5

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COHN Amanda THE GREENS	E	I absolutely support an urgent transition away from fossil fuels. The latest research shows meeting the 1.5 degree target set at the Paris Conference will be next to impossible given the current trends, and it is critical we act as quickly and as strongly as we can.	<p>There are so many ways local government can support measures towards zero pollution. Making sure Albury's growth is sustainable into the future in terms of both our natural environment as well as public health will be my top priority and I would love to see Albury eventually become a carbon neutral community. Here are a handful of ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investment in public transport and active transport infrastructure to reduce reliance on private cars eg. buses/light rail/bike paths and overpasses etc - Make electric car charging spaces available, especially near the freeway - New housing developments to meet strict environmental guidelines including being adequately insulated (to reduce energy consumption), have solar panels, gardens of native vegetation only - Seek and encourage investment in large renewable energy projects to be built in Albury, such as the future solar farm at Wangaratta - Divest council finances further from investment in fossil fuels - A ban on single-use plastic shopping bags - More community gardens to produce food locally and reduce food-miles - Providing grants to community renewable energy and other environmental projects through groups like WATCH and RAW - Continuing our 3-bin system as part of the Halve Waste program and educating the community about how to recycle and use the green bin effectively. <p>As a Greens councillor, I would also have access to the wealth of policy and campaigning experience of other Greens in local government across NSW and Victoria. I could continue to bring influential figures like Jeremy Buckingham to Albury to support the work of local community groups like yourselves.</p> <p>As a public figure and (hopefully) elected official I will always speak strongly on the science of climate change and the evidence that it is already affecting us. I would endeavour to change the public debate from "is it real" to "what can we be doing about it now".</p>	These are among the reasons I became involved in politics and joined the Greens. Climate change is not only the biggest threat to human health, it's the #1 challenge facing my generation and we cannot afford not to take stronger action. Action I've taken in my personal life to reduce my own carbon footprint include giving up red meat entirely, paying for 100% green power to my (rented) unit, buying local produce, walking or cycling to work most days, and making long trips (eg to Melbourne) by train. As well as this I've been an environmental activist for years through groups like the Greens and Doctors for the Environment Australia.	5

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SOBEY Christina THE GREENS	E	Fully support the need for an urgent transition to clean energy	Urge Council to ensure new housing developments design their homes with alignment to the north (not to the street) to make full use of the sun, wide eaves verandahs if possible; and that a block is set aside for verge gardens and/or housing of renewable energy infrastructure; for making of more bike paths; implementing permanent water restrictions;	Yes, I personally support the need to do so, as I believe time is running out, our coastlines are going to get a battering while wind, fire, droughts and all manner of pestilence and social chaos is the alternative to doing nothing.	-
MACK Kevin	F	We have initiated a fossil fuel policy with any long term investments of council funds. Where appropriate we believe we need to send a strong message to fossil fuel supporters that it is not O.K. I am aware of the need to initiate further policy around this issue, particularly the issue of fracking and the associated impacts that it has on the environment world wide.	I am a strong supporter of the Halve Waste campaign and I am currently working with both councils to initiate a linear bus system to encourage a reliable mode of public transport to offer alternatives to ratepayers on both sides of the border. Further we as a councillor group have introduced policy regarding alternative energy sources and we have funded the installation of photovoltaics on all of our facilities. Something that wasn't in previous budgets.	Yes, our children need to have a future and this needs to start locally. Halve waste, linear bus routes, photovoltaic energy sources are all important to this outcome. I am fully supportive of your journey and will enable it where possible.	5
VAN DE VEN Henk	G	I support a transition to clean energy. Council policy, changed under my stewardship, has a focus on investment in areas not dependent on fossil fuels. Go to the last Finance and Administration meetings that I chaired, and look at the report titled Investment Balances to get an idea of the significance of the change in our investment portfolio compared to say 18 months ago.	I am a climate change fence sitter, not a skeptic nor an advocate, so I won't address the issue taking into account the word "dangerous". I was the driving force on Council to install solar panels on Council buildings, I am forever conscious of saving resources, I have been a huge supporter of Council 3 bin system to reduce waste, and also the methane gas harvesting at the landfill for electricity generation. I have been a driver of change in many Council areas, and have forced staff to look at purchasing more efficient vehicles, pumps and drives. We can do more, except for resistance from electricity distributors around street lighting being more efficient.	I personally drive a vehicle with around 6.0 litres per 100k fuel economy, and am selling it (does anyone want to buy - carsales.com Peugeot 508 wagon 140K on the clock) and am buying a vehicle with 5.1 l/100k economy. I have approximately 5KW of solar panels on my roof at home, plus the hot water system solar panels. We also use solar powered electric fences. So, yes I do care, and yes I do try to do my little bit for the environment.	NR

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EASTOE Bert	H	I support transition away from Fossil fuels with urgency provided it is based on an comprehensive National energy strategy. The alternate energy markets have to be robust and have adequate structure to ensure consumers are not severely penalised and that supply can match demand. The lessons from South Australia indicate the lack of a comprehensive plan could lead to significant price escalation.	Climate variation is here to stay and pollution is one aspect. This region must address the effects of water contamination and the blue Green algae blooms that occurring in major water ways. This extends beyond Albury and the efforts of catchment management authorities in excluding stock from water ways should be commended and supported. Providing electric car recharge station should be supported as this technology becomes more accessible to consumers.	Climate change and with it climate variation will have significant impact on the community and Council has a responsibility with all levels of Government to assist with change. This is likely to change frequency of bushfires and response to them. Albury has over 7,000 hectares of E3 land and an estimated 7,000 of other land that cannot be developed for residential use. It is important that this can be protected and defended. The (climate action) rating is at 3-4 but response cannot be at any price. It is most important that there is a strategic response that is adopted by all levels of Government. Communities must be active in their response to climate change and embrace efforts to reduce acceleration of climate change.	3-4
SIMPSON Peter	H	Your question is as simplistic analysis of what is a complex issue. I agree we need to reduce greenhouse emissions at a pace which our economy can absorb.	This question contains several assumptions which makes it impossible to answer in a sensible way, but see 1 above.	Yes. See 1 above.	NR
DAVYS Ruth		In short my answer to all three questions is YES. I do personally care about cutting pollution and ridding our land of polluting fossil fuels and moving towards clean energy. I care about cutting pollution. I support clean energy and want to address dangerous climate change. My family use the three bin system, recycle and reuse where ever possible. I actively seek out opportunities for my young family to learn about this as they are our future. They will be raised with this value and use this everyday as "normal behavior" and what people do for the sustainability of our environment. I will use my position on the Albury City council to make the community aware of Wiradjuri ways of caring for land, water and our mother earth. This is very strongly linked to my heritage as a First Nations person, and as such drives my passion for looking after out land, river and water systems, our clean air and educating the wider community. As Chairperson of the Riverina Murray Regional Alliance i work with a range of stakeholders and in particular the office of environment and heritage and the local land services offices across the nine areas of our footprint. Right now there is a working committee set up and am working on "applying traditional ecological knowledge to climate change adaption." It is important to consider the old ways of doing, how we looked after our land for the future generations. Clean Fuel v fossil fuel, really a no brainer. Its better for everything, the environment, our health, our earth, its sustainable. Living in the country means everything to me. I moved from Sydney many years ago due to the pollution, both environmental and noise. Lets work together to create a sustainable future towards a cleaner fuel and cleaner environment for our future generations. Again thank you for this opportunity to share some of my stance with you and your members.			5

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VAN EMMERIK Gerard		I am in support of a transition from fossil fuels towards the use of clean energy options. How quickly this can occur is dependent on a range of factors. Issues such as current legislation, mandated targets, budget allocation for energy purchases and existing energy contracts will all impact on how quickly this can occur.	Council is already moving forward with a focus towards zero pollution. The \$2.4 million recycling centre, which is close to completion, is evidence of this. I would support any change in procurement policy that ensures a focus on a higher percentage of recycling of any waste product (e.g. building material) and gives preference to green / environmental solutions. This is particularly important in respect any new technology or systems that provide improved environmental outcomes for the City. There are strong regional examples of moves towards zero to landfill (some manufacturers locally have already reached that goal) so I would encourage Council to investigate and learn from these businesses with the ultimate aim of reaching this goal as soon as possible.	Yes I do personally care about reducing pollution and the use of clean energy however I would not consider myself an environmentalist. Supporting clean energy and reducing the impacts of climate change for me is all about leaving a legacy for our kids so they don't need to do all the heavy lifting. If we can make a start it shows them that the environment is an important issues and that positive change can occur through action.	4