

WODONGA COUNCIL CANDIDATES 2024 – CLIMATE CHANGE SURVEY RESPONSES

- A total of 19 candidates across seven Wards are standing for election in the 2024 Wodonga Council election.
- Eighteen candidates were emailed a survey containing three climate change questions. One, (Brett Baird) did not receive our survey because he was uncontactable (did not provide email address or phone number and did not respond to Facebook Messenger).
- Candidates were given a week to respond and, if needed, were sent a reminder via text or Facebook Messenger.
- Nine candidates completed the survey (including at least one candidate per Ward). Nine candidates did not respond (Ron Mildren, Libby Hall, Danny Chamberlain, Tim Quilty, Olga Quilty, Josh Knight, Hannah Seymour, Ferro Lorence and Clare Parslow).

RESPONSES FROM CANDIDATES (in alphabetical order of Wards)

* Q1. How do you rate the importance of climate action on a ten-point scale, where one indicates low priority and five indicates high priority?

** Q2. If elected, would you use your position as a councillor to reduce emissions from Council and the community?

Candidate Name	Name of Ward	Q1. Climate action rating*	Q2. Reduce emissions?**	Q3. If 'yes' to question 2, how would you help reduce emissions from Council and the community? (200 word limit)
Lu Pelizzari	Baranduda Range	10	Yes	<p>1. Firstly I would encourage Wodonga Council to join over 100 other Australian Council's including Albury, in declaring a Climate Emergency.</p> <p>2. Advocate for Council's exclusive use of energy from renewable sources, and ensure all new Council Buildings are fitted with solar. Encourage and support our community to adopt sustainable alternatives particularly in new housing, by providing education and incentives.</p> <p>3. Provide increased infrastructure to enable more walking and riding and improve council's public transport network to help minimise car usage.</p> <p>4. Encourage expansion of Wodonga's Urban Forest by suggesting a "free tree program"; giving residents the opportunity to obtain an allocation of free local native trees or shrubs to plant on their property.</p> <p>In addition I would also encourage Council to explore the possibility of planting "food forests" as part of Wodonga's Urban Forest expansion; similar to the Community Gardens concept.</p>
Matt Burke	Barnawartha North	10	Unsure	[No response]
Michelle Cowan	Barnawartha North	10	Yes	<p>I have studied climate economics and maintain an active interest in strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions. I would be encouraging the adoption of leading-edge initiatives for reducing emissions in Wodonga - there are usually longer term cost advantages to be gained for Council and ratepayers. All of Council's energy requirements are currently powered by 100% renewables. Council can embrace best practices in planning, strategies for green infrastructure and energy efficiency buildings, waste reduction, water savings, smart technology, EV fleet and charging stations, sustainable procurement and investment policies. Council can be a change</p>

				leader by increasing community awareness of ways to reduce the overall emissions for the whole of Wodonga.
Rachael Voogt	Barnawartha North	10	Yes	Advocate for renewable energy. Advocate for council to declare climate emergency to create more awareness. Advocate for more walk/ride/scooter to school and work days. Look into how our waste is transported, are there better ways?
Cassie Aldridge	Huon Creek	8	Yes	I will advocate for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through effective mitigation strategies. I will carefully consider the impact of climate change when making key decisions, whether strategic or operational, and when shaping policy positions. I will also back initiatives aimed at preserving natural resources, ensuring a healthy and safe community for all.
Graeme Simpfordorfer	Lake Hume	8	Yes	I would advocate for a comprehensive approach to reducing emissions, focusing on both Council operations and the wider community. For the Council, further adoption of renewable energy solutions, such as solar installations on public buildings, reduction or transitioning for some of the Council fleet, and improving energy efficiency in facilities. I'd also support a review of green procurement policies, ensuring that goods and services purchased by the Council are environmentally sustainable. For the community, I would advocate for initiatives to encourage residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. This would include expanding access to public transportation, cycling infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging stations. Education campaigns on reducing waste, energy usage, and promoting sustainable practices like composting and recycling would be further enhanced. Finally, I would seek partnerships with state and federal governments, as well as local organisations, to develop innovative solutions that both reduce emissions and stimulate economic growth, ensuring Wodonga remains a leader in environmental sustainability while maintaining a strong, vibrant community for future generations.
Danny Lowe	Marimba Park	8	Yes	My intent has not changed, I will continue to implement change towards zero emissions, including solar lighting along all our path networks, tree plantings, design controls over any new buildings and the continued procurement of fleet vehicles and power.
Ash Gill	Racecourse	10	Yes	To effectively reduce emissions from both Council and the community, I believe it is essential to start by listening to and engaging with the community's thoughts and priorities on this issue. Education plays a crucial role in this process. I would advocate for a stronger emphasis on educating the public about the existing waste management systems and the benefits of renewable energy sources. Additionally, exploring innovative approaches like alternative forms of concrete could address one of the major contributors to emissions, as cement production is a significant

				<p>concern. To successfully implement these initiatives, I would advocate for the investment in the Council's sustainability team. Providing them with the necessary resources, skills, and support, would ensure they have clear objectives and a strong sense of purpose. This investment will empower them to make meaningful contributions to reducing emissions and positively impact the broader community. I believe that over the years, we will see a substantial return on this investment.</p>
Michael Gobel	Sumsion Gardens	9	Yes	<p>Advocate for proper resourcing of Council's Sustainability department with the departure of 2 key officers that have not been replaced.</p> <p>I would encourage Council to enter partnerships with organisations where it made sound financial sense for example procurement of goods and services that reduce Council's emissions.</p> <p>In addition where we have the private sector proposing renewable projects, they engage in genuine community consultation to ensure concerns are appropriately addressed.</p>