

JRA Questionnaire for Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council election candidates

Candidate name: PETER MARSHALL, ON BEHALF OF THE GREENS FOR QPRC

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The Jerrabomberra Residents' Association Inc. (JRA) requests
all candidates answer the following questions.

The results of this questionnaire will be published throughout the community prior to the election.

Topic: Traffic and road planning		
Issue: <i>The JRA supports the construction of Dunns Creek Road from the Monaro Hwy to Old Cooma Road to be completed before the 7th year of the Googong town development.</i>	Agree/Disagree/Abstain	Comments
Question 1: Would you act & vote in a manner to help ensure Dunns Creek Road is developed as priority infrastructure project?	AGREE	All decisions and road funding and construction, and other transport options, must be subject to a comprehensive review of current and future transport needs in Queanbeyan and the surrounding region. The Greens support community calls for a Sustainable Integrated Transport Strategy.
Question 2: How would you help achieve this?		Greens councillors will work to initiate a comprehensive study of the current and future transport needs of the whole region. The current transport plan being developed by QPRC has been rushed, is based on old Census data, has had minimal community consultation and is undermined by the council's decision to proceed to build the Ellerton Drive Extension before developing a Sustainable Integrated Transport Strategy

Issue 2: <i>Jerrabomberra residents are concerned that construction of the EDE will result in the ELP being used as a Queanbeyan by-pass, effectively cutting the suburb in two with a dangerously busy road</i>	Agree/Disagree/Abstain	Comments
	AGREE	Funnelling traffic from Queanbeyan and new housing developments along Old Cooma Rd, in particular Googong, through Jerrabomberra just shifts the problem elsewhere. There are serious safety concerns for residents, including school children, trying to cross ELP if traffic volumes double as council traffic forecasts indicate. There are also adverse health impacts for residents living adjacent to ELP.
Question 1: Do you support the construction of the Ellerton Drive Extension (EDE)?	NO	The EDE would direct traffic through, not around, suburbs and isn't a bypass at all. Queanbeyan needs another flood- proof river-crossing, and may need a bypass, but funnelling traffic through Jerrabomberra just shifts the problem elsewhere. There are sensible, cheaper, more effective

		and less disruptive options for a second river crossing which have not been properly considered. Other more effective road options include Dunns Creek Rd and the northern bypass.
Question 2: How would you help achieve this?		Greens councillors will work to initiate a comprehensive study into the current and future transport needs of Queanbeyan and the surrounding region before any decisions are taken on funding particular roads in a piecemeal fashion.
Issue 3: <i>We strongly believe that the EDE will not solve Queanbeyan's or Jerrabomberra's traffic problems, and is more likely to make them worse.</i>	Agree/Disagree/Abstain AGREE	Comments Shifting traffic from one location to another is not a solution. More effective road options were not properly assessed as part of the Googong and Tralee traffic study.
Question 1: what is your plan for a sustainable traffic solution for Queanbeyan?		Greens councillors will work to initiate a comprehensive study of the transport (not just road) needs of Queanbeyan and the surrounding region. This needs to include provision of public transport, cycling infrastructure, and even the provision of local employment hubs to reduce the need for inter-town transport. Traffic increase is not a given, if each population centre becomes more self-sufficient in terms of employment, education and leisure opportunities.
Question 2: How would you help achieve this?		As above, a comprehensive study which aims to establish, but also potentially steer transport needs, not just react to them in a kneejerk fashion. It's important that this work involves the ACT government and its departments to ensure improved transport services and infrastructure are fully integrated across the territory/state border in recognition of the high degree of mobility between jurisdictions.
Question 3: If the EDE proceeds, what measures will you support to mitigate the impact on traffic through Jerrabomberra?		If the EDE proceeds, QPRC must still investigate future transport options (including a Northern Bypass, Dunns Creek Road, public transport and cycling infrastructure) to reduce the impact of EDE and Googong traffic on Jerrabomberra.

Topic: Infrastructure and investment in community

Issue 4:	Agree/Disagree/Abstain	Comments
<p><i>The JRA supports the development of a major district sporting centre and community facility. Including an indoor aquatic centre, athletics facilities and additional sports fields etc. to be developed in the Poplars area, Jerrabomberra Valley for the benefit of all in the Queanbeyan and Palerang Region.</i></p>	<p>AGREE</p>	
<p>Question 1: How would you help achieve this?</p>		<p>QPRC's population centres should be made more self-sufficient, not just to reduce inter-town transport needs, but also to reduce wasted time, money and the environmental impacts of travelling between towns for employment, education and leisure. We note plans for a major sporting facility for the Jerrabomberra area but understand funding has not been secured. A high school in Jerrabomberra could be key to provision of sports and leisure facilities – the high school will need and use them, and the children will remain in Jerrabomberra throughout the day, giving them more time to use the facilities rather than spending time on and waiting for buses to Queanbeyan and the ACT.</p>

Topic: Ensuring engagement and representation

Issue 5:	Agree/Disagree/Abstain	Comments
<p><i>The JRA is concerned about the reduced representation with the merged Council, the expanded Council having only 11 Councillors.</i></p>	<p>AGREE</p>	<p>The Greens have led the opposition to forced council mergers and our position is that a binding plebiscite be held on whether the merger should be reversed. The expanded area for fewer councillors to cover is of some concern. The LGA population is growing and yet will have fewer councillors to represent it.</p>
<p>Question 1: How do you intend to engage and be inclusive of all QPRC residents and in particular of Jerrabomberra residents?</p>		<p>Greens councillors are committed to better community involvement in council decision-making. This can be achieved through different approaches including: using technology to make it easier for people in geographically dispersed areas to participate in council meetings; establishing roundtables of different groups on particular policy issues (e.g. transport planning); establishing precinct committees for different communities to provide regular opportunities for discussion and consultation. (Palerang's multiple</p>

		“Section 355” committees offer a useful mode.) The most suitable approach will be influenced by the specific needs of each community.
Question 2: How would you help achieve this?		See response to Q1, which sets out a range of approaches to achieve better engagement and inclusion of residents.

Topic: Priorities and recurrent expenditure

Issue 6:	Agree/Disagree/Abstain	Comments
<i>The JRA appreciates the scale of implementing and maintaining infrastructure and facilities covered by QPRC. With budget limitations priorities need to be set to ensure adequate and equitable services are provided to all residents.</i>		
Question 1: How would you ensure the priorities are focused across all areas of the region? What areas in Jerrabomberra do you see as priorities?	AGREE	<p>A growing community creates increased demand for services and facilities. Funding these is not always easy. Cost shifting by federal and state governments also creates more demand on local government, which presents financial challenges. It's important that the way we raise revenue is fair and that council is careful about debt financing. The Greens are proposing a review of the rating system to ensure that it is fair. Greens councillors will also work for a complete review of the debt raised under Administration of the council. The contribution developers make should also be reviewed. For example, QCC provided exemptions from s94 contributions for certain categories of development.</p> <p>Specifically, the EDE has the potential to seriously impact on quality of life in Jerrabomberra, and every attempt needs to be made to stop it going ahead. Jerrabomberra also needs to be more self-sufficient in terms of leisure/sports, employment and education infrastructure, particularly given foreshadowed housing development in Jerrabomberra Valley. Council can both lobby for this, but also provide some of the infrastructure, such as a library with office and meeting and videoconferencing facilities, for people who work from home.</p>
Question 2: How would you help achieve this?		Council needs to lobby the NSW government to change its position on a high school for Jerrabomberra, and council should allocate funding for its

		own infrastructure in Jerrabomberra, such as a library and sports/leisure facilities.
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Name and Signature of candidate and date:

Name : Peter Marshall on behalf of The Greens Signature: _____ Date : 14/08/2017