

**Combined Residents of Whitehorse
Action Group (CROWAG) Incorporated.**

ABN 40385662637 Inc. No A0104002C

Email - crowag.inc@gmail.com

Web - www.crowag.org



Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2020

Name of Councillor candidate: [Anne Makhijani.](#)

Whitehorse Council Ward: [Mahoneys.](#)

The *Combined Residents of Whitehorse Action Group Inc. (CROWAG)* represents a number of community groups and individual members across the municipality. In the current COVID-19 environment we are seeking to assist candidates to reach our members, helping them to make informed decisions when they vote.

CROWAG advocates for appropriate and sustainable development concerning built-form, public amenity, and the natural landscape within Whitehorse to all tiers of government. It seeks to promote the quality of life for residents and the natural landscape of Whitehorse. It lobbies Whitehorse Council to improve its relationship with its constituents in the areas of public accountability, public transparency, good governance, community engagement, fairness and equity.

Your responses to this questionnaire will be made available:

- a. to all CROWAG individual and group members and their networks within Whitehorse
- b. on the CROWAG website at www.crowag.com

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Please answer all questions and keep written responses to each question to less than 150 words.

1. How long have you been a resident of Whitehorse?

- 0-5 years
6-10 years
11-15 years
16-20 years
20+ years

2. Do you live in the council ward for which you are a candidate?

Yes or No Mahoneys is the ward where I have done a lot of voluntary community work in.

3. List the community, political and/or professional organisations with which you have been involved during the last 10 years.
Bellbird Dell Advisory Committee, Monash University Ethics Committee, Extended Families Australia, Friends of the Healesville Freeway Reserve, Bungalook Nursery, Whitehorse Reconciliation Advisory Committee, Nunawading Community Gardens, Gardens for Wildlife Whitehorse and Gardens for Wildlife Victoria. I also served on three Owners Corporation committees.
4. What positive achievements resulted from your membership of these groups?
The HFR reserve has been successfully saved, the Bellbird Dell vegetation has been vastly improved, Gardens for Wildlife was started in Whitehorse and is now an ongoing program due to community support, the program is also successfully being rolled out across Victoria having a positive and beneficial impact on habitat improvement on private land. I was able to save a total of \$100,000 for two Owners Corporations by identifying incorrect billing, it took two years and forensic examination of documents to prove it and have it accepted by the responsible company. This is to list some of the benefits I have been able to make to groups I have been involved with.
5. Please state what you want to achieve as an elected Councillor
I want urgent, meaningful effective action on Climate change, to support the community and business deal with the impact of COVID. I also want a more Sustainable City, with a measurable reduction of waste to landfill, currently there has been no reduction since 2012-13. This will be an environmental as well as a financial benefit. Efficient energy use at all Council buildings will also have dual benefits. More effective education on recycling to drive change in community behaviour. Opposition to excessive and inappropriate development. I want to see better service delivery despite rate capping, infact with the way the community is hurting at the moment, I do not support rate increases till there is recovery from the impact of COVID.
6. What are the top five issues you believe could improve the functioning of the *Whitehorse City Council* in representing its ratepayers and community?
 - 1) Climate change
 - 2) Curbing wasteful expenditure
 - 3) Waste management & Energy efficiency
 - 4) Protecting the environment
 - 5) Active living
7. There are many important roles of Local Government. As a Councillor you will need to make difficult decisions with many issues of importance competing for your vote, council action and finances. Whitehorse Council's responsibilities are listed below.

In the boxes below, please **rank the roles that are most important to you** from 7 (Most important) to 1 (Least important). Please do not use the same ranking number more than once.

4	Children and Families including childcare, kindergartens, maternal and child health, playgroups, immunisation
6	Health and Wellbeing including disability services, home and community care, meals on wheels, food safety
5	Residential and Commerce including strategic development, planning, and building, business development, animal registrations, rubbish collection and recycling
1	Sport and Leisure including sportsgrounds and pavilions, aquatic and leisure centres, Morack golf club
7	Non-structured Recreational activities including cycleways and shared use paths, parks and gardens, bushland, and open space
2	Roads and Safety including management of roads and footpaths, streetscapes (including street trees), street lighting, car and bike parks, pedestrian and cycling safety and security, disabled accessibility
3	Community including library services, theatre and the arts, community centres, volunteering, community grants

8. The following Issues of specific interest to CROWAG.

In the boxes below, please **rank the priority of the issues** in order of importance **to you** from 10 (Most important) to 1 (Least important). Please do not use the same ranking number more than once.

4	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
6	Transparency and governance in council matters
10	Council response to Climate Change and Sustainability issues in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and urgency
7	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
5	Council rates and capital expenditure policies

2	Administration of Council's planning and building provisions in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme (WPS) e.g. overall level of development in the city, building site compliance requirements, general administration including inspections, Planning Permit Conditions compliance, administration of tree and vegetation controls, tree retention and protection on building sites, ensuring compliance with landscape and planting plans, community consultation, fines and prosecution for transgressors
9	The city's natural landscape, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity considerations
8	Provision of infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
3	Management and utilization of the city's parks, open spaces, and linkages (e.g. shared use paths, waterways, and residential streets)
1	Traffic issues in Whitehorse

9. If you have any further comments please note them below:

The issues listed for ranking are at times connected, therefore consideration will need to be given to the big picture. Also depending on circumstances an issue can be more or less important, so this ranking system can be a bit simplistic and not truly reflect views.

Thank you for completing the CROWAG questionnaire.

For further queries contact CROWAG secretary David Berry on 0413 457 184

Please save your completed questionnaire and send it as an attachment by email to 'Whitehorse Councillor Candidate Responses' at:
crowag.inc@gmail.com