

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

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## **Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2020**

**Name of Councillor candidate:** [Blair BARKER](#)

**Whitehorse Council Ward:** [ELGAR](#)

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](http://www.crowag.com)

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### 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

- 3. List the community, political and/or professional organisations with which you have been involved during the last 10 years.**

Whitehorse Colts Junior Football Netball Club, Auskick Co-ordinator, Coach, AFL Junior Coach of the Year 2014, MC for all club nights (10 years) Social media helper, events volunteer, goal umpire.

Kerrimuir Cricket Club, multi year,Milo cricket coach, Veterans player (10 years)

Mont Albert Cricket Club, Coach for Australia Day Chinese kids have a go day (3+ years)

Friends of Mont Albert Reserve, participant, Councillor and social activities(3+ years)

Friends of Eram Park ( defeated YVW plan to build a sewage plant/NELP concession (advocacy, made it off lead)

Surrey Park Swimming Club, volunteer

Blackburn Basketball Club, volunteer

Friends of Trinity Rugby, fund raising, volunteer

Kerrimuir Primary School volunteer landscaping, fund rasing

Trinity Grammar School, working with Children, parent helper, fund raising, events volunteer

Liberal Part of Victoria (Box Hill) Campaigning for Robert Clark

Box Hill RSL, Veterans Advocacy (I do receive a small DVA pension from injuries sustained during Army Service that is not related to this)

In local government there are many eg MAV for professional training

In HR consulting again many such as AHRI, RCSA for training

- 4. What positive achievements resulted from your membership of these groups?**

Coached hundreds of girls and boys in AFL and Cricket, and other sports including helping to build one of the larger girls AFL programs in Victoria. I have been a positive influence in the lives of others, including children with disabilities. I have made a positive contribution to each organisation. I am a positive person, I like people and enjoy working with others to goal. I have been able to connect people.

- 5. Please state what you want to achieve as an elected Councillor**

Whitehorse to be the most liveable part of the most liveable city on earth. I want to continue to develop my Councillor skills for the benefit of others. I have a high profile, have made Television appearances and been interviewed on radio (ABC and 3AW) multiple times, on diverse topics. I am to continue to be a high profile advocate for the people of Whitehorse. I am widely viewed as accessible and have a very active in person and on line 'listening process' that I intend to develop further. I want to continue to solve problems, eg like the Box Hill to Hawthorn bike trail. I want to help drive real innovation at council, to lower financial and environmental costs and improve the amenity of the area. I want to help the community adapt to food organic recycling service. I have undertaken very wide

consultation with the community about outdoor dining as a covid response, I want to help the community recover from the pandemic.

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) Innovation to reduce financial and environmental costs
  - 2) Building confidence in Council by ensuring it is open, transparent and accountable to the people
  - 3) Enhanced communications, from citizens to council and council to citizens
  - 4) Elect great councillors that are active and connected in the community
  - 5) Click to enter text.

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.

I wont answer this, eg <b>Immunisation is really part of health and well being, so is rubbish</b>	<b>Children and Families including childcare, kindergartens, maternal and child health, playgroups, immunisation</b>
Rank	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> including disability services, home and community care, meals on wheels, food safety
Rank	<b>Residential and Commerce</b> including strategic development, planning, and building, business development, animal registrations, rubbish collection and recycling
Rank	<b>Sport and Leisure</b> including sportsgrounds and pavilions, aquatic and leisure centres, Morack golf club
Rank	<b>Non-structured Recreational activities</b> including cycleways and shared use paths, parks and gardens, bushland, and open space

Rank	<b>Roads and Safety</b> including management of roads and footpaths, streetscapes (including street trees), street lighting, car and bike parks, pedestrian and cycling safety and security, disabled accessibility
Rank	<b>Community</b> 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.

I am sorry too many of these are related and answering wouldn't be accurate, for eg climate response and tree canope and amenity are all related	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
Rank	Transparency and governance in council matters
Rank	Council response to Climate Change and Sustainability issues in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and urgency
Rank	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
Rank	Council rates and capital expenditure policies

Rank	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
Rank	The city's natural landscape, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity considerations
Rank	Provision of infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
Rank	Management and utilization of the city's parks, open spaces, and linkages (e.g. shared use paths, waterways, and residential streets)
Rank	Traffic issues in Whitehorse

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

Vote 1 Barker, I Listen Care and Act. I have a track record of excellent performance and have driven a number of the innovations that have improved the city.

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](mailto:crowag.inc@gmail.com)