

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

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2020

Name of Councillor candidate: [Matthew Harris](#)

Whitehorse Council Ward: [Elgar Ward](#)

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

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

Personally – I was in Scouts Australia, and then Australian Army Cadets. I was vice-president for the student representative council in Year 12. I attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Award in 2015. I was a member of the LNP, ALP, and the Greens, however I am not currently an active member in these parties and not endorsed by them.

Professionally – I work for the YMCA, SSCT, and have worked Maroondah City Council and Chas Clarkson.

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

In short, teamwork and leadership knowledge and experience.

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

Apart from successfully representing our local community in the normal duties as councillor, I want to get more young Australians to be involved in government.

- What are the top five issues you believe could improve the functioning of the *Whitehorse City Council* in representing its ratepayers and community?

- 1) Improve transparency
- 2) Improve community engagement
- 3) Increase spending into sustainable facilities
- 4) Decrease unsustainable spending
- 5) Get more young Australians involved in government.

- 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
5	Health and Wellbeing including disability services, home and community care, meals on wheels, food safety

6	Residential and Commerce including strategic development, planning, and building, business development, animal registrations, rubbish collection and recycling
2	Sport and Leisure including sportsgrounds and pavilions, aquatic and leisure centres, Morack golf club
3	Non-structured Recreational activities including cycleways and shared use paths, parks and gardens, bushland, and open space
7	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
1	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.

9	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
10	Transparency and governance in council matters
7	Council response to Climate Change and Sustainability issues in terms of mitigation, adaptation, and urgency
6	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
5	Council rates and capital expenditure policies
8	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

3	The city's natural landscape, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity considerations
2	Provision of infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
4	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 roles of Council listed in Q7 and the specific issues listed in Q8 are all important in my opinion. Thus, what I have considered in my rankings is the overall prioritisation of the roles and issues. Therefore, the rankings really show more what I think should be prioritised rather than just the importance to me.

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