

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

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2020

Name of Councillor candidate: Tina Liu

Whitehorse Council Ward: Sparks 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

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

Box Hill First

Elgar Contact

Whitehorse Manningham Library Corporation (Chair in 2019)

Eastern Transport Coalition (Current Deputy Chair)

Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action

Whitehorse Business Group

Rotary Club of Mont Albert and Surrey Hills

Melbourne Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce

Asian Business Association of Whitehorse

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

It has allowed me to get an in-depth understanding of the diverse needs of our community, as well as the various statutory/policy frameworks, across local, state and federal jurisdictions. I have also been able to drive a number of community-focused initiatives – including strengthening the strategic direction around the future of Box Hill, advocating for better planning controls/outcomes, improvements across community services/programs, environmental sustainability, active transport, local amenities, cultural, art and health and well-being programs. Given my background in commerce and the running of my own business, I also possess financial/economic acumen and strongly believe in continuous improvement as a Council.

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

I want to continue engaging and working with our community to foster a welcoming, vibrant, healthy and sustainable Whitehorse. A municipality with a high standard of living and services for residents, businesses and visitors – supported by a Council with good governance and financial management.

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

I would like to focus on the point that I think is key to improving the functioning of Council in representing its ratepayers and community: strengthening community engagement and consultation. As a Council, we need to ensure that information is accessible to our broad and diverse Whitehorse community, so residents stayed informed and also are encouraged to give their input. This includes utilising online mediums, digital apps and other forms of community outreach channels.

While I am glad that we have already made inroads into the digital space and have improved the community engagement/consultation process, I believe that we should strive to do even better. Transparency, accountability and strong governance are also imperative.

I would encourage ratepayers and the community to get in touch with their local Councillors. As a current Councillor, this certainly also assists us in better representing residents/ratepayers.

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[NOTE: For questions 7&8 \(below\), I have not ranked the items – please see my explanation/comments for doing so in Question 9.](#)

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.

Rank	Children and Families including childcare, kindergartens, maternal and child health, playgroups, immunisation
Rank	Health and Wellbeing including disability services, home and community care, meals on wheels, food safety
Rank	Residential and Commerce including strategic development, planning, and building, business development, animal registrations, rubbish collection and recycling
Rank	Sport and Leisure including sportsgrounds and pavilions, aquatic and leisure centres, Morack golf club
Rank	Non-structured Recreational activities including cycleways and shared use paths, parks and gardens, bushland, and open space

Rank	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
Rank	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.

Rank	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:

I have not ranked the issues for questions 7 & 8 – as I believe each point is important and that Council needs to take a balanced and practical approach with the diverse needs of our community. I have had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with a number of CROWAG members during my term on Council and have always appreciated the members’ passion and ideas for our area. I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with CROWAG moving forward. I always welcome community input and the opportunity to further discuss – please feel free to contact me on: tina@tina-liu.com.au / 0460 714 693. For more information about my advocacy and actions on Council, please visit my website: www.tina-liu.com.au

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