



CANDIDATE SURVEY RESULTS

Mount Alexander Shire
Election 2020

About the survey

- Democracy for Dinner released its **2020 Candidate Survey** to all eighteen candidates standing in the upcoming Mount Alexander Shire local government elections.
- The survey closed on **6pm Friday 9 October 2020** with fourteen responses received.
- The survey is intended to help residents and ratepayers to be better informed before they vote in the election this October.
- The questions are based on input received through the Castlemania Facebook page and directly to Democracy for Dinner. The survey includes questions about the candidates' views on Council's role in climate change, priorities for waste and traffic management, recovery from COVID-19 and more.
- A downloadable version of the survey is available [here](#).
- Nil response was received from the two candidates who will be elected unopposed (Christine Henderson in Coliban Ward and Anthony Cordy in Calder Ward), as well as Hilton Hazeltine in Loddon River Ward and Max Lesser in Castlemaine Ward. Cr Lesser contacted Democracy for Dinner and indicated that in his view he could not respond to the survey as a sitting councillor.

Housing affordability

Housing affordability was the issue candidates had heard most often in their campaign. It is also was the equal most selected 'top priority' by our candidates (along with waste management).

Top priority and extremely serious

- Rosie Annear
- Keppel Cassidy
- Michael Johnston
- Matthew Driscoll (LR)
- Damien Kingsbury (LR)

These candidates listed "housing affordability" as one of their top three priorities and rated access to housing and housing affordability as 'Extremely serious'

Extremely serious

- Toby Heydon
- Stacey Raselli
- Susan Mayfair
- Hans Paas

These candidates rated access to housing and housing affordability as 'Extremely serious' but did not include in their three top priorities

Q: How serious an issue is access to housing and housing affordability in Mount Alexander Shire?

No response received

- Christine Hednerson (Cb)
- Anthony Cordy (Cr)
- Hilton Hazeltine (LR)
- Max Lesser

Very serious

- Stephen Gardner (T)*
- Bill Maltby
- Genine McHugh (T)

Somewhat serious

- Glenn Sutherland
- Gary McLure

*Candidate Stephen Gardner also listed housing affordability as one of his three top priorities for MAS

Waste management

Waste management was the equal most selected 'top priority' by our candidates (along with housing affordability). The largest number of candidates said working with community to reduce the amount of waste produced was Council's highest priority.

Top priority

- Bill Maltby
- Toby Heydon
- Susan Mayfair
- Rosie Annear
- Michael Johnston
- Gary McClure

Working with community to reduce the amount of waste produced

Keppel Cassidy
Stacey Raselli
Glenn Sutherland
Michael Johnston

Gary McClure
Genine McHugh (T)
Stephen Gardner (T)

Improving the amount and effectiveness of recycling in the Shire

Hans Paas
Damien Kingsbury (LR)
Toby Heydon
Susan Mayfair

Annual/biannual hard rubbish collection

Matthew Driscoll (LR)
Bill Maltby

Reviewing upgrading the waste transfer station/s

Rosie Annear

No response received

- Christine Hednerson (Cb)
- Anthony Cordy (Cr)
- Hilton Hazeltine (LR)
- Max Lesser

Q: Which of the following should be Council's highest priority for waste management?



Action on climate change

*All fourteen candidates who responded to the survey said that it is either **extremely important** or **very important** that Mount Alexander Shire Council commit to actions which contribute to tackling climate change.*

Top priority and extremely important

- Keppel Cassidy
- Toby Heydon
- Hans Paas

These candidates listed “action on climate change” as one of their top three priorities and rated actions to tackle climate change as ‘*Extremely important*’

Extremely important

- Rosie Annear
- Michael Johnston
- Susan Mayfair
- Gary McLure

These candidates listed “action on climate change” as *Extremely important*’ but did not include it in their three top priorities

Q: How important is it for Mount Alexander Shire to commit to actions which contribute to tackling climate change?

No response received

- Christine Hednerson (Cb)
- Anthony Cordy (Cr)
- Hilton Hazeltine (LR)
- Max Lesser

Very important

- Glenn Sutherland
- Bill Maltby
- Stacey Raselli
- Glenn Sutherland
- Damien Kingsbury (LR)
- Genine McHugh (T)
- Stephen William Gardner (T)

Roads, paths and traffic

More candidates selected 'Improving walking and cycling infrastructure' as their top roads and infrastructure priority than any other issue. Five candidates also listed 'Paths, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure' in their top three priorities.

Q: Thinking about roads and infrastructure, which of the following do you think is the highest priority for Mount Alexander Shire?



Improving walking and cycling infrastructure

Rosie Annear
Keppel Cassidy
Michael Johnston
Toby Heydon
Gary McClure
Stacey Raselli
Hans Paas

Maintaining and upgrading country roads and bridges

Glenn Sutherland
Matthew Driscoll (LR)
Genine McHugh (T)
Susan Mayfair
Stephen Gardner (T)

Listed 'Paths cycling and pedestrian infrastructure' as a top priority:

- Michael Johnston
- Gary McLure
- Toby Heydon
- Genine McHugh (T)
- Stacey Raselli

Traffic management in townships

Damien Kingsbury (LR)

Maint. program targeting need

Bill Maltby

Rates and budget

Rates and budget was the equal-second most selected top priority by candidates. However those who selected it as a top priority were split in their assessment of whether current rates were 'too high' or 'about right'.

Too high

- Gary McClure
- Matthew Driscoll (LR)
- Stacey Raselli
- Hans Paas
- Glenn Sutherland
- Susan Mayfair
- Bill Maltby
- Stephen Gardner (T)

Q: How would you assess the current level of rates levied in Mount Alexander Shire? [Too high, about right, too low, it's not that simple...]

No response received

- Christine Hednerson (Cb)
- Anthony Cordy (Cr)
- Hilton Hazeltine (LR)
- Max Lesser

About right

- Glenn Sutherland
- Damien Kingsbury (LR)

It's not that simple...

- Michael Johnston
- Keppel Cassidy
- Genine McHugh (T)
- Toby Heydon
- Rosie Annear

End

- To access the full results:
https://castlewiki.australiasoutheast.cloudapp.azure.com/mediawiki/index.php/Democracy_for_Dinner_-_Candidate_Questionnaire
- To view the survey:
<https://democracy4dinner.files.wordpress.com/2020/10/2020-mount-alexander-shire-council-survey.pdf>