

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

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2024

Name of Councillor candidate: [Trudy Skilbeck](#)

Whitehorse Council Ward: [Eley 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 are a member during the last 10 years.

Member of Bungalook Nursery (current), Member of Neighbourhood Watch Whitehorse (current), Member of Whitehorse Interfaith Network (current). I am a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia. I have no political affiliations/memberships whatsoever.

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

I am a volunteer first and foremost; this is about being the same as others and doing the simple things that help the groups to thrive and to connect well with their communities. More broadly, as part of my governance leadership, I have, for example, run workshops for social purpose organisations on how to strike the best working relationship/s between management and board cohorts.

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

I stand for evidence-based leadership (not emotive or political reactions, and not self-interest). I think it is through the right style of leadership that collective achievements are possible and best leveraged to greater effect. I don't believe in 'promising' things that a single Councillor cannot deliver. I do want to be part of sharper focus on how higher density housing impacts environment and liveability. I do promise effort and attention on community resilience – with emphasis upon climate challenges and health challenges – and on empowering people in Whitehorse to create community-led solutions to the very complex problems we face.

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) Stronger positioning on cost shifting from State to Council and power shifting from Council to State
- 2) Embedded Climate Action
- 3) Meaningful community consultation (representative panel style)
- 4) All waste out of landfill
- 5) Meaningful transparency (more simply communicated)

9. **The following Issues of specific interest to CROWAG.**

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

3	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
4	Transparency and governance in council matters
2	Managing Climate Change and Sustainability.
8	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.
7	Retaining council oversight for planning and development
10	Speeding up Planning and development by reducing council oversight.
6	Advocating for the Federation Brickworks site to be parkland
1	Enhancing the city's natural landscape, parks, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity
5	Improvement of Infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
9	Managing traffic and parking

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

Some of the numbered issues will happen more easily than others. I have given higher priority to things that I think need my focussed attention most (in order to generate a good or better level of outcome). Council oversight is not the barrier to speeding up planning and development, in my view, hence I have numbered #10.

Thank you for completing the CROWAG questionnaire.

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