

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

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Candidate Questionnaire, Whitehorse Council Elections – October 2024

Name of Councillor candidate: [Stephanie Gaut](#)

Whitehorse Council Ward: [Walker](#)

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.

N/A – I am 100% independent

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

Click to enter text.

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

Click to enter text.

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) Greater transparency into council spending and priorities
- 2) Deprivatisation of essential services to support vulnerable residents e.g. in-home aged care/home help
- 3) Regular updates from council to ratepayers outlining delays/ project cost blowouts and other changes to ensure greater accountability
- 4) Better community engagement and opportunities to feedback into projects at various stages of development
- 5) Strengthened local government laws to support council's to reject inappropriate planning/development without Ministerial interference

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.

7	Engagement with residents and ratepayers
2	Transparency and governance in council matters
3	Managing Climate Change and Sustainability.
9	Administrative and budgetary efficiency.

1	Retaining council oversight for planning and development
10	Speeding up Planning and development by reducing council oversight.
8	Advocating for the Federation Brickworks site to be parkland
4	Enhancing the city's natural landscape, parks, tree canopy, streetscape, and overarching neighbourhood amenity
6	Improvement of Infrastructure for walkers, cyclists, and people with disabilities
5	Managing traffic and parking

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

I am an independent candidate for Whitehorse City Council in Walker Ward. I am very passionate about clearer delineations for cycling, improved cycle infrastructure, greener transport options and active transport in our cities. I am currently a Victorian government employee who was part of the team which developed the Shrine to Sea project, creating a new boulevard connecting Domain Gardens to Port Phillip Bay along Albert and Kerferd roads. Once complete, the area will be transformed with improvements to create usable open space with a green boulevard, safer and clearer links and connections for walking and cycling, and the opportunity to learn more about the local history. You can [find out more about the project here](#). This project is now being implemented by the Department of Transport and the City of Port Phillip.

I have co-developed [Melbourne's 30-year Open Space framework](#) and have a sound understanding of the planning and open space management needed to create a safer, more vibrant community. I have post graduate qualifications in urban greening and have worked closely in the past with other cycling user groups to support greater community engagement and better understand cycling needs in Melbourne.

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