

Council Candidates' Views Exposed

Friends of the Earth sent a brief questionnaire to all candidates for the forthcoming Mareeba Shire Council elections to find out what the candidates think about local environmental issues.

Answers were requested before the Kuranda paper deadline, so a fast response was needed.

Below are their replies to our questions. Everyone got back to us by the paper's deadline, except for Mayoral candidate Tom Gilmore (who's standing unopposed) and Angela Toppin.

Candidates	Grace Armenti	Maggie Herbohn	Mareeba Shire 1 First Team	Lenore Wyatt
1.Support a coal seam gas free Mareeba Shire?	Yes however a good submission can be presented	Yes	Prefer no Coal Seam Gas wells in Shire but Dept of Minerals and Energy can award licences anywhere in Queensland.	Yes
Water: 1. Work for the timely publication of council water quality tests on council's website?	Yes.	Yes	No answer	Yes . Previous volunteer testing water quality in Barron River Catchment.
2.Concerned that neither Kuranda nor Mareeba's water supply are filtered to remove pesticides, chlorine combination products and Giardia and Cryptosporidium?	Yes, with continuing control methods and procedures we can ensure safe water for human consumption.	Yes, have a tap installed to filter water at home	All Council utilities are designed to meet Australian Standards and those set by the Dept of Environment & Heritage Protection.	Do not have access to the current processes to comment.
3. Should council act to reduce pesticide run off into the Shire's waterways? If so, how?	Yes, would support more Erosion and Sediment Control measures, which include pesticide run off	Yes, any runoffs off pesticides into waterways should be reduced wherever and whenever possible	No answer	Pesticides run off is responsibility of industry and residents abutting council waterways.
Development & Wildlife: 1. Policy on intensive development of the Myola Valley, Speewah and Koah?	Abide by current Planning Scheme which is protecting the vegetation and having control of any intensive development that does not fit with the policy for	Depends on meaning of intensive (Further research needed)	Support responsible development in Shire that meets Community expectations. Draft MSC Planning Scheme is reviewable to accommodate community expectations and	Current Draft Management Plan opposed in the Kuranda area- I agree with an extra overlay and funding allocated to engage a consultant that

1 Sitting councillors Alan Pedersen, Allan Holmes, Mary Graham, Karen Ewin, Nipper Brown and new candidate Kevin Davies.

	these areas.		unforeseen development trends	will assess these areas of high environmental concern.
2. Support what policies to help protect the exceptional biodiversity within the Mareeba Shire - and in particular protection of biodiversity in the Kuranda area?	Not answered	Consult with environmental experts and community	Areas of exceptional biodiversity within Shire are recognised and reflected in the Draft MSC Planning Scheme and afforded protection under State and Federal legislation	Support the current push that Friends of Kuranda are pursuing to have the Kuranda Area identified as area of unique environmental concern.
3. Support active policies to protect endangered species?	Yes, All species including endangered species need to be protected. The Federal Govt has checks and balances in place for this protection.	Yes certainly	Any changes need to factor in the financial impact on the Shire's ratepayers .	Would not like to see any risk come to any animals, especially any animal listed as endangered.
4. Support improving environmental protection afforded by the draft Mareeba Shire Council plan 2015?	Yes	Yes	Not answered	Yes
5. Vote for resolutions to budget for changes to do so? See Q.4	Not answered	Yes	Not answered	Yes
Waste and Recycling: Support which policies for greater waste minimisation and/or recycling of solid wastes	Support recycling and collection of recycling. Education throughout the communities and industries is a must	Composting, production of refuse derived fuel (Further research needed)	Support recycling initiatives throughout the Shire at a cost affordable to residents and ratepayers.	Mobile recycling trailers. recycling bins , dump shops. sale of recyclable products to bulk agents.
3 most important things you hope to achieve ?	1. Growth and Development 2. Good Solutions and Outcomes 3. Strong Relationships with the Community	1. Based on community consultation, an environmental protection policy 2. Youth criminal offenders	1. Financial sustainability and 2. accountability 3. Continued maintenance and upgrade of public assets	1. Community: Fostering a sense of UNITY 2. Opportunity: introduce and promote job creation in line

	complete community service. Youth Forum 3. Transparent local government practices	with innovation and environmental factors 3.Accountability: Public consultation
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