



Harmers Haven Residents and Ratepayer Group: Friends of Harmers Haven (HHRRG)
2020 Bass Coast Council Election
Candidate Questionnaire
Les Larke

- 1. What do you consider the single most important Bunurong Ward issue that Council should address:**

Immediately

Council transition program to ensure Councillors are equipped with information they need to fulfil their role as a Councillor, including, but not exclusive to:

- Shire tours to provide an opportunity to discuss key issues on site
- Training and induction opportunities for new and returning Councillors
- Strategy workshops

Councillor Code of Conduct

Councillor compliance/roles and responsibilities

Over the next 6-12 months

Council Plan 2021-25. In that regard, a key issue will be the GENUINE understanding of community needs and aspirations, through a draft vision developed by a representative Community Panel of local residents following extensive consultation with the broader community. TRANSPARENT decision making and WISE financial planning to deliver this vision and financial sustainability over the projected 4 and 10 year timeframes will be essential.

2021-2022 Budget

Over the next 4 year term

The financial position of council needs ongoing expert oversight to deliver funding for projects such as a new aquatic centre, local road and drainage schemes, footpaths and leisure trails, and effective management of coastal erosion. Furthermore, significant funding is needed for a range of vital programs to help address domestic and family violence (including emergency housing), and mental health issues that are impacting our community, from young people to the elderly. It would be a privilege to continue in the role as an elected councillor to support individuals, families and businesses, through my unwavering commitment to wise financial planning, transparent decision-making, and genuine understanding of community needs and aspirations.



2. How important do you consider the following issues to be for small coastal communities in Bunurong Ward

	Not very important	Important	Very important
Town expansion			*
Infrastructure quality			*
Preservation of existing local character			*
Native vegetation/habitat depletion			*
Coastal erosion			*
Wildfire threat			*
Invasive species eradication (flora & fauna)			*
Other (please specify) Social connection and inclusion, mental health and wellbeing Competing demands on the use of open space			*

3 (a) Do you consider current planning policies and controls in Bass Coast Shire are adequate for addressing the issues you regard as important to Bunurong Ward?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Not sure

(b) If no, what changes would you propose.

No. Managing tensions around development and impact on housing, local neighborhood character and heritage is a key challenge for Council. I am generally in favour of protecting town boundaries, and a satisfactory solution should emerge as part of the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes program.

Question continues over page ...



(c) Would you support a policy that would require Council always to notify affected residents/landowners of a planning application?

- ☒ * Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

4. The Victorian government is currently developing a plan for an extended coastal walk through the newly created Yallock Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park, running from San Remo to Inverloch. The HHRRG believes that the main route should not come through Harmers Haven for foreshore protection and community amenity reasons, a view supported by the Bass Coast Coastal Alliance (representing some 1,000 members from Bass Coast resident groups & associations).

Do you agree with this position?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ * Not sure, have not seen any proposal as yet, though would seriously consider the proposition outlined by HHRRG involving an inland route incorporating Wonthaggi.

5. The Bass Coast Shire Council is supporting a proposal for the creation of a Dinosaur Trail running between San Remo and Inverloch. It will involve the creation of seven (7) art works and related information centres/points. Where do you think these works would

- ☐ be best located?
- ☐ As close as possible to actual dinosaur sites i.e. at the coast?
- ☐ Away from the coast at central locations?
- ☒ * Other (please specify):

Not sure, have not seen any proposal as yet, however it is likely to track Yallock Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park route. See my earlier answer to Q4



6. The HHRRG has expressed an interest in seeing a walking/cycling lane created along Berry's Road to increase safe options for pedestrian/cyclist movement between Wonthaggi and Harmers Haven.

Would you support such a proposal?

☐ *☐

Yes

☐

No

Not sure

7. Harmers Haven is currently experiencing increased traffic volumes and speeds as residential density grows. Would you support the reduction of speed limits along Berrys Road, Old Boilers Road, Viminaria Road, Oleara Street and Wares Lane to help mitigate the impacts of this trend (protected species road kill, dust, risks to pedestrians -

☐ *

particularly children - and pets).

☐

Yes

☐

No

Not sure

☐

8. Do you support Bass Coast Shire Council's Climate Emergency declaration?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Not sure

If you do support the Climate Emergency declaration, what do you think the Council's top priorities should be to reduce carbon emissions? If not why not?

I contributed to and voted for and am supportive of Council's Climate Action Plan, with two provisos: (1) more effective community consultation is required with industry, business and householders; and (2) we need to capture data not covered in the plan, particularly transport emissions generated by vehicles registered outside of Bass Coast e.g. visiting buses, cars and heavy/trade vehicles etc.

End.