



Harmers Haven Residents and Ratepayer Group: Friends of Harmers Haven (HHRG)
2020 Bass Coast Council Election
Candidate Questionnaire
Michael Nugent

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

Immediately

COVID recovery: this is an immediate need. Clearly, we need to support those most affected by COVID, in particular small businesses, youth, and vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Council has made a start, but more will be needed, e.g., helping tourism while also increasing business diversity so we are not over-reliant on tourism, and bringing forward capital works to provide local jobs and an economic boost. We must also make sure Bass Coast is well positioned to receive any available state/federal funding, e.g., tourism grants.

Over the next 6-12 months

Community mobilisation: I am thinking in particular of ensuring that as many locals as possible are involved with the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL), Yallock-Bulluk trail and dinosaur trail consultations, all of which have the capacity to change our Shire forever, especially how we use to our coastline. Regarding the DAL and Yallock-Bulluk consultations, Council can, and does, lobby; but to be really effective we need many people/voters speaking out to ensure we get this right. Council can help mobilise those people, and community engagement over the dinosaur trail will be an important part of doing so.

Over the next 4 year term

Climate change: We are fortunate that Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 with only two Councillors, both representing Bunurong Ward, failing to vote in favour. It has since approved the 2020-2030 Climate Action Plan. I was on the Community Reference Group, as a co-founder of the Bass Coast CAN (Climate Action Network), that developed that Plan. Over the next 4 years must start to implement that Plan and make every effort to reduce emissions and help the community adapt to, e.g., coastal erosion.



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			X
Infrastructure quality			X
Preservation of existing local character			X
Native vegetation/habitat depletion			X
Coastal erosion			X
Wildfire threat			X
Invasive species eradication (flora & fauna)			X
Other (please specify) Public Transport			X

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.

The construction of a commercial wind turbine on a suburban PI block shows all is not well. Although that seems to be an anomaly, other problems exist. Four I am familiar with are: state government interference with town boundaries; homes with low star ratings being approved; the ability to overshadow neighboring houses; and the inability to stop unnecessary / excessive clearing of vegetation.

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

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):

I think it will be site-specific – in some cases they would be close to the coast (with appropriate protections) and in other cases not. I would need to see the results of the planning work currently being done by Council before being certain.



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?

There are a few ways to look at this, e.g., what will give us large reduction most quickly (e.g., Council has already agreed to 100% green electricity for its own operations), versus what will result in higher reductions over time. I was on the Community Advisory Group that developed the Plan and think there is still work to do to bring all residents around to the need reduce their emissions permanently. An important element of the later approach will be for Council to secure state government subsidies for home efficiency upgrades, thus changing short term behaviour and long term mindsets with a financial incentive.

End.