

RYDE COUNCIL CANDIDATE SURVEY - SEPTEMBER 2012

	Shaun Gilchrist (East Ward) & Mitchell Ophir (Central Ward) - Greens	Jeff Salvestro-Martin (Central Ward) -Labor	Artin Etmekdjian (West Ward)- Liberal	No Response received
1. Do you accept the existence of human induced climate change?	Yes. The scientific evidence is very clear on this.	Yes.	I acknowledge that there is both human and natural impacts on climate change	
2 .What types of action do you think Ryde Council should be taking to play its part in addressing climate change?	Council can lead the way by reducing their own emissions, and implementing programs that encourage local residents and businesses to lower emissions. This should be part of council's strategic planning for Ryde, which other Sydney councils are now acting on.	<p>City of Ryde consideration of climate change is limited to ensuring that "climate-sensitive" words are included in publications and purchasing the odd Prius. The management culture of Ryde has little regard for the seriousness of climate change. Examples of their ineptitude with climate management initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Massive overdevelopment on the Civic Centre Site An LEP which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - will enable school fields to be sold off for residential buildings; - has no biodiversity provision. (Compare that to Hunters Hill which has one). -rezones special use sites to facilitate future development. <p>City of Ryde climate management contribution is both feeble and pathetic.</p>	Encouraging recycling, encourage energy saving, educate the community	<p>B Pickering</p> <p>Roy de Maggio</p> <p>Jerome</p> <p>Ivan Petch</p> <p>Victor Tagg</p> <p>Grahame Cordiner</p> <p>Terry Perram</p>
3. If elected what proposals will you be putting forward	<p>-Joining other Sydney councils in adopting a renewable energy plan</p> <p>-Rolling out solar panels on all council</p>	<p>Increased funding of Street Tree Planting program</p> <p>I will not approve the LEP as it will</p>	Continuation of item 2 and all current Council initiatives that are	

<p>in this term to Council to this end?</p>	<p>owned buildings -Undertake more community and business education to help reduce energy and water use, minimise waste and increase re-use and recycling -Look at transitioning council vehicles to lower emission options -Expand free Top Ryder bus service and improving integrated cycle ways across Ryde The initial approach would be to benchmark current emissions, then audit current council facilities and buildings. Council staff would be asked to research best practice around the world and other councils in Australia and then produce a plan to reduce Ryde's emissions as cost effectively as possible. This could involve measures such as entering into an energy savings contract, installing solar panels or co-gen or tri-gen plants, as well as simple measures such as installing motion sensors on current lights. Where council has less control e.g. over street lighting, work with the LGSA and others to lobby the state government to provide more energy saving alternatives.</p>	<p>desecrate public and environmental spaces Seek a biodiversity provision in the LEP Seek Council support for the promotion and education of climate awareness</p>	<p>already in existence.</p>	
<p>4. What steps have you taken on council on this issue? (existing Council Members)</p>	<p>N\A</p>	<p>Actively support the Easy care Gardening Group which provides gardening support for the elderly and frail in our community Voted against the LEP which will desecrate public and</p>	<p>Always supported actions in the process of reducing climate change.</p>	

		<p>environmental spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Supported community transport initiatives · Voted for Street Plantings and Community Gardens · Supported purchase of low emission vehicles by Council 		
<p>5. What do you personally do to reduce your emissions?</p>	<p>Shaun Gilchrist (East Ward) I buy more sustainable and organic products when available and am an avid recycler. I try to purchase second hand items instead of new items if possible, and try to avoid the use of plastic bags. I always choose renewable energy options when selecting energy suppliers, and energy efficiency is one of leading factors when buying appliances.</p> <p>Mitch Ophir (Central Ward) Always take public transport and ensure I switch off anything in the house that isn't being used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I put my money where my mouth is and purchased a small but denuded "low value" ex- farm which my family and I replant and restore its natural vegetation. · Purchased a very low emission vehicle as our family car 	<p>Recycle. Use energy efficient whitegoods. Keep abreast of other climate change reducing methods.</p>	