

**Candidate -----David JACKSON**

1. Clarence Action Network is concerned that under the current Council's administration, community members have been given limited opportunities to express their views on the use and development of land owned or controlled by Council until well after developers have become involved. If elected, what steps will you take to ensure that community consultation about the divestment of public land becomes a permanent and essential part of the planning process in Clarence, before development proposals are fully formulated?

**Any public land that any administration feels that it has authority to dispose of should be put to the scrutiny of the ratepayers. Shonkey deals where I smell a rat have gone on for far too long, causing me to suspect ulterior motives for such decisions. I would always support community involvement in any of these types of decisions, and by that I mean "not advertising during holiday periods".**

2. At a packed public meeting about the proposed hotel development for Rosny Hill Nature Reserve, a motion to establish a dedicated public consultation unit within the Clarence Council was unanimously carried. Do you support this as a priority for the new Council? What do you believe should be the priorities for such a unit to improve council/community consultation processes across all of its activities and responsibilities?

**This hotel development has been withdrawn for the moment, but rest assured, it will probably come back with a proposal to make the developer benefit to a greater extent. A public consultation unit sounds good, but will it get bogged down with conflicting advice from 101 different "experts" whenever such developments are mooted? The process for community consultation has to be more responsible and not shine a light of suspicion on Council staff or Aldermen.**

3. Clarence Action Network supports the establishment of a long-term strategy to protect, conserve, and manage public land and facilities across the municipality to enhance the health and well-being of residents and maintain habitats for significant flora and fauna. Do you support this objective? What action would you take to propose and develop strategies to achieve this goal?

**Protect, conserve and manage" public land and facilities is a very broad target to attempt. Play areas and coastal reserves are managed relatively well at present, but the public should be able to access some of these areas more easily. Hilltop reservations are not readily accessible to all and as such should be maintained that way so Council can spend more time on the ones most used.**

4. What new initiatives are you eager to champion if you are elected and why do you see these as important to the future of the Clarence community?

**Any person in public service should be open to the utmost scrutiny for their decisions and thoroughly investigated for decisions that seem too suspicious. We are in an age when people we elect seem to think that their ideas are ours also and in line with most overseas countries money or favours sometimes change hands when decisions are made. There should be more accountability for all public servants and the decisions they make with our resources. If this means financial investigations into their and their family's dealings, then so be it. The Council head engineer and manager positions should also come up regularly for performance reviews and be replaced if they are found not to be doing their job properly.**