

Oliver Walsh (Rucker)

1 . How serious a threat are global warming and climate disruption?

It is incumbent on all levels of government to preserve the environment; I want a world where my kids and their kids can enjoy the same environment that I did growing up as a child in Northcote. Climate change is real, it is happening now, and it is having a particularly strong impact on Australia, and our region.

2. Do you support the following Darebin Council initiatives? Please comment briefly on each.

a. ***Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2009*** including the aim of carbon neutrality for council operations by 2020?

b. ***Darebin Community Climate Action Change Plan 2009-2015*** including the aim of carbon neutrality for Darebin municipality by 2020?

I broadly support The Darebin climate action plan, including the aspirational target of carbon neutrality by 2020. I support council using practical methods to achieve carbon neutrality by using energy only when necessary and ensuring its use is efficient as possible. I also support council switching to renewable energy.

c. ***Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan 2009?***

I broadly support Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan, as I encourage Darebin to play an active role tackling climate change, I also support council doing what it can to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

d. Membership of the ***Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action?***

<http://www.naga.org.au/>

I give in principled support of the councils membership of the Northern alliance for Greenhouse action as I believe that measures that Darebin council takes to tackle climate change is best done as part of a bigger picture approach to the issue.

3. What action have you taken to influence climate change and/or sustainability policies at the local, state or federal level?

I have been a supporter of the of the no BTS66 campaign, and have attended several of the protests against the proposed new development of the power terminals on the site. I am appalled by the lack of leadership and political cowardice shown by the federal minister for energy and resources and our local member Martin Ferguson has shown on this issue. As a member of the Liberal Party I have attended several climate change policy forums within the Party.

4. What action would you take on climate change and/or sustainability policies if [re]elected to council?

It is incumbent on all levels of government to preserve the environment; I want a world where future generations can enjoy the same environment that I did growing

up as a child near the merri creek. This is why I believe it is very important for Darebin council to continue to protect the amenity of our local parks, waterways and gardens. I believe that local council can show leadership on practical measures such as tree planting projects, as well as promoting environmentally sustainable activities such as cycling as a mode of transport,

5. We are also interested in your community campaigning in areas other than climate change and sustainability. What other community groups or campaigns have you been active in and what was your role.

I have been involved in a variety of campaigns both in Northcote and the wider community. In my local community I campaigned against a proposed farmers market on Sumner Park. I have also campaigned against many new High-rise apartment proposals where council and government alike have failed to consult adequately with the local community. At my former football club I served for several seasons as a committee member, working as media and communications officer. During my time at the University of Melbourne I also campaigned for better student services and for more money to go into services that directly help students.