

16 August 2024

Ku-ring-gai Council Election 2024 – Candidate Questions

Please return your answers to info@foke.org.au by **5.00pm on FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024.**

Candidates Full Name: Indu Balachandran.....

Ward Standing for: ..Gordon.....

Authorised Campaign Address:...1/25 Werona Avenue, Killara NSW 2071.....

Email:..induforcouncil@gmail.com.....**Mobile:**.....

Website:.....www.indubalachandran.com..... **Facebook:**...
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559333712107>

Qualifications: .B.Bus (Hons) M.Ec (Hons) M.Soc Change Leadership (Hons) CA GAICD.....

Day job: Strategic advisor at Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Chair at Western Sydney University Institute of Culture and Society, Chair of Community Resources - waste/recycling

Are you a member of a political party? ~~YES~~/NO

If **YES**, specify

Community/ lobby/ sporting group membership? ~~YES~~/NO

If **YES**, specify ...Voices of Bradfield.....

Have you endorsed Save Greater Sydney Coalition’s election planning principles? ~~YES~~/NO

Have you signed the YIMBY election pledge? ~~YES~~/NO

Do you believe dwelling supply alone will solve the housing shortage and affordability? ~~YES~~/NO

Do you support Ku-ring-gai Council's legal action against the NSW Government's Transport Orientated Development (TOD) SEPP? **No.**

Why or why not? It is unlikely to achieve the outcomes sought for residents and distracts resources and efforts in council’s mandate to develop a local housing vision, strategy and plan

Do you support making a new place based LEP to mitigate the adverse impacts of the TOD and Low to Mid-Rise Housing SEPP on Ku-ring-gai? ~~YES~~/NO

Do you support maintaining public Council land for community use? ~~YES~~/NO

Do you support listing Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion as a UNESCO GeoRegion? **YES/NO I would need more clarity on the implications of this.**

Do you support the protection of Ku-ring-gai's Heritage Conservation Areas? **YES/NO Within reason, balancing with housing planning and increase needs**

Do you support the establishment of a Ku-ring-gai Council Environmental Advisory Group? **YES/NO It would depend on the terms of reference**

Do you support natural turf on Ku-ring-gai's sports and playing fields; or the installation of artificial turf? **NATURAL/~~ARTIFICIAL TURF~~**

Expanded Questions:

Please keep each answer less than 200 words (longer answers may be cut).

1. What motivated you to run for office at the Ku-ring-gai local government elections?

Ku-ring-gai is changing and there is great opportunity to develop and deliver a cohesive vision for our community. I have committed my professional and personal life to strengthening place and communities and I will be able to add value to my local community.

2. What is your vision for Ku-ring-gai?

A culturally vibrant, sustainable community that cares for our built and natural environment.

3. What life experiences and professional experiences do you bring that will serve in your role as a councillor?

- Delivering social impact founded on financial viability, with over 15 years' leadership experience in finance, economics and social change in the for-purpose sector
- I have delivered extensive programs in community development, economic development, women's services, health, education, employment, sustainability
- I have worked in complex environments and projects requiring stakeholder and change management, in the commercial, government and NGO sectors
- I am a mother and have raised my children in Killara over the last 15 years. It has been a good experience of community, and there is work to be done to strengthen this.
- Being a person of colour and navigating Australia's history and contemporary implications. I sit on Ku-ring-gai Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee
- I am a commissioned musician with extensive experience in cultural development

4. What do you see as the key issues facing Ku-ring-gai?

- Developing a local vision for housing that enables delivery of real solutions that will enable young people, families, older people and new residents to thrive in our community.
- Changing demographics that provide a fresh opportunity for shared social vision and cohesion
- Council decisions not representing the diversity and complexity of its residents,
- Collaborative council decision-making that considers the whole and the parts of the community

5. How do you propose to address those issues if elected?

- Prioritising the development of a local housing plan over legal action, to deliver outcomes and certainty for residents
- Seek additional investment and funding available to councils for development of housing plans and infrastructure funds
- Prioritising a Creative Facilities Strategy that enables Ku-ring-gai to deliver fit-for-purpose cultural facilities, which have been in decline
- Prioritising initiatives that identify action on social cohesion
- Prioritising community engagement that broadens the voices heard in decision-making
- Being part of an ethos of collaboration and respect amongst councillors, to ensure more constructive and transparent engagement with constituents and in decision-making

6. How will you ensure community engagement, and participation?

- By making sure that council decisions and structures reach out to the silent majority in innovative ways, without bias to status quo
- Using technology meaningfully, to engage residents who are preoccupied with daily life and family
- To examine how decisions are made based on broad engagement, and seek best practice from other councils that are doing this well

7. What do you consider are key issues in your Ward?

- Managing transport-oriented development proactively, to deliver outcomes and certainty for residents.
- The need for more community connectedness
- A cultural hub on Marian Street for all

8. Are there any additional comments you wish to add?

Thank you for your thoughtful questions and the opportunity to share my perspectives.

Candidate's Name:..Indu Balachandran.....**Signature:**.....



Date:....18/8/24.....

Thankyou for your time in answering the questions. Candidate answers will be published on FOKE’s website, Enews and sent to members and supporters/resident’s lists.

Please attach your election **photo**.

Authorised by Kathy Cowley, President, Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc. (FOKE) M: 0431 158 880