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2024 - Celebrating 30 years of Caring for Ku-ring-gai

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: Martin Smith

Ward Standing for: St Ives

Authorised Campaign Address18/380 Eastern Valley Way, Roseville NSW 2069

Email:.martinsmithstives@gmail.com **Mobile:**0436 663 376.....

Website:..... **Facebook:** facebook.com/ClrMartinSmith

Qualifications: Company Director **Day job:** Director of a National Security Company

Are you a member of a political party? **NO**

If **YES**, specify

Community/ lobby/ sporting group membership? **NO**

If **YES**, specify

Have you endorsed Save Greater Sydney Coalition’s election planning principles? **NO**

Have you signed the YIMBY election pledge? **NO**

Do you believe dwelling supply alone will solve the housing shortage and affordability? **NO**

Do you support Ku-ring-gai Council's legal action against the NSW Government's Transport Orientated Development (TOD) SEPP? **Why or why not?**

The current Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) initiative is the first stage of the New South Wales Government's planning changes, which will harm our area's tree canopy, natural surroundings, and historic buildings. The council is only able to address each stage as it arises, and the TODs are just the beginning of potential changes with no improvement to infrastructure offered by the State Government.

2016 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS HIGHLY COMMENDED
2009 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS HIGHLY COMMENDED
2008 NSW GOVERNMENT HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS AWARD
2000 FOKE, WINNER, NSW HERITAGE OFFICE CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD
“HERITAGE WATCH OVER OUR PLACE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE –KU-RING-GAI”
KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL (NSW) METRO PRIDE AWARDS.

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?

I support the preservation of Sydney's Green Heart by allowing the council to carry out our planning and LEP in an informed and responsible manner. I am deeply concerned about the NSW Government's proposed planning changes for low-to-mid-rise housing in St Ives and Pymble. These developments have the potential to create negative planning outcomes, exacerbate overdevelopment, further damage our tree canopy, lead to inadequate infrastructure, and worsen existing traffic issues in the area. It is crucial that we plan housing for future generations with a balanced approach while safeguarding the unique character of Ku-ring-gai.

Do you support maintaining public Council land for community use? **YES carried out on a case-by-case basis**

Do you support listing Ku-ring-gai GeoRegion as a UNESCO GeoRegion? **YES/NO Unable to answer without further information**

Do you support the protection of Ku-ring-gai's Heritage Conservation Areas? **YES**

Do you support the establishment of a Ku-ring-gai Council Environmental Advisory Group? **YES**

Do you support natural turf on Ku-ring-gai's sports and playing fields; or the installation of artificial turf? **NATURAL TURF Preferred. For optimal consideration, it is preferred that all fields have natural turf. However, due to the growing pressure to accommodate an expanding population, the decision should be carefully balanced on a case-by-case basis.**

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?

I am a dedicated sitting councillor committed to preserving the unique essence of St Ives and Pymble. I have always been community-minded and take pride in standing up for the local community

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

To maintain our character and beauty and enhance the liveability of residents, which is why we all choose to live here.

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

I have been privileged to represent St. Ives Ward since 2017 and have a strong track record of being a vocal and effective advocate for the residents. As a former firefighter for NSW Fire Rescue and a successful national security company owner for three decades, I am equipped with strong leadership, planning, and communication skills, alongside high-level financial expertise

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

To ensure the protection of the natural environment, preservation of both natural and built heritage and maintenance and enhancement of green spaces and community facilities. Ensure the council can sensibly plan housing with community consultation and through a proper planning process, for future generations with a balanced approach while safeguarding the unique character of Ku-ring-gai.

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

I will continue to advocate for Proper planning processes by continuing to challenge the NSW State Government's poor planning processes and lack of infrastructure to support new development and increased population. I will continue to stand up for our natural environment and endangered wildlife as I have been doing since 2017

6. How will you ensure community engagement and participation?

I have always been responsive to residents through emails and phone. I support council and resident collaboration with committee representation and public consultation.

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

Overdevelopment, footpaths, traffic congestion and safety

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

I have had the honour of representing St. Ives Ward since 2017 and have a strong track record of delivering projects. I have been an outspoken and effective advocate for the residents. It would be my privilege to continue representing you in the next term of council.

Candidate's Name: Martin Smith

Signature:



Date: 28/08/2024

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