

Response from Candidate Maria Judd

Questions for candidates up for election to Woollahra Council Vacluse Ward

1. Do you think it important to protect and preserve the local open natural green environment for future generations?

I agree totally that it our generation's responsibility to preserve our natural green environment for future generations and because we should not take our environment for granted. I live in Rose Bay and for many years I have been involved in the Rose Bay Beach Working Party. I have been trying to stop pollution being dumped from stormwater drains onto the beach and into Sydney Harbour carrying with hit heavy metals, micro plastic, toxic chemicals, not to mention raw sewerage. As horrible as that sounds, I am inspired by my community in Rose Bay and the many people who pick up litter every time they go down to the beach.

2. Do you understand Council is a manager of the Crown Land Reserves in the municipality and that these reserves are owned by all residents of NSW?

yes

3. Would you support increasing the built environment in the municipality's Crown Land Reserves ?

I am not sure why I would consider creating a built environment on Crown Land Reserves? I don't think that is a good idea.

4. Do you keep abreast of current research on environmental issues ?
If so how do you do that ?

I am not a scientist and I have not trained in research. As stated above I am very passionate about issues relating to protecting our natural environment and as required I will try to understand things. I have read scholarly articles on subjects such as marine and environmental matters and I have even chased up the author scientists so that I could explore ideas, see if they would speak to the Rose Bay Beach working party and so that I could effectively advocate for things like government grants for a seagrass study, coastal erosion control, stormwater wast management and treatment etc.

5.The Bi-Centennial Coastal Cliff Walk is a local Heritage item, would you support an application for it to be placed on the State Heritage Register ?

Yes absolutely. I have worked very hard to have a range of items listed for their heritage value - sometimes unsuccessfully but this another area that I am very passionate about. The list of items I have fought for includes the pumping station at Percival Park, the Uniting Church and Wesley Hall at Rose Bay, the Scout hall at Lyon Park, several buildings on Kent Road, Rose Bay.

6. If elected a Woollahra Councillor would you advocate for a Greening policy with greater tree canopy and green cover across the municipality?

If so how would you suggest this be implemented ?

Of course. As a resident I have been interest in this area. I have been advocating for Woollahra

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Council to establish rain gardens and bioswales. I have also asked Council to plant native trees and a range of other ideas. I would support a greening policy regardless of whether I am elected a Councillor or not. I am not sure how this would be implemented but I would like a policy that was considerate and effective so I would research best practice and consult with residents so that I understood needs.

7. Do you consider preserving public views, and/or skylines and/or the night sky important. If so how will you uphold their importance if elected a Woollahra Councillor?

I already have raised a concern about light pollution caused by the stronger new street lighting that Council has installed so yes on this point. Preserving public views would depend on the situation - but generally speaking I would and have always fought hard to preserve public amenity for present and future generations to enjoy.

8. Would you support Council using Council land and/or purchasing land specifically for formal organised sports use?

Playing sport on Council land sounds reasonable as long as it is not disadvantaging anyone, limiting the ability for others to enjoy public spaces, causing damage etc - public spaces are for everyone to enjoy and need to be protected. I do not think it would be appropriate to sell Council land for organised sports use.

9. Which Ward in the Council area do you live in? Vacluse for over 17 years.

10. What do you see as the role of a councillor? The role of a councillor is to represent residents. This means listening to residents in a measured and considered way. Even if my personal views or needs may at times be different to the resident majority, it would be my responsibility to accurately represent resident wishes at Council.

11. Why do you think you are a good choice to fulfill this role? I am not a career politician. I do not belong to a political party and I never have. My interest is only for my local community. I have lived in the Vacluse ward for around 17 years and in this time I have been involved in my community including the Rose Bay Residents Association and the Rose Bay Beach Working Party. I do not know if I would be the best choice but I would certainly do my best.

12. Would you please list your qualifications and experience relevant to being a Councillor. I do not have any experience or qualifications in politics or local government. I have a successful career in project management and human resources. I understand local issues as I have been constantly involved over many years, as a committee member of the Rose Bay residents Association, in supporting residents grapple with local government issues such as objecting to development applications that impact amenity, advocating for the environment, heritage, etc.

13. What are the major challenges facing councillors in Woollahra Municipality? Overdevelopment and the way it is eroding our local area through loss of amenity, a growing gap in infrastructure, environmental damage, pollution and loss of community connection.

14. If elected, how do you propose tackling these challenges? Strategically. I know that there has been an erosion in recent years of the decision power that Councillors once held but there is a lot that can still be done. My focus would be to stop overdevelopment, protect the environment and support our community, and I would do this at every opportunity. I would consider all planning decisions based on this focus.