

Greens Responses

Better Business Practices for Eurobodalla Shire Council

Implementing sustainable business practices by Councils saves money for ratepayers. Our Council has been basically treading water in this area for the last four years and we have missed out on significant savings. We call on all candidates to commit to the following policies.

Eurobodalla Greens are delighted with this list of sensible Climate Focused initiatives for our Council to implement. We are happy to commit to all eight policies. See below for more detail on the how and why of each policy suggestion,

1. Include climate risk assessments (much like financial risk assessments) in the decision-making process of major investment and infrastructure decisions.

Eurobodalla Greens are totally committed to including Climate risk assessments in the decision making process of investment and infrastructure decisions. This should already have been done. We live in an area prone to both bushfire and flooding.

Local government's has a vital role in mitigation of climate change! this is important in a Shire at significant risk of fire, flood and rising sea levels. Green councillor Alison Worthington, in her delegates report from the Climate Council's 2023 Climate Summit , highlighted the work being done by council's across Australia and the world! Local Government can and should lead when federal and state governments fail to act. Her report includes a link to the Climate Council's report *Many Hands Make Light Work* on the importance of multi-level governance in facing the challenge of climate crisis.

https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/249117/2023-Climate-Summit-Clr-Worthington.pdf.

2. Follow the footsteps of Waverly Council, Lane Cove Council, City of Newcastle, City of Parramatta and more to alter your Development Control Plan (DCP) to require new developments (homes and businesses) to be all-electric with no gas across the Shire and no wood fired heating in urban areas.

Eurobodalla Greens are happy to commit to this policy. It will take longer to transition residents from wood fired heating and this area would benefit from an education campaign and some analysis of affordable heating options

3. Encourage active transport by developing active transport plans including building and maintaining more and higher quality footpaths, bike paths, bike routes, walking routes, signage and connectivity.

Eurobodalla is a beautiful shire to walk and cycle. We have a developing tourism industry in mountain bike trails, which is also enjoyed extensively by locals. We need more footpaths, especially for older people and parents with prams. Eurobodalla does not cater well for pedestrians. Signage around the shire is patchy and needs improving. Finally public transport is almost non-existent and in some ways getting worse.

Making it easier to ride and walk can deliver huge benefits for the entire community, promoting health and safety and opens up the option of leaving the car at home.

In a regional area with so few public transport options, active transport supported by great pathway networks can help households save money on transport and ease cost of living pressures. There's much room to improve this aspect of livability in the Eurobodalla, and we're up for the challenge!

4. Install electric vehicle chargers at public council facilities eg. libraries, swimming pools

Electric Vehicles are the way of the future and already many visitors are driving EVs. We need a business case for developing some revenue from EV charging stations.

5. Stop any new developments in high-risk areas affected by sea level rise, flood risk, or bushfire risk.

Absolutely! This will be challenging as much of our shire is impacted by all three issues identified, rising sea level, flood risk and bushfire risk. Once Again Greens are up for the Challenge!

6. Plan to move critical infrastructure out of high-risk areas and improve resilience for infrastructure that can't be moved.

Again, absolutely and again, complex to implement. It will need to be staged and a budget set to achieve this important task.

7. Transition all council vehicles, including garbage trucks, to electric.

Council has a large fleet and as we understand it only has one EV, the mayor's car. All new vehicles purchased should be EVs.

8. Reduce long term Waste Management costs by:

- **implementing a Food and Garden Organics waste program (FOGO) to reduce landfill and methane before it becomes mandatory in 2030**

If Council commences implementing a food and garden organics waste policy at the beginning of 2025 it gives time to trial a range of models and find those which best suit. Additionally, extending the period of free green waste drop off at the tips at the beginning of the bushfire season will encourage residents to ready their properties for the oncoming fire season.

- **upgrading Council recycling shops at all locations so each one caters for the full range of customer's needs, including building materials**

Greens are committed to developing and implementing an affordable housing Strategy. Recycled materials are an integral part of such a strategy. This must be rolled out in conjunction with building approval processes which do not unnecessarily hinder the use of recycled materials in building construction.

- **supporting the above initiatives with an ongoing program of ratepayer consultation and education.**

Eurobodalla Climate action plan needs immediate implementation which includes ongoing consultation and education of ratepayers and all local residents including children and young people, our future ratepayers.