

Better business practices for Eurobodalla Shire Council

Implementing sustainable business practices by Councils saves money for ratepayers. Our Council has been basically trading 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.

Question	The MAYNE Team response
<p>1. Include climate risk assessments (much like financial risk assessments) in the decision-making process of major investment and infrastructure decisions.</p>	<p>Yes. Climate Risk Assessments are an essential part of decision-making which Council must instigate in order to operate in a responsible manner. And indeed, the whole process of investment decision-making needs to be buttressed by a focus on risk assessment. More than this, Council’s program and contract management processes need to include ongoing environmental assessments and contracts need to contain a provision that requires the contractor to deliver.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Eurobodalla Council’s commitment to community net-zero has been average at best. The MAYNE Team agrees that an all-electric developments are a key input to community net zero, and this requirement should be written into DCPs for new homes. We would work with the community to engage and identify a transition path.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The MAYNE Team supports active transport as a vital component of building healthy, connected communities. The Eurobodalla Pathways Strategy (June 2017) needs updating and then regular review so that the development of pathways within and between towns better meets community needs.</p> <p>Active transport, including walking and cycling, plays a crucial role in promoting physical health, reducing traffic congestion, and lowering carbon emissions. To maximise the benefits, we also emphasise</p>

	<p>the importance of designing pathways that are not only safe and accessible but also provide adequate shade to protect users from extreme weather conditions. Well-shaded paths encourage more frequent use, especially during hot weather, and contribute to a more enjoyable and sustainable active transport network.</p>
<p>4. Install electric vehicle chargers at public council facilities e.g. libraries, swimming pools</p>	<p>Yes Opportunity here to explore co-contributions from EV providers.</p>
<p>5. Stop any new developments in high-risk areas affected by sea level rise, flood risk, or bushfire risk.</p>	<p>Safety from floods and fire are a key concern for The MAYNE Team. A review of all greenfield areas zoned for expansion in the draft Housing Strategy in relation to climate risk would be a sensible first step for Council to take.</p> <p>A review of any new developments would require support from State Government, legislative and regulatory changes and this is what The MAYNE Team would advocate for zoning of these areas to be changed under the LEP. Stronger laws are needed to allow Local Councils’ decisions in this regard to be upheld by the Land and Environment Court.</p>
<p>6. Plan to move critical infrastructure out of high-risk areas and improve resilience for infrastructure that can’t be moved.</p>	<p>Yes ... the operative word in your question is “plan”. As part of that we refer back to your question [1] on risk assessment. There are some cost benefit trade-offs to be made when implementing any plan.</p>
<p>7. Transition all council vehicles, including garbage trucks, to electric.</p>	<p>This would need to be implemented when these services went out for tender and should form part of Council’s medium-term goals for sustainability.</p>
<p>8. Reduce long term Waste Management costs by:</p>	
<p>a. implementing a Food and Garden Organics waste program (FOGO) to reduce landfill and methane before it becomes mandatory in 2030;</p>	<p>Yes, this program has proven effective in so many areas and would be welcomed by many residents. Education is a key component to implementing such a program to help avoid cross-contamination.</p>

<p>b. upgrading Council recycling shops at all locations so each one caters for the full range of customer needs, including building materials; and</p>	<p>There is scope for major improvements to our recycling shops and this would also benefit residents in regard to cost of living pressures; acknowledging the terrific work that Council staff currently do within this context.</p>
<p>c. supporting the above initiatives with an ongoing program of ratepayer consultation and education.</p>	<p>The MAYNE Team is committed to transparency and public engagement in all matters. Effective communication is critical to the success of any policy.</p>