

Marino Residents' Association Election document

Tim Gard – attending Election forum 3rd October

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Nominated for Councillor, Coastal Ward, City of Marion

Profile:

I am just completing my first term on Council in which I have been responsible for motions achieving a variety of positive effects for this Ward and the City at large. During this time I have also sat on the majority of the key Committees. My record is as a 'doer' not a 'talker'.

My qualification and corporate and business background is in senior marketing roles and strategic management. I am also a qualified life and business coach and author. In the latter realm, I have published a volume on my life passion, the thoroughbred racehorse, for world-wide distribution.

My broader passion is for better and more affordable lifestyles and for preservation of common sense in a world of galloping technology.

Cement Hill Development:

I am positive to the notion of a future residential and commercial development but, as a very close neighbor of the site, insist that it be compliant with the general needs and character of the neighbourhood, including the planning of surrounding infrastructure.

5049Foreshore:

I am a representative of the City of Marion on the Metropolitan Seaside Councils Committee.

My concern is that the environment must come first in all activities and development along the shoreline and that its precious natural character be preserved in our vicinity.

Local transport and access:

This is one of my central planks for a second term of service. The Coastal Ward is in need of a complete rethink to enable its residents to live without 100% vehicle reliance. This phase will commence with a survey of needs and habits. One of the most serious impacts on our living environment is that of an overloaded Brighton Road, a bi-product of poor transport vision.

Sustainability and the local environment:

Perhaps my most significant initiative in a physical sense has been to promote the now agreed step-up in pace of the greening of the City, particularly in the Coastal Ward, which is already shifting from its formerly harsh condition and presentation.

Energy is another area of focus and the Infrastructure and Strategy Committee has this topic high on its agendas, along with choices of materials and various open space treatments.

Planning and Development:

I was on the Urban Planning Committee when the first round of rezoning application was generated in 2017 and forwarded to State Government. I see the need for increased housing densities, but with sensitivity to precise location and to degrees and nature of development.

One vital area of planning for our local community includes the Marino Community Hall. Having secured nearby land, we can now set course to determine the needs and choices of the people of this suburb in relation to a revitalised set of facilities.

Access to public open space and community assets:

We have huge amounts of open space in our Ward, but with that comes the responsibility for its upkeep and monitoring of public demand, whilst being cognisant of budgetary limitations if we are to govern the City from north to south with equity and fairness, as required by the Act.

North-South Corridor Development:

For years I have been agitating for the need for access and egress ramps from Majors Road to the developing Corridor. This is vital to avoid future log jams at Darlington and relieve ever-increasing pressure on Brighton Road. It will be a 'life changer' for our residents when on the road.

Rates:

No one on Council has done more than I to assist in the control and hauling in of inequitable rates levied upon this Ward. The next five years will see the pressure reduced as a result of my successful motions.

Future engagement and representation:

For many years now I have served on and worked to the Marino Residents' Association, now in its new form. I have an agreed and workable new relationship with this growing body, but in my Councillor capacities I am in the position to call for and participate in public consultation. I have also been a most accessible and concerned Councillor when a resident or group is in need, as can be confirmed by anyone of note in the City's administration. This will continue.

It is important right now to emphasise that my co-Ward Councillor and I command a great deal of respect around the Chamber of the City of Marion. I am not referred to by the Mayor as the 'Lion of Marino' for no good reason! This has resulted in tangible benefits, including the greening progress in our

Ward, new installations, the recent acquisition of land to assist the Community Hall's development and new initiatives that are set to contain rate hikes in this Ward and some others.

As a duo we have achieved an enormous amount for residents in our first term, with more to come. This can only be effected through insight, hard work, ability and perceived integrity on the part of our peers on Council.