



Bass Coast Shire Council

Bunurong Ward

Candidate responses not yet received

Island Ward

Candidate, Island Ward – Ash Belsar

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Bass Coast?

I can't list specifics as if I get in it will take some time to research and consult before committing to anything. However, having run an Outdoor Adventure Activities business since 2006, and working in the outdoor education industry even longer, I can think of few things more important than encouraging people away from screens and out into our beautiful environment. I've read quite a number of articles over recent years highlighting research showing just how beneficial outdoor activities are for balanced well-being: physical, mental and emotional. I would back you 100%.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride? How could this be improved?

I can't say I have a single favourite, however Oswin Roberts Reserve is great. A lot of work has been done recently and it's in pretty good nick. One possibility would be making Cape Woolamai more accessible to cyclists. I used to ride here a bit, however it can be pretty brutal on chains etc.

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with Bass Coast council's bike plans?

I can't say for sure, once again it would be something I'd need to look into if I get elected. I do remember many years ago being a part of a discussion group regarding extending our cycling paths around the island so that may be something to take further?

Do you support accessible and appealing active travel links to employment, school, work and local shops?

Fantastic idea!

Would you advocate for lower speeds (30-40km/h) on local streets?



I can't say for sure, once again it would be something I'd need to look into if I get elected. There are some streets that this seems highly appropriate for and I've seen it done in some housing estates in Melbourne.

Would you support fast-tracked implementation of bike plans?

I can't say for sure, once again it would be something I'd need to look into if I get elected. Highly likely though.

Do you think trials of parklets, pop-up bike lanes or other progressive measures to make it easier for people to ride are a good idea?

I can't say for sure, once again it would be something I'd need to look into if I get elected but sounds good.

Do you believe in building an around island bike/walk track?

I love the idea. Without understanding the complexities I'd need to take careful consideration before making any commitments. Just imagine taking your kids riding along the back beach coastline, not to say how beneficial it would be to businesses like mine!

Are you aware of the Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) call for increased funding in the Council budget for safe cycling on Phillip Island? Do you support these initiatives?

No I haven't heard about this before but love to hear more ? I'm assuming I'd be strongly for it.

Cycle Safe Cowes to the Nobbies/Summerland

Fantastic. I remember nearly being cleaned up by a truck riding from Cowes to work at the Penguin parade. There's simply no room on the shoulder to ride safely and when the sun is in the wrong position it's really hard for drivers to see cyclists.

Cycle Safe to schools

As above.

Cycle Safe Thompson Ave & Settlement Rd

As above.

Cycle Safe Phillip Island & connect the paths

As above.



Candidate, Island Ward – Darrell Silva

Thank you for your mail.

Rather than answer your questions directly, please accept the following

To improve cyclists' safety and increase the attractiveness of Phillip Island to cyclists, I support bike paths being connected around the island.

Candidate, Island Ward – Jeni Jobe

My name is Jeni and I'm one of the core members of Totally Renewable Phillip Island. I run the face book page for TRPI and was the one who did all the graphics and worked with Mary finalising the Cycle Safe message.

Here are my answers to your questions.

I would absolutely advocate for the program as outlined in Totally Renewable Phillip Island's Active Transport campaign - <https://totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com/active-transport.html>

My kids ride to school in Newhaven and back to San Remo, very little in the way of safe paths on that route

It's better than it was when I was going to school in Cowes, but not by much

I do, I would like to see connecting paths between all townships, to help reduce pollution and increase health benefits. One of the main reasons I don't go out riding is the lack of safe paths away from traffic

It would depend on the street type and situation, there is no one solution to fit all situations

I would, getting funding is the problem, I would like to see our annual footpath budget grow and have the council be open to trialling using recycled waste streams in our pathways. It would turn mountains of plastic into kilometres of pathways. It is being done successfully in other councils and counties

I'm open to all solutions, however temporary bike lanes could be vulnerable to drivers not expecting them

Yes I do, one that weaves from coast areas into the centre of the Island, preferably away from roads

Yes I am, I helped with the project and I support all of the initiatives outlined in it



I'm really glad that you are sending this information to all the candidates, we need to get this message out there and the campaign supported.

Candidate, Island Ward – Michael Whelan

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Bass Coast?

Seek to make Active transport a priority in the Council Plan and then push to make the projects a part of the long term financial plan and budget. The priority initially for me would be getting a safe cycling plan for Bass Coast and push for Phillip Island to become known as an interesting and a safe place for Cycling starting with a shared pathway from Cowes to Summerlands and a safe cycling path along Thompson Avenue

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride? How could this be improved?

I am not a regular cyclist but enjoy the walk from Cowes to Silverleaves which would be significantly improved with an extension of the pathway from Cowes to Coghlan Rd on top of the new rock revetment planned for that area

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with Bass Coast council's bike plans?

No, there are many pathways which need urgent attention and more need to be constructed as a priority. The Cowes Activity Centre Plan already provides for a safe cycle path but it requires immediate attention.

I gained Council budget support to fund the gap in the footpath along Settlement Rd from the industrial estate to Cowes Primary School to enable Safe Cycling for school children on this route, as a start but the other end also requires attention to fill in the gaps.

Do you support accessible and appealing active travel links to employment, school, work and local shops?

Yes, this is possible to achieve on Phillip Island if we make Settlement Rd a shared path (off road) all the way from Silverleaves to Red Rocks Rd; and we reposition the cycle lanes on Thompson Ave to beside the footpath, not behind the parked cars as is currently the situation.

Would you advocate for lower speeds (30-40km/h) on local streets?

Yes, lower speeds support safe cycling and walking. A review of speed limits is expected to



commence soon with RRV, it was delayed by Covid but will require pressure to expedite it in the new Council.

Would you support fast-tracked implementation of bike plans?

Yes, as a priority for the next Council by including it in the Council Plan and Long Term financial plan.

Do you think trials of parklets, pop-up bike lanes or other progressive measures to make it easier for people to ride are a good idea?

A pop-up bike lane on Settlement Rd for a weekend as a trial to promote cycling, is possible from Silverleaves to Thompson Ave. Otherwise a clear focus on delivering more pathways and making the ones we have safer is my priority.

Do you believe in building an around island bike/walk track?

I think connecting pathways and making safe crossings can achieve this, but yes to be able to cycle & walk to the main points on the Island will be terrific. It will also make Phillip Island a destination for cyclists as has been achieved in the North East of Victoria

Are you aware of the Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) call for increased funding in the Council budget for safe cycling on Phillip Island?

Yes, and I wholeheartedly support their call for action for Safe Cycling.

Cycle Safe Cowes to the Nobbies/Summerland

As a priority for making Phillip Island the new Cycle Destination for Victoria

Cycle Safe to schools

Kids love to cycle but it needs to be safe to do so.

Cycle Safe Thompson Ave & Settlement Rd

These are key actions to make our existing network safe and workable

Cycle Safe Phillip Island & connect the paths

Urgent- Unsafe crossings of major roads stop people cycling

Candidate, Island Ward – Trish Cerini

Thank you for your email.

Firstly, I have just completed my Candidate profile on the website Vote Easy, please see:



<https://voteeasy.com.au/candidate/trish-cerini/>

I am in full support of bike paths promoting health and well-being on our island, I am a regular walker and would love to be a more regular bike rider!

I also agree fully with your idea of reducing the speed limit and having a round the island bike/walk track, that would be a fantastic addition to our island.

Best wishes in your voting..

Western Port Ward

Candidate, Western Port Ward – Bruce Kent

Thank you for your email. I hope your cycling group is going well as are the Saints looking good. As you would know, I have been a councillor for four years in the Western Port Ward. I was the chairperson of PITS and have a good relationship with Don Turner having nominated him for the Australia Day award and also being the Chairperson for the Road Safety Committee. I have also strongly supported the 'L to P' program. I am a bike rider but not a serious one. My wife and I certainly enjoy touring on our bikes when caravanning throughout Australia. I also have a good relationship with Mary and Michael Whelan and fully support endeavours Towards Zero Emissions Transport.

I have also advocated for a bus route which circumnavigates the island, allowing tourists to leave their vehicles at designated points, transport their bikes or day supplies and then be transported throughout the island or ride part of it. I have also advocated for the last block of Thompson Ave to be shut off to motor vehicles or to be only one way towards the water at a greatly reduced speed (20kph). I would love to see a greatly improved streetscape which is pedestrian/cyclist friendly. I was the one that insisted on charging points at the new Civic Centre to address the needs of E bike and electric scooters.

I believe that a lot more advocating has to take place with Rural Roads as I believe that at times they just don't listen to us and they need to be hounded further. An example of this is the Newhaven road develop plan. At this point, I do not believe that Rural Roads has listened to the community as I believe that their current plan does not produce a reduced speed, rider and pedestrian friendly environment. I believe that our speed limits of 100kph will be reduced to 80kph but again Rural roads is moving to slow. I hear that they are possibly looking at a 2 year implementation, which is ridiculous if true. We must push the State Government through Rural Roads to consider changes on our main roads throughout the island.

I fully support a clear Bicycle Strategy for Phillip Island and the whole of Bass Coast. I have mentioned many times at council the enjoyment of using shared footways in the Alexandra, Mansfield and Bright areas where one can enjoy beautiful accommodation, set out on your bike



and have your belongings delivered to your next point of stay. Possibly enjoying a wine along the way.

I am 100% in favour of changing the bike lane situation along Thompson Ave as I have attended a few incidents of injuries. I also fully support the immediate recommendations of BUGS.

We are going to be facing a Covid 19 recovery process and it is my belief that this is an opportunity to push forward these recommendations. It has already been shown that if you have a shovel ready project then you take advantage of council money and especially government grants. My opinion is that we need to be shovel ready with the initial planning and surveying done. I am hoping that Michael Whelan will get re-elected as I know of his passion for this advocacy. I look forward to giving my full support for these projects and pushing my own advocacy of your thoughts.

Candidate, Western Port Ward – Geoff Ellis

Over the decades I have been to Perth a couple of times and have enjoyed cycling along their cycle path network which is completely separate from the road network. I think this is the ideal we should all be working towards. Maybe a cycling led COVID recovery?

Anyway, to answer your questions:

If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Bass Coast?

Push to get more funding for the aspirational pathways plan.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride? How could this be improved?

The rail trail in Wonthaggi. I can get there safely in the car. More lighting for night riding.

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with Bass Coast council's bike plans?

No, but there are a lot of things that need funding, the issue is limited finances and unlimited opportunity.

Do you support accessible and appealing active travel links to employment, school, work and local shops?

Yes.



Would you advocate for lower speeds (30-40km/h) on local streets?

Yes. Particularly shopping centres.

Would you support fast-tracked implementation of bike plans?

Within the bounds of fiscal responsibility. Need to be aware of the opportunity cost.

Do you think trials of parklets, pop-up bike lanes or other progressive measures to make it easier for people to ride are a good idea?

Yes.

Do you believe in building an around island bike/walk track?

Yes, but we need to consider local amenity and vegetation retention. ie doesn't have to hug the coast for the entire lap.

Are you aware of the Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) call for increased funding in the Council budget for safe cycling on Phillip Island?

Yes.

Do you support these initiatives?

Yes. And need to consider the mainland opportunities.

Cycle Safe Cowes to the Nobbies/Summerland

4

Cycle Safe to schools

1

Cycle Safe Thompson Ave & Settlement Rd

3

Cycle Safe Phillip Island & connect the paths

2

With increased Council spending we can make Phillip Island & Bass Coast a premier cycle/walk destination. More Council funding attracts more State & Federal Government funding. When Council funds the plans & builds pathways, our local State & Federal MPs know what the community wants and can assist Council to build these projects. As a new Councillor you will have the opportunity to make this happen by advocating and increasing funds for planning, building and linking more shared



pathways in Bass Coast. Your children & grandchildren will thank you for investing in an active, connected, safe and environmentally-friendly future.

Once again, good luck and thank you for nominating. Thank you for caring. I hope the community appreciates your effort. I do.

If anyone wants to ask further questions just email me at geoff2020wpw@gmail.com

Candidate, Western Port Ward – Rochelle Halstead

I write to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your email outlining your view on Council's Active Bass Coast Plan 2018-2028 and the aspirational shared path plan, both of which are wonderful plans for Bass Coast.

As you can appreciate there is a great deal of robust lobbying taking place at this time from various community groups all seeking to have commitments from prospective councillors for their specific areas of interest.

I personally love the idea of creating a network of bike and walking paths across Bass Coast however I must be honest and hope you understand that Council has extremely high demands on their budget and all decisions based around funding would need to be considered against the whole of Shire needs.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected as the Western Port Ward representative I will be doing all I can to ensure Council is relentless in their lobbying for state and federal government funding so projects such as mentioned can proceed. Currently I believe we have been lacking in our ability to secure these funds and they are desperately needed in our fast growing municipality.

Thank you again for contacting me and please be assured if there is a way to get these plans progressing I will do all I can to support.