

Thank you for the invitation, I am unable to attend. I have forwarded my responses to your questions and would like for them to be read out in my absence. This courtesy was afforded to Peter McKeown during the last campaign when he was unable to attend one of the Chamber of Commerce forums.

I would also like to say that should I be re-elected I am very happy to meet with representatives of this association and calmly, impartially and correctly work through all concerns with you.

I have also answered question 8 as this is my position on the ballot and I thought it was as good as any question to answer.

- How long have you been a ratepayer in Douglas Shire?

I have been a rate-payer since 2006 but a resident since 1971. I have friends who have been here as long as I have yet are not rate-payers. Does being a rate-payer have to be a pre-requisite of being a Councillor?

- Are you affiliated with or a member of any political party or member of any local community groups and associations?

I am not affiliated with any political party and I am wondering of what importance this question is. I am on the board of the Mossman Support Services.

- What skills, knowledge and experience enables you to be an effective Councillor/Mayor?

Life skills and personal attributes include;

I left home to go to university at an early age. This demonstrates a desire to exercise maturity, seek independence and build life skills without relying on others.

I have various university qualifications and also post graduate qualifications. This demonstrates an ability to study and acquire theoretical knowledge.

Professional sportswoman demonstrates an ability to work in a team, hard working ethos, dedication, ability to concentrate and demonstrable ability to focus without being distracted.

Part-time university studies while playing full-time sport and having a part time job again demonstrates focus, determination, time management, concentration and organisational skills. Ability to study alone yet still manage to understand subject matter accordingly.

I am both a primary and secondary school which demonstrates good communication skills in both listening and conveying knowledge. Ability for clear verbal explanations and also non-verbal communication skills. Patience, caring attitude and willingness to go beyond normal requirements are frequent when teaching.

After living very successfully in Europe for 10 years I returned to Australia. This demonstrates a clear understanding of what I desire in life and what I consider important aspects to life choices.

Living in Europe has allowed me to learn 3 languages and learn about many cultures. This has taught me better cultural awareness and acceptance and understanding of diversity.

Wanting to give back to the place where I was born demonstrates a genuine desire to repay my birthplace.

To date, I have accumulated 6 years of Council experience and the longer I am privileged in doing this job the better I am able to see the big picture and understand how, regarding Council, everything is inter-related and there are no silos. This means that as a councillor, things must be tackled holistically and importantly, designed as something to last in a positive manner well into the future.

A brief summary of the last 6 years will assist in explaining why my experience is important and my effectiveness as an incumbent councillor.

In the beginning, my main focus was on community and family. With time and a deeper understanding of all aspects that L.G. is involved in, I have come to appreciate the broader gamut of this role. However, I still have a special feeling for the clubs and associations that drive life in rural and remote areas.

In my role as Councillor I have been on the executive board of the Douglas Shire Community Services Association (Mossman Support Services), my portfolio is the Youth Centre but I enjoy all aspects of this wonderful association. One of my stronger interests as a councillor is in the youth sector and all aspects in improving their road to adulthood.

This is also reflected by the fact that I am a relief teacher and have the opportunities to teach all around the shire in both Primary and Secondary. This gets me closer to the youth of the Shire and allows me to understand their needs better. Subjects that I have covered are H.P.E. science, math, Special Needs, ESL (guest teacher for a visiting Japanese School), Italian Language, I also teach Italian privately if desired.

For several years, I have volunteered my time training local women's soccer and I wish to extend that further to pass on my goal keeping knowledge to the younger generation of Douglas juniors.

I have been on the board of the Douglas White Ribbon committee to march against DV and I have been a HUGE advocate for the progression of the DV shelter in the area (p.s watch this space).

I am spending time behind the scenes assisting and pushing for birthing facilities to be brought back to Mossman Hospital and I am regularly invited to attend meetings for Cairns and District Health and Hospital Service.

I have volunteered time with the Lids 4 Kids movement in the shire and have been the liaison between the local co-ordinator and the high school to get the students involved.

I attend most associations' AGM meetings to keep involved. I regularly attend the different sporting codes, end of year productions, and nearly all charity events that occur during the year. I find this gives me the opportunity to speak with and listen to people in informal situations which some people benefit from. If you haven't seen me than you haven't been looking!

I have been a principal participate in the revamping of the Mossman Pool and Leisure Centre and I will continue to make sure that planned improvements will remain on track. The proposed lagoon in Port will have **stage one** as a zero depth childrens park, of this I have made sure.

I have created special relationships with the Historical Society and worked hand in hand with them on diverse projects. I have also assisted on numerous occasions the Mossman Branch of the RSL. I

attend DAB exhibitions and keep an eye on this wonderful association to make sure it is ok. I am also involved in most sporting and leisure clubs on some level.

I am the council representative for Regional Arts Development Fund and through this assist the local artists and art scene. I assisted significantly in the idea of the indigenous art street banners and support great events like the 'Call of the Running Tide', of which I had the fortune of officially opening.

I have been on the Council Audit Committee and found this actually interesting and enjoyable, it's much vaster than just looking at finance.

Add to this, unblocking drains, road verge mowing, road re-graveling, signage questions, playground equipment breakages, assisting in pest control, advocating, looking at path trip hazards, answering questions, complaints about illegal camping...

On a professional development level, I have completed many Local Government Elected Member courses and I attend the annual L.G. conferences seeking improvement and networking opportunities. I have on numerous occasions meet and spoken with State and Federal members regarding various topics. This has assisted me in getting to know the politicians and create rapports with them along with improving my governance and negotiation skills.

I am a well-respected councillor throughout Queensland, this allows me to easily converse with other councillors, councils and politicians when seeking any type of assistance.

In summary, Douglas is my birthplace and my home and I have a genuine need to make sure it is treasured, guarded, nurtured and preserved for the present and into the future, well beyond any tenure I might have as a councillor. Decisions I make are based on me knowing the area intimately and desiring a balanced encompassing future. I do this by being a strategist, I have to make strategic decisions as to how to balance requests, wishes and desires and combine them with the essential services that a council must provide.

THANK YOU.

Q. 8 What gaps (if any) do you feel are in community engagement?

I believe that council is lacking in how effective we are in the community-council information exchange. What might superficially appear to be lack of communication is simply in fact ineffective communication. Our job over the next term really would be to increase the effectiveness of everyone knowing what is happening.

I quite often get questions about something that I know we have had a media release about but the person obviously has not seen it. Once explained, the person is satisfied.

This is an important fact because I believe this to be the culprit as opposed to not having encompassing engagement. Most people when COMPLETELY armed with as much information as I can give or explain to them, are satisfied with how things are progressing. A reasonable person in fact, always comes to the same conclusions and end result as I do.