

**2020 Alpine Shire Council Election.**  
**Sustainable Upper Ovens – Community Environment Group**  
**We conducted a survey of Election Candidates and here's what they had to say about some key environmental concerns.**

## **John Forsyth**

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Very important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Very important

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Very important

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Very important

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- Yes

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- The current Covid pandemic is an emergency; addressing global warming and reducing our carbon footprint needs a timely, measured and informed response.

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- Yes

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Very important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- Better management to build resilience to diminish the effects of future bushfires.

## Kelli Prime

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Extremely important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Very important
- I think this needs to be addressed at Council level but also within the community/by individuals. I realise Council can play a large part in this too though.

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Very important
- I am aware that a survey was done last year. Were the results from the survey negative? I'd need to know more details of this as well.

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Extremely important
- Local communities such as Yackandandah have done a terrific job with renewable initiatives. I understand the community involvement has been quite extraordinary. It would have to suit our community and be supported by the community to be feasible.

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- Yes
- So far from what I have heard, this plan sounds quite promising and it seems they have had a lot of interest. As I mentioned above it would have to be what the community wants and it would have to be well supported by the community.

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- I would need to know more details. This has been a divisive topic in other communities and if it is going to be done then it needs full community support. Even if this is not signed, I still think a community can do a lot without it.

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- If there was the demand for it.

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Extremely important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- Waste

## Charlie Vincent

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Extremely important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Extremely important

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Extremely important

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Extremely important

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- Yes

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- Yes

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- Yes

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Extremely important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- The climate emergency and the biodiversity emergency leading to loss of ecosystems and extinction of native plant and animal species.

## Katarina Chalwell

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Extremely important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Extremely important

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Extremely important

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Very important

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- No
- Not educated enough on the matter

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- Yes

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- Yes

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Extremely important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- Waste management

## Jean-Pierre Ronco

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Very important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Very important

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Very important

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Extremely important

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- Yes

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- Yes

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- Yes

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Extremely important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- I believe that the single most important environmental issue confronting the Alpine Shire is waste, as the Council will have an important role to play. Already implementing the Waste Wise Event program in the Shire, I believe that Council should now offer an incentive to residents to reduce their waste. I know that in Europe, residents waste is weighed and charged proportionally for waste management. I think that people making the effort to reduce and recycle their waste should have an incentive or tax break to encourage them. I also believe that green waste should be free of charge and re-used to compost or fertilise our land. For sustainability and energy, I think that the Council should encourage and facilitate communications with community-lead groups such as Sustainable Upper Ovens or Upper Ovens Landcare groups.

## Tony Keeble

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Extremely important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Extremely important
- It is not only the collection of soft plastics that is important. North East Victoria desperately needs the regional waste strategy to start implementing the collection and recycling of many products, including plastics.

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Extremely important
- Council is working its way through the green waste process. Processing and recycling green waste is important to get right, whether that happens in our shire or a nearby shire.

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Extremely important

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- Yes

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- I agree with declaring a climate emergency. Though, it is not the councils remit in regards to the Local Government Act to make a declaration. It is more important to put actions into place that reduce our carbon footprint including the use of a sustainable purchasing policy. Such policies ensure we look at recycling or reusing materials before new products are purchased. It means making sure we purchase the most fuel efficient vehicles on the market. It includes making sure that local contractors are considered in contracted work to reduce the carbon footprint caused through the use of fossil fuels. It means making sure all purchases are put through a sustainable purchasing process.

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- Yes

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Extremely important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- The increases in global temperatures is the issue that is causing, has caused and will continue to cause environmental damage in our shire. Major fires in the in the last 17 years - 2003, 2006, 2009, 2013, 2016, 2019/2020. I've lived in this area since 1982, and we can all see what is going on.

## Ron Janas

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Very important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Very important

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Somewhat important
- Green waste needs to be processed but if the Shire may not produce enough to be cost effective so it may have to be taken to a larger collection facility e.g. Wangaratta in order to keep the cost down. Surveys reveal that if the cost is kept under \$100 it becomes more acceptable. Keeping it out of landfill should be the goal

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Very important

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- Yes

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- What we should be doing is actually doing something about it by leading by example and publishing what we are doing to encourage our residents to follow suit. The fleet of vehicles has been reduced. Use of renewable product whenever possible in our procurement policies, garner affordable community ideas in any new or upgrade build

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- I do support the use of electric vehicles but am concerned as to where the recharge stations will be situated and who is going to pay for it. Perhaps a public/private partnership would work. Parking in Bright in particular is already at a premium. Accommodation facilities should be offering these facilities. The Ovens Hotel is a good example.

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Very important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- Effectively and efficiently reducing our carbon footprint

## Simon Kelley

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Extremely important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Extremely important

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Extremely important

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Extremely important

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- No
- I have spent almost 2 decades in the renewable energy industry and continue to be an employee of the largest investor in Australia. I am a huge advocate for localised renewable energy solutions. As a councillor, I will push hard for renewable energy rollout and uptake, but will be agnostic to the model that should be adopted, as I will need to manage any potential conflict of interest issues with my employment outside of local government.

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- I want to set ambitious targets to achieve zero net emissions, renewable energy uptake and waste avoidance. I want these targets to stimulate the local economy and be a feature of our region.

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- Yes

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Extremely important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- Waste management. I want the Alpine Shire Council to set ambitious targets on this front. Zero waste should be the expectation for all events. This will reduce litter from entering our natural environment and put a halt to trucking garbage to landfill beyond our borders. I am mindful that it was local governments that first set the expectation by banning plastic bags, Alpine Shire should take similar leadership steps in cooperation with local business. I am passionate about the fact that it is our beautiful environment that drives the local economy. This needs to be leveraged to benefit residents, educate visitors and advance the sustainability of our way of life here. The Orca at Bright Brewery is a great example of locals taking steps forward. Council should be preparing the business plan for an upscaled one like the City of Melbourne's.



## Sarah Nicholas

How important to you is it that the Alpine Shire Council reduces its plastic use?

- Extremely important

Soft plastics are no longer collected and recycled in the Upper Ovens. How important is it to you that Council address this issue?

- Extremely important
- Might be through advocacy rather than doing ASC doing it.

How important is it to you that Council actively look at ways to process green waste within the Shire?

- Extremely important
- There has been some discussion about this - support would be great!

How important to you is the uptake of renewable energy in the Alpine Shire?

- Extremely important

Do you support the Local Power Plan (<https://www.localpowerplan.com/>) of local federal member Dr Helen Haines?

- Yes

Do you support the Alpine Shire Council declaring a climate emergency? For example, by calling for immediate and urgent action to reverse global warming and taking appropriate actions to reduce its carbon footprint.

- Yes

Should Council support the use electric vehicles and bicycles, including by providing EV charging stations?

- Yes

How important is it to ensure effective community consultation and engagement on all proposed environment / sustainable programs projects and programs?

- Extremely important

What do you believe is the single most important environment / energy / sustainability issue confronting the Alpine Shire?

- The Climate Emergency, which really encompasses everything else.