

Canada Bay Council Election 2024: CABCB Candidates Survey

Name: Charles Jago

Party Affiliation: The Greens

1. Do you agree that Council has a responsibility to lead the community on climate change remedial actions? If you agree, how might Council achieve this?

Yes. In many ways: 1. Lobby for improved planning rules to (a) improve building energy efficiency, phase out use of natural gas, and more (b) increase tree canopy with tree planting and promotion; (c) reduce heat island effect (d) etc. 2. Improve emissions targets and reduce emissions in council operations. 3. lots of EV chargers. 4. and lots more.

2. Do you support the Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction targets set out in the 2023 Council Emissions Reduction Plan? If so, what new strategies will you advocate to Council for achieving these targets?

I have not found a 2023 Council Emissions Reduction Plan. I found an earlier one. The basic targets are net zero emissions for council operations by 2030 and net zero emissions for the community across Canada Bay by 2050. Since those targets were set, Council has transitioned to 100% renewable electricity from July 2022, because of a motion I put to council and got support for. Also, the science has changed, and the community needs to reach net zero by 2035 not 2050.

3. Would you seek to strengthen environmental requirements in the Development Control Plans of Council so that new housing is designed and built for the low emission future?

Yes. However, remember that the state government doesn't allow councils to change planning rules in order to improve climate outcomes. I pushed council toward updating our Development Control Plan (DCP) to exclude "natural" gas from future developments, but got blocked by the conservatives. I intend to bring it back in the next term of council and win it on the next round. Other issues in DCPs include greater green space, deep soil areas etc. I will do whatever I can on this. Please feed me more ideas on it.

4. Do you support extending the gas ban currently approved by Council on health grounds to new/renovated housing constructions?

Yes, see previous answer.

5. What are your plans to improve active transport infrastructure and ensure people can safely get around without a car if they choose to do so?

I am working with WalkSydney and BayBUG on improved cycleways. This has been an enormous challenge. The current focus is protecting the development of the Bay to Concord cycleway.

6. Will you push for Council to reach 40% tree canopy cover by 2036 as stipulated by the NSW State Government? (Tree Canopy cover is defined by the NSW State Government as all vegetation greater than 3m. In 2022 tree canopy across Canada Bay LGA was reported by the NSW State Government as 17.5%.)

According to our tree canopy strategy, our tree canopy was at 18.2% in 2019 when we adopted our target of 25% by 2040. It would be great if the NSW government could increase the rate of tree growth by decree, but I don't think that will work. In the meantime, their development rules make it harder to reach our target. I support increasing tree canopy to the greatest extent possible, but 40% by any deadline looks really difficult for a council with a lot of housing development under way. The latest density plans from the government are undermining our efforts to increase tree canopy. Council is doing a great job of tree planting and protection of trees on public land. The real issue is to reduce the large losses on private land. Council doesn't have good data yet on these losses, which we hope to resolve soon with satellite &/or other mapping data soon. But even then, our scope to take action is limited by NSW government pro-development decrees (regulations).

7. What will you do to improve waste management and recycling for households and businesses?

This is a complicated area. The waste management and recycling industry is run by an oligopoly which limits the cost-effective action by councils to process waste and introduce innovative solutions. The state government supports some good changes, but the "NSW waste levy" increases costs and (rather than supporting waste solutions) props up the budget of the NSW govt.

The most significant change is the introduction of FOGO - Food organics and garden organics, which the council is currently running as a trial with a number of apartment blocks. This will gradually increase over maybe 2 years to cover everybody. This will take food scraps out of general waste (the "red bin") and reduce waste going to landfill, with a cost benefit to council and ratepayers. At some point the size of the red bin will be reduced.

There are many programs going on, and I have to give credit the staff who are also committed to environmental outcomes. There is so much going on that I find it hard to keep up. I do whatever I can to support all the good programs that the council is doing.