



# James Nicholas



East Gippsland, -

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**IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OR AFFILIATED WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POLITICAL PARTIES?**

None

**IF YOU RESIGNED PARTY MEMBERSHIP, WHAT YEAR?**

-

**I BELIEVE COUNCIL SHOULD PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY:**

As their primary responsibility

**I BELIEVE RATES SHOULD:**

Council Should always be looking to reduce by being efficient

**I BELIEVE RATE CAPPING:**

I do not know

**I BELIEVE COUNCIL:**

Should focus on Local matters only and stay out of State, Federal or international issues as much as it can

**ALL COUNCIL EXPENDITURE SHOULD BE:**

Disclosed in as much detail as possible

**A CANDIDATE SHOULD LIVE IN THE WARD THEY SEEK ELECTION**

YES - they must live in the area they want to represent (I live in the ward I am running for)

**AS A CANDIDATE:**

I WILL NOT accept donations from Political Parties

**AS A CANDIDATE:**

I WILL NOT accept donations from Developers

**AS A CANDIDATE:**

I WILL NOT accept donations from Unions

**COUNCILLORS ARE BETTER IF**

They are not affiliated with a political party and refuse to join one whilst they are a Councillor

**COUNCIL CEO'S AND EXECUTIVES SHOULD HAVE PUBLIC KPI'S TIED TO THEIR REMUNERATION AND THEIR RESULTS SHOULD BE VISIBLE**

YES - public money equals public accountability

**I BELIEVE COUNCILLORS**

Should make decisions in the best interests of their community regardless of their personal views

**AS A CANDIDATE, I BELIEVE AUSTRALIA DAY SHOULD BE HANDLED BY COUNCIL:**

by Celebrating with all things "Australian"

**HAVE YOU HAD THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER/UNPAID OR COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

Volunteered in local charity or community organisations; Sat on a board of a not for profit organisation; Local Sporting Clubs

**I BELIEVE THAT CLIMATE CHANGE**

Is something Councils should consider in rational and practical ways without throwing money away; Is an issue that Councils should ask the community about before spending public money

**WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR COMMUNITIES' TOP 5 FUNDING PRIORITIES ARE FROM COUNCIL FUNDS?**

Rubbish Collection/Waste Disposal; Roads, Footpaths, Drains (New and maintenance); Cutting Council Waste (spending); Improving the efficiency of the planning process; Value for Money in service delivery

**MY CAMPAIGN IS FUNDED BY:**

I accept donations from the Public; I may take funds from large companies; Me and Family/Friends

**IF ELECTED, I WILL FOCUS ON LOCAL ISSUES AND AVOID FEDERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE?**

YES

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ADVOCATE THAT ANNUAL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEYS ARE CONSIDERED, AND THE ANNUAL PLAN IS DEvised TO ADDRESS PERFORMANCE GAPS**

YES

**IF ELECTED, I PLEDGE TO ADVOCATE THAT THE COUNCIL 4 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN INCORPORATES SERVICE DELIVERY STANDARDS.**

YES

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ADVOCATE THAT ALL OVERSEAS/INTERSTATE TRAVEL MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL IN A PUBLIC MEETING**

YES - but I will not support any overseas travel

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ADVOCATE THAT COUNCIL PUBLISHES ALL COUNCILLOR AND STAFF EXPENDITURE ON THE COUNCILS WEBSITE EVERY QUARTER**

I DO NOT KNOW

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ADVOCATE TO**

Advocate to conduct an organisational review to reduce duplication and waste in staff resources

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ADVOCATE THAT COUNCIL IMPLEMENTS A COUNCILLOR VOTING REGISTER ON COUNCILS WEBSITE (TO SHOW HOW EVERY COUNCILLOR VOTED ON EACH ITEM IN THE MINUTES OF EACH MEETING)**

YES

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ALWAYS REMAIN PROFESSIONAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, AND IN ALL DEALINGS IN THE COUNCIL. I WILL ALWAYS TREAT THE COMMUNITY WITH DIGNITY, COURTESY AND RESPECT.**

YES

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ENSURE I RESPOND TO COMMUNICATION FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS (UNLESS THE SENDER IS DEFAMATORY OR ABUSIVE)**

YES

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ADVOCATE FOR A COUNCIL TRANSPARENCY HUB WHERE ALL INFORMATION IS DISPLAYED OPENLY ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE**

YES

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ADVOCATE FOR COUNCILLOR BRIEFING MEETINGS (WHICH ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC & BETWEEN COUNCILLORS AND STAFF) SHOULD BE:**

I do not know

**IF ELECTED, I WILL ADVOCATE FOR A BACK-TO-BASICS ACTION PLAN AS PART OF THE COUNCIL 4 YEAR PLAN TO MEASURE SERVICE DELIVERY OUTCOMES ON CORE COUNCIL SERVICES**

YES

**WHAT IS YOUR PITCH TO VOTERS? WHY SHOULD THEY VOTE FOR YOU?**

The future of East Gippsland must be centered on a balanced approach to development & jobs creation. Without it business, the farming sector suffer, job creation stalls & opportunities for communities stagnate. What can I promise. A balanced, common-sense approach to issues including engaging transparently with the community – representing your priorities. Important, should be provision of key services (core business - ensuring we do the basics right consistently). Likewise, it is vitally important that Council ensure key capital works & community projects are delivered not just on time - but on budget. If we eliminate financial waste, achieve efficiencies in - then this will leave funds available to allocate to other community needs.

**Disclaimer:** The information presented here is the faithful reproduction of the candidate's response to the questionnaire prepared by Council Watch to the best of Council Watch's ability, however some questions have been slightly reworded to allow better readability by the intended audience. Council Watch has taken all due care in the preparation of this report. However, Council Watch are not liable to any person or entity for any damage or loss that has occurred, or may occur, in relation to that person or entity taking or not taking action in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein.