

# CANDIDATE INFORMATION CARDS

Find out about your local and mayoral  
candidates in the coming Brisbane  
City Council election



EVEN THE SMALLEST THING CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

A Project by Magic Ant Network

We Connect Organisations

We Create Awareness of Social Issues

We Promote Sustainability and Liveability

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## How it works

The Magic Ant Network is a non-for-profit organisation that primarily works on Brisbane’s Northside and works in a range of social issues. It has come to our attention that it can be difficult for voters to compare candidates and their policies. This information booklet allows voters to easily compare the thoughts and policies of the candidates for Brisbane City Council Mayor, and the local councillors for the Deagon, Bracken Ridge, and Marchant wards. The social issues covered are the main areas that the Magic Ant Network works in: homelessness, domestic and family violence, animal rehoming, health, education, pollution, conservation, and the arts. Each candidate has also provided an introductory statement regarding their background and experience, to allow voters to know them on a more personal level. Some of the candidates were not willing to provide any statements, so their profiles are not included in this booklet.

Using the information in this booklet, it is our hope that voters can elect candidates for having the best policy or position on the social issues covered.

# Mayoral Candidates

## Meet your Candidates! Jonathan Sriranganathan



My name is Jonathan Sriranganathan. I'm a 35-year-old writer, musician and community worker who was elected back in March 2016 as Brisbane's first ever Greens city councillor, representing the Gabba Ward on the city's inner-south side. I stepped down from the council in April 2023, after 7 years of service in that role.

I'm now running as the Greens candidate for Mayor of Brisbane in the March 2024 local government elections.

Feel free to read my full background here: <https://www.jonathansri.com/about>

**No other mayoral candidates were willing to provide comments for this booklet.**

## Homelessness

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**



To prevent homelessness and reduce the number of people forced into homelessness, we're putting forward a number of policies focused on housing justice.

We want to use ratings categories to bring homes that have been converted to short-term holiday accommodations, and properties that are left vacant, back onto the long term rental market, all at the same time. We want to do this to put massive downward pressure on rents across Brisbane. Additionally, we would implement a 2 year rent freeze to give renters some relief and ensure they can stay in their homes.

For people who are already unhoused, we want to stop the Council punishing them for it. We would seek to stop unhoused people being fined for breaching local laws, and to prevent local laws from being used to prohibit people from sleeping in public spaces or vehicles that are safely and compliantly parked. We would also prioritise public and affordable housing to get more people into homes.

All of our policies on the topic are linked here:

[jonathansri.com/vacant](http://jonathansri.com/vacant)

[jonathansri.com/rentfreeze](http://jonathansri.com/rentfreeze)

[jonathansri.com/airbnbcrackdown](http://jonathansri.com/airbnbcrackdown)

[jonathansri.com/platform](http://jonathansri.com/platform) - items 70-75

## Domestic and Family Violence

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**



Any revenue raised through the vacancy levy policy would be put toward the creation and maintenance of domestic violence crisis accommodation ([source](#))

While the Councillor for the Gabba ward, Jonno put on sexual and domestic violence workshops ([source](#))

## Animal Rehoming

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**



While the Councillor for the Gabba ward, I made a lengthy submission on Brisbane City Council's Animals Local Law 2017 [which I've linked here](#)

## Health

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**



This sits slightly outside the Council's remit, so I'll refer to the Queensland Greens policies: <https://greens.org.au/qld/publichealth> and <https://greens.org.au/qld/policies/health>

## Education

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**



- Again this is a bit outside of Council's remit, so I'll link to the Queensland Greens policies: <https://greens.org.au/qld/schools> and <https://greens.org.au/qld/policies/education>
- Again, for anybody interested in the nitty gritty of our policies and initiatives, I encourage you to check out [jonathansri.com/key\\_priorities](http://jonathansri.com/key_priorities), and [jonathansri.com/platform](http://jonathansri.com/platform).

## Pollution

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**



- The council should divest entirely from fossil fuels, and should amend its tendering policies so that council contracts are not give to private companies which work on or profit from fossil fuel extraction projects and associated infrastructure projects

- By 2030, all council activities, buildings, and vehicles should be powered by renewable energy sources
- Minimise vegetation removal for public projects and protect existing trees on private land, with special consideration made for the protection of large native trees
- Minimising light pollution

Check out the ‘Restoring the environment and mitigating global warming’ section of [our policy platform](#) for more policies in this area.

## Conservation

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**



- Improving active and public transport, taking cars off the road
- Sustainable development
- Improving sustainability, minimising flood risk and preparing for climate change
- Maintaining space for trees in urban developments
- Creation of a comprehensive plan to preserve and reconnect fragmented koala populations, and provide funding to implement this plan

The full details of this are in our [full policy platform](#) and our [initiatives](#), but needless to say this is baked into our policy proposals.

## The Arts

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**



- Integrating arts into the urban landscape ([in our policy platform](#), item 54)
  - Council infrastructure projects with a budget exceeding \$1M should allocate at least 1% of the total project costs to public art projects or performing arts events
  - Private development projects with a total cost exceeding \$5M should allocate 0.5% of the total project costs to permanent art projects

- Zoning to support the arts and community activities ([in our policy platform](#), item 55)
  - City plan use definition and associated policies should be amended so that noisy and space intensive arts and community activities are explicitly permitted in a wider range of appropriate zoning categories including industrial and mixed use zones
- Banning Pokies & Bringing Live Music to the Suburbs ([linked here](#))
  - Ban pokies at Council venues by prohibiting machines under new or renewed leases
  - Bring live music and culture to the suburbs by funding free weekly gigs and performances at 50 community venues, at least one per Council Ward, with our \$6 million per year Suburban Sounds program to bring neighbours together and boost venue attendance
  - Breathe life back into our clubs with our \$5 million per year Rebuilding Clubs infrastructure grants for high-quality kitchens, air conditioning, staging and sound-proofing, and hands-on support from a Council clubs unit.



# Deagon Ward Candidates

## Meet your Candidates!

### Cr Jared Cassidy



Cr Jared Cassidy has not provided an introductory statement, but he has commented on other issues throughout this booklet

### Edward Naus



Hi, My name is Edward Naus. I'm the Greens' candidate for Deagon Ward councillor in the 2024 election. I have an IT degree and have worked in a variety of roles in the private and government sectors. Right now, I'm working for a non-government organisation that helps people who need social supports.

I know that ensuring we have a safe and healthy environment has a huge impact on the quality of our daily lives, and that local council decisions have more direct impact on this than at any other level of government. I also am a firm believer that good local government needs to be a

collaborative process between council and the people who live in our city instead of the more prescriptive, top-down approach that council currently favours.

The lack of local government action during the 2022 floods in our ward showed me that we desperately need change on Council. That's why I'm stepping up for our community - to listen to you, solve your concerns and help Deagon be the best it can be.

Of particular concern to me is Council continuing to permit development on flood plains, pushing more floodwater into adjacent homes. Here in Deagon Ward, we have certainly felt the effect of those kinds of decisions that were made upstream from us. Whoever our Councillor is after these elections should be making a point of standing against these decisions.

**No other Deagon Ward candidates were willing to provide comments for this booklet.**

## **Homelessness**

**Cr Jared Cassidy**



Brisbane Labor has announced a comprehensive housing and homelessness policy this election. All levels of Government have a role to play and we believe Council should support organisations to provide more support to those who are, or are at risk of homelessness. We have announced a \$4m boost to Council's pathways out of homelessness grants to provide organisation the funding they need to help people find stable and secure housing. We have also announced we would offer more support to community housing providers to deliver more affordable rentals right across Brisbane. This will be through fee and charges discounts and even investigating land gifts like other Councils are currently doing. There are more people than ever under housing

stress and we believe housing is a human right and this crisis should be approach from a very human angle. How can we better support people.

**Edward Naus** 

Homelessness has always been a concern of mine and, with the effects of the housing crisis, it has only become more essential that we do what we can to tackle it. The Greens have policies to tackle homelessness at all levels of government.

A little creativity was needed to find ways to address this problem at Council level, but our proposals for a 2-year rent freeze, putting a rates levy on unoccupied home/undeveloped residential land/certain short-term accommodation will ease the burden on renters, and demonstrate the Greens' determination to address the crisis in any way we can. In the meantime we need to offer places for homeless people to stay, as those policies won't take effect overnight.

## **Domestic and Family Violence**

**Cr Jared Cassidy** 

The Brisbane Labor team initiated Brisbane's first Domestic and Family Violence strategy in Council. This was a great first step, but this needs constant review and financial support, which we haven't seen increase in a meaningful way. We would like to see more support offered to community based organisations delivering services and raising awareness. We don't think Council should replicate these services, rather compliment them. Locally we have some great initiatives including what Magic Ant Network do, as well as SANDBAG, the Red Benches and a lot of work through local schools. There are different levels of support that can be offered and an evolving strategy is key to that.

**Edward Naus**



It goes without saying that I want to do whatever we can to reduce domestic and family violence and ensure the safety of those impacted by it. It is not an area that I have direct experience or expertise in. So I would consult with the services who support those experiencing family and domestic violence, and find confidential ways of consulting with those impacted, to determine what additional supports could be provided at Council level, but also to ensure those at higher levels of Government better understand their needs and solutions they would like to see. I would like to see Council offering secure emergency accommodation for impacted people and their families.

## **Animal Rehoming**

**Cr Jared Cassidy**



The approach of animal welfare and rehoming as opposed to strict compliance is a good one. Working with organisations that have an ethos of animal welfare, in a regulatory environment like Council is an importance balance and ensuring that organisations like Animal Welfare League are able to meet their commitments in this space is important. Education around the responsibilities of pet ownership needs to be greater, given the persistently high numbers of animals requiring rehoming.

**Edward Naus**



Although we are not promoting any specific initiative at this City Council election, the QLD Greens have well-established policies, including (at State level):

- fighting for the right for renters to keep pets in rented accommodation (the lack of such right leads to pets being

given up to rescue shelters, or people choosing homelessness in order to stay with their pet)

- ensuring companion animals are bred and re-homed responsibly to prevent them being abandoned or euthanised.

## Health

**Cr Jared Cassidy**



One of the biggest issues facing people at the moment in their homes, backyards and public places is mosquito borne diseases. Queensland Health are saying this year may be the worst on record for Ross River Virus. We have announced a policy for more staff and more spraying.

**Edward Naus**



I want to make a strong push alongside other Greens' councillors for better active transport infrastructure. Giving more people safe alternatives to driving will make it easier for them to get regular exercise in their day-to-day routine. Additionally our push for more public transport options between suburbs will make accessing health services easier.

## Education

**Cr Jared Cassidy**



Cr Jared Cassidy has not provided a statement for his thoughts and policies on education.

**Edward Naus**



Education is currently a State and Federal issue but as a Councillor I would have the opportunity to better consult with local education

establishments and help our state and federal representatives develop policies. I went to a private school myself and that experience has led me to be strongly in favour of fully funding our public schools, which is part of the Greens federal platform.

## Pollution

**Cr Jared Cassidy** 

Council's Carbon emissions are currently offset via purchasing carbon credits. This is occurring while we are also seeing over 100,000 tonnes of organic waste dumped into landfill each and every year. Brisbane Labor has announced a policy to roll out FOGO, or organic recycling which will divert that waste from landfill and ensure that waste doesn't continue to contribute to Brisbane's carbon emissions. We should also be working on more ways to recycle more, including cloths and soft plastics. There is a possibility of seeing a zero waste society if we have the right leadership pushing for that.

**Edward Naus** 

As well as our transport policies reducing pollution from vehicles we also want to push for cleaning up a lot of the waterways in Brisbane with a goal to eventually make them safe to swim in again. This would be a long term process but not necessarily all that expensive in the grand scheme of things, and would certainly be a great boon to the people who live here.

## Conservation

**Cr Jared Cassidy** 

Brisbane is falling short of it's goal of 40% tree cover in the suburbs. We need thousands of hectares of new bushland to meet these goals and also a real focus on increasing biodiversity in these areas. Our Labor team has committed to using 100% of the bushland acquisition levy to

be used for purchasing new bushland so it's preserved into the future. We have also committed to planting 2 million new trees.

**Edward Naus** 

Once our natural spaces have been turned over to developers it becomes practically impossible to un-ring that bell. Wildlife currently living in mature bushland cannot simply move on to land offset as compensation for the development. Concreting our city means less homes for wildlife. One initiative for this election we are promoting is to ensure more sustainable development, including setting aside 20% of the development site area for deep-planted trees (up from the current minimum of 10%).

## **The Arts**

**Cr Jared Cassidy** 

Brisbane Labor has launched our arts policy which is all about supporting suburban creatives develop and enhance Brisbane cultural industries. We want a 24 hour city as we head towards the Olympics and an inclusive city with more support for LGBTIQ+ and First Nations artists. Locally I've focused on supporting our creative sector whether that's arts, music, dance or cultural activities. When you enhance those activities, you enhance your community.

**Edward Naus** 

More arts in Brisbane is an obvious benefit. One way we want to encourage it, especially in the suburbs, is to put some funding aside to help community clubs put on more live music.

# Bracken Ridge Ward Candidates

## Meet your Candidates!

### Cr Sandy Landers



I was appointed Councillor for Bracken Ridge Ward in October 2019 and elected as part of Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner's Administration in 2020.

Born in Brisbane I have lived the majority of my life on the Northside. I was raised in Brighton and went to Bracken Ridge State High School where I was School Vice-captain. I have two children, Courtney and Jordan who attended school in Bracken Ridge Ward and are both working after obtaining their tertiary qualifications.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Arts Degree and Post Graduate Degree in Teaching, I taught in local and regional state schools for over 20 years including, Craigslea and Albany Creek State High Schools.

Prior to becoming a Councillor, I had extensive experience working in State and Federal Governments and understand what is required to get things done.

One of my core values is development of community which I have done through investing my time and energy into every community I have lived in. From playgroups, schools, scouts, music and community groups; to being a JP and to rolling up my sleeves with the hundreds and hundreds of other Brisbanites as part of the mud army in 2011 when the devastating floods affected our great city.



I see my role as a local Councillor as an extension of what I've been doing as a volunteer for years. I also support other passionate members of the community who have great ideas, in their aspirations for our local area.

I want Bracken Ridge Ward to be the best place in Brisbane to live, work and raise a family.

### **Thomas Stephen**



I was born in Redcliffe and spent the first few years of my life growing up in Caboolture before my family moved to Aspley and then into the 4018 community. I went to school here on the northside of Brisbane at Saint Dymphna's, Geebung State School and Wavell State High School.

I've completed a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Queensland and am currently studying a Juris Doctors at the University of Southern Queensland while working full time. I've worked in the State Government for the last five years which has given me an opportunity to understand how to get things done for our community.

I'm a passionate community advocate, and when I can I like to volunteer my time and skills to organisations who help those in need in our community. I also joined thousands of members of our community to help those impacted by flooding in Bracken Ridge in early 2022.

It was really during the 2022 floods when I was out helping members of the community clean up, I began to hear the same thing. They were concerned by the lack of help or assistance by Council during their hour of need. They were frustrated that they couldn't access sandbags

because Council hadn't established a facility accessible to them. This whole experience just made me realise that our community needed a new and energetic councillor. Someone who would stand up and advocate for the needs of our community. One of the key things I'm currently fighting for is an SES Depot in Bracken Ridge after it a proposed depot was cut by the current Council. This Depot will provide locals with access to sandbags and emergency services and will help keep our community safe during natural disasters.

I want to work hard to deliver essential services for our community and will be the energetic voice for all of our community in City Hall.

**No other Bracken Ridge ward candidates were willing to provide comments for this booklet.**

## Homelessness

**Cr Sandy Landers**



While the State Government has the primary responsibility for housing and homelessness support in Queensland, Council recognises that all levels of government have a role to play in assisting those at risk or experiencing homelessness. We are proud of the initiatives we have delivered at Council level to support those in need.

In 2019, Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner announced the establishment of the *Pathways out of Homelessness grant program*, which committed \$3 million in funding over three years to enable support organisations to deliver new and innovative solutions to assist those at risk or experiencing homelessness. Since its inception, this program has supported more than 3,700 Brisbane residents experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Following the success of the initial three-year program, Council extended the program for a further three years in 2022.

Our *Community Housing Partnership Project* provides crisis and transitional accommodation to people experiencing homelessness in Brisbane and those at risk of homelessness. Since 2003, this project has supported more than 1,510 people by releasing properties either resumed or held by Council for future infrastructure projects to approved community housing providers for transitional housing.

We have also recently made a \$1 million commitment towards any State-led activation of the 500-bed **Pinkenba** Quarantine facility for the purposes of short-term crisis accommodation.

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust has also long provided grants to not-for-profit groups who assist the State Government in its role to house residents.

**Thomas Stephen** 

Brisbane Labor has announced a comprehensive housing and homelessness policy this election. All levels of Government have a role to play and we believe Council should support organisations to provide more support to those who are, or are at risk of homelessness. We have announced a \$4m boost to Council's pathways out of homelessness grants to provide organisation the funding they need to help people find stable and secure housing. We have also announced we would offer more support to community housing providers to deliver more affordable rentals right across Brisbane. This will be through fee and charges discounts and even investigating land gifts like other Councils are currently doing. There are more people than ever under housing stress and we believe housing is a human right and this crisis should be approach from a very human angle. How can we better support people.

## **Domestic and Family Violence**

**Cr Sandy Landers** 

In 2020, Brisbane City Council adopted its first Domestic and Family Violence Strategy. Council supports the right of all people to live in a family or domestic relationship free from violence, abuse or

intimidation. The Queensland Government is the lead agency for domestic and family violence prevention and response in our state, but we acknowledge the important role local government can play in supporting community education and fostering partnerships.

Brisbane City Council and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust have financially supported community and advocacy groups in the important delivery of prevention, education and support for vulnerable residents experiencing Domestic Violence. Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner allocated \$300,000 over three years to fund a telephone support service for women and their children who have experienced domestic, family and sexual violence. We also provide funding to a number important fundraising and awareness events, including Challenge DV's Darkness to Daylight event, the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Foundation's Light Up the Night Gala, and the Understanding Pathways to Safety Forum.

## **Thomas Stephen**



The Brisbane Labor team initiated Brisbane's first Domestic and Family Violence strategy in Council. This was a great first step, but this needs constant review and financial support, which we haven't seen increase in a meaningful way. We would like to see more support offered to community based organisations delivering services and raising awareness. We don't think Council should replicate these services, rather compliment them. Locally we have some great initiatives and we need to make sure Council are supporting them effectively. There are different levels of support that can be offered and an evolving strategy is key to that.

## **Animal Rehoming**

### **Cr Sandy Landers**



Much like the Queensland Guide Dog Centre in Bald Hills, the Warra Animal Rehoming Centre has inspired our community to become more

passionate about animal welfare and has encouraged many to foster or adopt animals in need. We are incredibly fortunate to have Warra in the heart of Bracken Ridge Ward at Bill Brown Reserve Fitzgibbon.

You would be interested to know that Brisbane City Council has two animal rehoming centres that provide a safe environment for all lost and surrendered animals in Brisbane. Since 2019, Council has spent \$15 million at our rehoming centres. Council recently delivered a number of projects at Warra to improve the facilities, including an upgrade to the interactive play area and additional shading. I am pleased to advise that in the 22/23 financial year, 1,447 lost pets were reunited with their owners, and a further 1,688 rehomed animals were rehomed through Council's two animal rehoming centres.

**Thomas Stephen**



The approach of animal welfare and rehoming as opposed to strict compliance is a good one. Working with organisations that have an ethos of animal welfare, in a regulatory environment like Council is an importance balance and ensuring that organisations like Animal Welfare League are able to meet their commitments in this space is important. Education around the responsibilities of pet ownership needs to be greater, given the persistently high numbers of animals requiring rehoming.

**Health**

**Cr Sandy Landers**



This is not primarily a Local Government responsibility, but certainly the health and safety of amenities is something that Brisbane City Council takes seriously to ensure the health and wellbeing and inclusion of our residents. The Schrunner Council also continues to provide health and wellbeing programs such as our Gold Program for Seniors and free or low-cost activities for individuals of all ages.

**Thomas Stephen**



One of the biggest issues facing people at the moment in their homes, backyards and public places is mosquito borne diseases. Speaking to people in Bracken Ridge, Fitzgibbon and Bald Hills, many of them are concerned by the LNP Council's decision to cut mosquito spraying in our community and we're seeing the impact of those cuts. Queensland Health are saying this year may be the worst on record for Ross River Virus. Labor has announced a policy for more staff and more spraying.

## **Education**

**Cr Sandy Landers**



Although this is not technically the remit of Local Government there are many areas where you could say we provide community education. From City Hall tours for students and visitors, local environment centre education, our active travel program, litter busting team, Botanical Gardens, Museum of Brisbane, Lord Mayors Youth Advisory Council (LMYAC), Lord Mayor's Young Environmental Leadership Network to name just a few. As a local Councillor, I make myself available to local schools to provide talks and take questions from students on Local Government and I actively support the LMYAC program throughout the year.

**Thomas Stephen**



Thomas Stephen has not provided a statement for his thoughts and policies on education.

## **Pollution**

**Cr Sandy Landers**

Since 2017, Brisbane City Council has remained Australia's largest carbon neutral certified government organisation. The Schrunner

Council is committed to maintaining Brisbane's carbon neutrality and is taking proactive steps to reduce Council's emissions by a minimum of 30% by 2031 and achieve Net Zero by 2050. We use 100% renewable energy to power Council operations, including the installation of 3.2 megawatt of solar on our facilities and even generating our own renewable energy from landfill gas captured at Rochedale.

We are also investing in big green infrastructure projects like the fully electric Brisbane Metro and Green Bridges which will significantly reduce Brisbane's emissions for many years to come.

Our Creeks and waterways are closely monitored to protect them from litter and environmental contamination. We have banned balloons at Council events and have a dedicated litter team that not only educates our community but also helps community groups with events and activities aimed at keeping our community clean, green and sustainable. I actively organise a Clean Up Australia Day event every year so that our community can get involved and increase awareness about the importance of protecting our environment. I also continue to support other groups such as the Magic Ant Network who focus on keeping local parks clean.

**Thomas Stephen**



Council's Carbon emissions are currently offset via purchasing carbon credits. This is occurring while we are also seeing over 100,000 tonnes of organic waste dumped into landfill each and every year. Brisbane Labor has announced a policy to roll out FOGO, or organic recycling which will divert that waste from landfill and ensure that waste doesn't continue to contribute to Brisbane's carbon emissions. **This plan means red lid bins and FOGO green top bins will be collected weekly.** We should also be working on more ways to recycle more, including cloths and soft plastics. There is a possibility of seeing a zero waste society if we have the right leadership pushing for that.

## Conservation

**Cr Sandy Landers**



Brisbane is Australia's greenest and most biodiverse capital city, and the Schrinner Council actively works to improve our city's natural environment by investing in initiatives to keep Brisbane's air, land and water clean. The Schrinner Council has continued the successful Bushland Acquisition program to increase our green space and habitat, especially for koalas and wallabies. We proactively work with creek catchment groups to improve habitat quality through the management of invasive weeds, pest plants and animals.

As well as conserving existing habitat, the Schrinner Council works to create new habitat areas through replanting and restoration to achieve 40% natural habitat cover across the city by 2031. We have also recently announced the Biodiverse Brisbane Initiative, partnering with Greening Australia to plant more than 1 million native plants by 2031 across Brisbane's creek catchments. These plantings help to improve water quality, prevent erosion and provide habitat for native species like the platypus.

**Thomas Stephen**



Brisbane is falling short of its goal of 40% tree cover in the suburbs. We need thousands of hectares of new bushland to meet these goals and also a real focus on increasing biodiversity in these areas. Our Labor team has committed to using 100% of the bushland acquisition levy to be used for purchasing new bushland so it's preserved into the future. We have also committed to planting 2 million new trees.



## The Arts

**Cr Sandy Landers**



As the deputy Chair of the Community, Arts and the Nighttime Economy Committee I have had the privilege to work closely with the Arts community in promoting, developing and supporting local artists through grants, programs and events. One of my favourite initiatives delivered by the Sherrin Council has been the QUBE Effect. QUBE Effect has given budding local young musicians an opportunity to be mentored by leading music industry professionals, create a film and music video production and perform on stage at the QUBE Effect Live event.

I am also very proud of the “School’s Out on the Green” program that I initiated after listening to local youths who wanted more activities for teenagers in our local community and together we have provided a great opportunity for young musicians to showcase their talent to their peers and community.

**Thomas Stephen**



Brisbane Labor has launched our arts policy which is all about supporting suburban creatives develop and enhance Brisbane cultural industries. We want a 24 hour city as we head towards the Olympics and an inclusive city with more support for LGBTIQ+ and First Nations artists. Locally I’ve focused on supporting our creative sector whether that’s arts, music, dance or cultural activities. When you enhance those activities, you enhance your community.

# Marchant Ward Candidates

## Meet your Candidates!

### Cr Danita Parry



Hello!

I'm a mum of two boys from Stafford Heights. I was born and bred in Brisbane, and I love this city.

It's where my husband and I have chosen to live and raise our family. I married a southerner and subsequently converted to AFL as my football code of choice but will ALWAYS watch the origin.. and there are definitely no Blues supporters in our house!

I studied Journalism and Business at University and have had a wonderful career in media, communications, corporate affairs and now, politics! One of my greatest joys comes from chatting to people. It might be said that I'm a people person. That's the best part of being a Councillor; chatting with and listening to residents, community leaders and community groups. It energises me to understand what the community needs and identify ways to support them through Council services and initiatives or connect them with other community resources.

Having a young family, I'm fortunate to have been immersed in the community with local sporting groups and schools at the forefront. I understand the chaos of school pickup and drop off times, getting to meetings on time and juggling competing priorities. It makes me more passionate about prioritising safer school precincts, busting congestion, and getting residents home safer and faster with more public transport options.

If there's one thing I'd like to achieve as Councillor, it's for residents to know that I'm working for them to get things done. Whether it's traffic congestion, cost of living or even crime I will support residents in a practical way that helps improve their daily lives. I'm determined to foster a well-connected community, working with the respective State and Federal Members of the day to achieve what is best for Marchant Ward.

**No other Marchant ward candidates were willing to provide comments for this booklet.**

## **Homelessness**

**Cr Danita Parry** 

Homelessness has become an issue right across Brisbane.

For more than 15 years Council has been supporting those struggling within our community through our annual Homeless Connect Events. Our last event in November provided almost 2,000 meals, more than 300 health consultations and 38 pallets of donations consisting of toiletries, clothes and shoes. These items have largely been donated by residents through our Ward offices including Marchant Ward.

While we have committed to keeping the cost of living and rates as low as possible (ensuring the smallest increase across Queensland) we know that the cause of homelessness is a chronic housing supply shortage and largely due to the current high cost of living. It breaks my heart to think about people sleeping rough, particularly families and the elderly. Council's public space officers are continuously working to support those in our community sleeping rough and connect them with the services they need.

The Lord Mayor has openly committed \$1 million to help refit the State Government's quarantine facility at Pinkenba into temporary housing. This would open up around 500 beds for those already sleeping rough.

It is my hope that the State Government will act on this soon and provide some relief.

## **Domestic and Family Violence**

**Cr Danita Parry**



Many of us have been touched by domestic and family violence in one way or another, either directly or indirectly. On a personal note, I have close family members and friends who are survivors of domestic and family violence. It impacts people from all backgrounds, socio economic status and gender. It's a stain on our society. And we have a collective responsibility to do something about it.

Domestic and family violence is rife in our community. I meet with local police officers regularly in my role as Councillor, and they have told me that it remains to be one of the most common issues they have to respond to. We have a long history of supporting education and advocacy groups with regards to domestic violence. In 2019 we partnered with Zonta to deliver signage for bathroom doors across all Brisbane City Council Libraries with contact information for women and girls at risk. Additionally, many of the Wards across Brisbane have a bright red park bench as part of the Red Bench project with the concept the benches spark conversations about domestic violence.

As Councillor I'll do what I can to support initiatives that aim to stamp out domestic and family violence. This year I'm supporting Challenge DV's Darkness to Daylight event in May to raise funds critical domestic and family violence prevention activities, including workplace. Programs, respectful relationships programs in schools and sporting clubs, and advocacy.

## **Animal Rehoming**

**Cr Danita Parry** 

I'm the proud owner of a rescue pup (Border Collie cross - JT) and he has brought me and my family so much joy in the almost 11 years he's been with us. I always encourage friends and family to consider adopting a rescue from Council's rehoming shelter if they are looking to get a pet. Council's partnership with the Animal Welfare League QLD at Warra has not only reunited lost pets with their owners but also rehoming animals that have been surrendered. We also have fantastic education campaigns around responsible animal ownership and often reduced rate desexing.

## **Health**

**Cr Danita Parry** 

Health is the most important issue for our community. Whether it's physical health and wellbeing or mental health, it should be our number one priority. We are constantly looking to expand on active travel options across the city and working with Schools to drive greater active travel options. As part of growing our Brisbane lifestyle there we have active school holiday programs and of course our GOLD program that provides more ways to keep seniors active and connected. We also continue to deliver free immunisation clinics for children and seniors across the city.

## **Education**

**Cr Danita Parry** 

Education is the foundation of opportunity. And every person, from the humblest to the noblest, deserves access to a quality education. We are delivering programs tailored to all ages from kindys to seniors about the importance of protecting our environment to learning about composting. I look forward to working with local school leaders from

both primary and high schools about ways Council can support their goals and become more sustainable.

## **Pollution**

**Cr Danita Parry**



Our vision for Brisbane is to strive Towards Zero Waste. Things like adding to the list of recyclable materials at our resource recovery centres or our compost rebates, we are always looking at ways to minimise waste and improve sustainability.

We are also lowering emissions on Council building as we continue to utilise solar panels and implement electric vehicle charging bays to Council facilities. Our Council fleet has substantially changed in recent years to encompass a growing number of electric vehicles.

## **Conservation**

**Cr Danita Parry**



We live in the most beautiful city in Australia and it's so important that we preserve green space for our health and wellbeing and to continue to enjoy our enviable lifestyle. Council's Bushland Acquisition program is complemented by our collaborative partnerships between Council habitat and open space coordinators with Bushcare and conservation groups. Not only are we acquiring bushland, but we are managing and protecting flora and fauna, from invasive species and pests. An example of this was the recent 'toad bust' in Seventh Brigade Park, which I reluctantly took part in! (not a fan of toads). We also have programs run through our environment centres and school holiday programs that educate children about the importance of conservation.

## The Arts

**Cr Danita Parry**



I'm a big supporter of the arts. It not only enriches our lifestyle and opens our minds, but it also contributes significantly to our economy. My husband has been in the music industry for a number of years, and while he's no longer touring or gigging he is still passionate about fostering young artists and seeing the industry flourish. I recently saw a production by the Grawl Theatre, (a local theatre group) which was top notch.

I also went to an art show at Grange Social by local artists Jane Thompson and Amy from Made by Pen. We have a great deal of talented artists here! Our free City Hall Concerts are an excellent opportunity for residents to enjoy some of Brisbane's greatest entertainers and I continually received feedback from Seniors about how enjoyable it is.

As a Council we are supporting the arts through a variety of grants that directly support aspiring artists. Similarly, our vacant shop front initiative has been a fantastic avenue for creative businesses to showcase their talents and take that next step.