

# A BETTER Eurobodalla

for open, accountable and responsive government

July-August 2021



In Eurobodalla we're calling for:

- Open, accountable and responsive local, state and federal government.
- A council with a sustainable, practical vision that can cost-effectively meet the needs of residents and ratepayers.
- Local government that actively and accurately represents Eurobodalla residents' interests to state and federal government.
- Candidates for the 2021 local government election who genuinely listen; who tackle key issues of concern and urgency and who safeguard the interests of all of us.

**Council elections postponed until  
Saturday 4th December**

**Eurobodalla Council elections would have been held on Saturday, 4 September. Instead they were postponed for 3 months in response to the outbreak of COVID 19 in NSW.**

## Voting update as of 31 August

In person voting should be available on Saturday 4 December. Regulations have been amended to ensure everyone remains COVID safe in the process.

Electronic voting will be available for the first time in council elections. Voters will be able to use the iVote platform if they live more than 20kms from a polling place or they have a disability that would make attending a polling place difficult. iVote can be accessed by phone, tablet or PC.

Pre-poll voting is available to anyone who is enrolled to vote. There will be 3 pre-poll locations (Narooma, Batemans Bay and Moruya) in the Eurobodalla operating for 2 weeks up to election day.

Postal voting is available to:

- residents of nursing homes, retirement homes and hospitals
- people who are self-isolating due to COVID-19
- anyone who reasonably believes that attending a polling place will pose a risk to their health or safety or that of another person due to COVID-19

All **non-resident property owners** in the Eurobodalla are entitled to **one vote per property**, but you must register on Council's non-residential roll. The non-residential roll will remain open until **6pm Monday 25 October**.

For more information about voting or registering on the non-residential roll visit: [abettereurobodalla.org](http://abettereurobodalla.org) and check the NSW Electoral Commission website

## What we've been up to ....

ABE was very busy in the lead up to 4 September. In August we were all geared up to distribute 6,000 flyers encouraging people to vote for a new council in September. However in mid July, after the announcement that the elections would be postponed, we decided to ease back and gather our energies for a renewed campaign in Spring.

On 6 July, ABE presented at what we thought would be the final Public Access session before the elections about the need to improve the quality and transparency of Eurobodalla Council's decision-making. Later in July, we presented at Council's Public Forum session in support of a Question on Notice by Clr Anthony Mayne about the clearing of Community Land at Broulee, which brought into question the legality of Council's actions in permitting a private developer to remove endangered vegetation from the land to create an Asset Protection Zone.

In early August ABE followed up this presentation with a letter to the General Manager requesting a copy of council's approval for the developer to clear the land and seeking clarification about the future of the site. This is an example of the misuse and alienation of public land by Council.

ABE wrote again to the General Manager following the Public Access session on 17 August where Councillors were told they could not question Simon Cox from the Coila Cultural Heritage and Environment Group about his presentation to Council because he was speaking on behalf of a group. This ruling has been used inconsistently when ABE and others have presented and it has prevented any exchange with Councillors seeking further information about contentious issues raised by the community. It has no basis in published Council policy or law and ABE believes it is being used to close down debate.

At the end of August ABE wrote to the General Manager to ask whether any surpluses generated by Council's NDIS and Aged Care services are returned to community programs or if they are diverted to other Council areas. ABE believes that Council should be more transparent and accountable in its allocation of public funds.

Copies of ABE's presentations and letters, together with Council's responses to those letters, are on our website.

## Candidate update as of 31 August

Candidate nominations will now open on October 25 and close on November 3.

A number of candidates and tickets nominated and registered before the elections were postponed. These should carry over to the new election date.

To date 5 tickets have been announced: Eurobodalla Labor with 6 candidates; the Eurobodalla Greens with 4 candidates; the Mayne Team with Clr Anthony Mayne and 3 other candidates; Advance Eurobodalla with 7 candidates; and A Better Council (not affiliated in any way with ABE) with 4 candidates.

More information about each of these tickets and candidates can be found on the ABE website along with links to their websites.

ABE will progressively assess how candidates score against a range of issues so check the Candidates page of the ABE website ([abettereurobodalla.org](http://abettereurobodalla.org))

## Candidate Forums

Our Council Our Say has postponed its Meet the Candidates forum. It will now be held **2pm Sunday 21st November 2021** at the Bateman's Bay Soldiers Club. ABE will publicise any other candidate forums on our website and in our newsletter .

If you support the work ABE is doing and would like to become involved please get in contact with us at: [abettereurobodalla@gmail.com](mailto:abettereurobodalla@gmail.com)