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Beth's speech – Campaign Launch

16 September 2018

It's time for a change.

If it was just **one** community disagreeing with **one** Development Application, we might overlook it.

But it's not just one community.

And it's not just one Development Application.

It's Kangaroo Bay.

It's Rosny Hill.

It's Blundstone Arena.

It's Seven Mile Beach, Lauderdale, Clifton Beach and South Arm.

There are unhappy communities up and down Clarence.

We need a change to the Council before favouring developers over the community changes the character of Clarence forever.

We need a council that makes decisions in the best interests of the residents.

We need a council that works WITH the residents and rate payers to plan sensible development that enhances our favourite recreational places rather than locking us out.

Rosny residents asked for a kiosk, a toilet and a rubbish bin in their recreational nature reserve.

What they got was a plan for a 100 room hotel, two restaurants and a conference centre.

The one thing the current council *has* achieved is to bring the community together.

Friendships and alliances have been formed between strangers who have banded together to fight Council decisions that threaten their way of life.

I'd like to pay tribute to the passion and perseverance of groups such as Kangaroo Bay Voice and the Rosny Hill Friends Network, and Joanne Marsh who has been fighting the intrusions from Blundstone Arena for as long as I've known her.

These people have all given up their free time to take on the Council.

But they shouldn't have to do this. The Council should be working for us, not against us.

What could we achieve if we worked *together*?

What if we had genuine community engagement where the council and community share a vision of how we want Clarence to develop in the future?

What if we had a vision beyond the current approach of “let’s just build another hotel”?

We should be determining what developments we need and where they should go, rather than handing the reins to the developers who are always going to put profit before people.

Let me tell you a story.

When I moved back to Lindisfarne 19 years ago, I was home alone in my kitchen with my two sons - a three year old, and a 3 month old baby.

I found a rat, thrashing around in a mouse trap behind the fridge.

I looked around for the grown up to deal with it.

But there was no one.

And I realised in that moment that I was the grown up and I had to deal with it.

The election in Clarence is like that.

I care about this community. I love living here. I want to be able to come home at night and relax in the home I've chosen because it's near green spaces. It's near the water. It has a wonderful view of the mountain.

I looked around to see who was going to protect all that for me.

But there was no one.

And I realised that sometimes you have to step up and do it yourself.

That's why I'm standing for Mayor of Clarence.

I have the skills to be Mayor.

I'm a leader, a manager, a networker and a communicator.

I'm proud to be the only woman standing for Mayor. We need greater diversity on Council and in leadership positions in local government. 20 of the 28 current mayors are men.

I've held senior leadership positions in government for the last 16 years.

I know how to build a team that works together.

Local governments should work as a team. The Aldermen on the Council should work together with each other *and* the residents, to deliver the best outcomes for the municipality and its ratepayers.

We should also be working closely with other councils in Greater Hobart to share fresh ideas, experience and provide economies of scale. We can achieve more together than we can individually.

I want to learn from Bill Harvey and Helen Burnet about Hobart's zero landfill policy.

I want to talk to Richard Atkinson about Kingborough's plan to reduce single use plastics.

I want to talk to Greens Alderman Emma Williams about Launceston's organic waste collection.

We can save ratepayers' money by reducing our landfill, and using solar panels on council infrastructure.

I've been working with councils around the state for the last four years.

I understand how government works at all levels and I have productive working relationships at the local,

state and Federal level, which means I could take up this role and be an effective advocate for Clarence straight away.

So this October, when the ballot paper arrives in your letter box, vote for change.

Vote for fresh voices on Council.

Vote for people who will put your interests first.

Vote Beth Warren for Mayor.