

Hello Juliet C Benson here

Re Tree Management - I am all for the utilising of Harrington Park and trying to keep it and its trees safe. I was a fire fighter who had the privilege of busing in the residents to Wye River and Sepp Creek after boxing day. I have a good idea how you all feel about this area and I believe that many of the trees removed need to be replaced for environmental reasons as well as to retain the ambiance of the area. If the trees are periodically assessed and there are issues with any then for safety sake it would be wise for them to be removed and replaced. If they have been deemed safe then they should be retained. It can't be a one size fits all approach.

Whilst I appreciate that at present the fuel load post the Bush fire has been reduced I can understand why after Black Saturday the State Government has assigned the BAL ratings to the area. Having said that I saw properties that were built to the highest standards at Wye River that were burnt to the ground. Fire is unpredictable. The tiny un-maintained fibro shack was still standing. If the requirements are reassessed now that many of the trees which were previously a problem are now no longer present then I feel that each building permit needs to be assessed individually and again not a blanket rating. It will however be up to the residents to maintain their property to the standard required to help improve their safety should we ever have such a heart breaking event again. If they fail to adhere to the standards set then I would imagine that they would be required to clean up or face a fine.

Waste management should be maintained at the pre bushfire level as people still live there and still pay for this service on their rates and deserve to have this standard of waste management offered. Hard Rubbish is a costly service for the COS to offer. I know because in the 15 years I have been in Colac we have only had one hard rubbish collection. What I could suggest if elected is for the tip fees to be waived pre-season so that the residents in the high risk areas could clean up and dispose of the said fuel load (green waste etc). This could be through applying for vouchers by producing evidence that you are a resident or ratepayer in these areas. Possibly the local service clubs could offer for a small fee to remove the rubbish to the tip if the resident does not have the means to transport the hard rubbish.

Rate capping at the present 2.5 annual rate is fair as it is in line with CPI increases. Whilst not ideal because it means the Shire needs to be frugal in the budgeting, I get really annoyed when the likes of Colac and Apollo Bay seem to be allowed to utilise the bulk of the rate revenue raised by the

ratepayers of the whole of the shire. Better management of this funding stream needs to be fairer for all the Shire.

I hold Wye River and Sepp Creek close to my heart and want it to remain a jewel of the GOR.



