

Karen Cunningham
Occupation: Small Business Owner
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Safety, Vision, Environmentalism

I am running for Brisbane City Council as I want to further contribute to Brisbane in a more meaningful way. I feel truly privileged to have been able to serve my Community since moving here in 2004. I have worked in various capacities, from volunteering to serving as a Planning Commissioner from 2010- 2015 and again in 2017.

I am looking forward to initiating public improvements throughout Brisbane and would welcome becoming a part of the positive decision making process that serves our future generations. I would like to improve our financial, educational and recreational opportunities as well as see all changes in Brisbane decided by the residents of Brisbane only.

Affordable Housing. If elected, I would like to set up an “affordable housing working group” from within the community, to include Property Owners, Renters, Builders and City Government. We need to reframe our thoughts on how to create affordable housing.

Brisbane Baylands. If there were a vote today, I would vote no for housing; for one reason. I do not believe it is safe. My criteria for “safe” is “would I live there or allow my child to live there?” If elected I would push for the highest standard of remediation possible. People need to understand the dangers.

That being said, we are going to face some pretty tough and ugly choices regarding the Baylands. We now have enormous pressure from our state and local leaders to allow some housing on the Baylands. Can we clean it up to make that even a possibility?

Connecting Old Brisbane to the Ridge. I envision us connecting the Ridge and Old Town Brisbane. It is long overdue; we really need both parts of our City fully integrated.

The Arts. It is very important to expand our City’s support for the Arts by partnering with community artists and creating a strong Artistic Identity.

Environmentalism. As Brisbane prides itself in being ahead of the environmental curve, I would like to take us even further by introducing ideas and programs that are not only achievable in our building practices and protection of San Bruno Mountain, but to further educate us all on the benefits of cleaner energy, leveraging technology as it becomes available and lessening our pollution footprint in its’ entirety. This includes ideas like driverless electric multi person shuttles etc. which would serve our entire community.