

Statement by Edward Foulston to be read at Rally

My name is Ed Foulston and I am asking for your No 1 vote. I cannot be at today's rally as I am honoring a long standing commitment. I am semi retired and working in my own business as a masseur, I was however in the army for more than 20 years and involved with managing multi million dollar budgets relating to logistic, fleet and human resources. I am well experienced in fiscal responsibilities, consulting and listening to people. It was listening and consulting that prompted me to nominate for council. My decisions will be based on knowledge not guesswork, on the basis of social, environmental and economic cost.

My initial research has indicated that the 24 million dollar budget that this council has proposed for stage 1 and stage 2 of the Aquatic Center at Whitebox Rise could pay for the repairs, maintenance and upgrade of the current Wodonga Livestock Exchange, that same budget would also cover the cost of replacing the swimming pool at Stanley St with a heated 10 lane, 50 meter, multi use pool and that an appropriate High St development is achievable using the same Aquatic Center budget. That is three essential projects for the price of one.

If as the Wodonga's CEO says, it is impossible for a newly elected council to rescind the councils unanimous decision to sell the sale yards and buy land for new a sale yards. There is also one more course of action this council may take, they can rescind their own motion to lease then sell the Bandiana stock yards and buy the Nth Barnawartha site. They could do this at Monday night's meeting, I hope you will all join with me and attend that meeting. History shows the "intent" of a law is as important as its wording. This councils' sale yards decision may well be overturned in a court of appeal on that basis.

To defy the obvious will of the ratepayers has angered them to the point their vote in this election could make these councillors part of history by becoming the first entire council to be dismissed by Wodonga because they would not listen and do what they are there for and that is represent the people of Wodonga.

I will be proposing a moratorium on all non essential projects pending a complete review of council expenditure, debts and decision making processes by an appropriately qualified committee working with our council officers. The review committee will also be tasked to suggest ways at maximizing debt reduction strategies with minimum disruption to council services.

I will work towards introducing decision making processes based on open consultation the reduction of debt and unnecessary spending.

I ask you to support me and other like-minded candidates such as Dean Freeman, Angela Collins and Julie Emmins for we can not change anything unless we are elected to council.

Vote 1 Edward Foulston.

Authorised by:
Edward Foulston
18 Ruby Rd
Wodonga