



Local government candidate response to the following questions (as at 2 September 2024)

Questions:

1. Do you support Jervis Bay as a cruise port
2. Do you support restoration, retention and expansion of sanctuary zones
3. how important is Jervis Bay environmental health
4. how will you address the negative impacts on Jervis Bay

Ward 2

Labor, Ward 2

Ben Krikstolaitis

1. No, I do not support cruise ships in JB nor do I think the community supports it
2. Yes, The significance of our bay to everyone who lives in the area and the people who have lived here for thousands of years is immeasurable. Anything we can do to protect JB from harm is vitally important.
3. Very important
4. We'll do as much as a council can do. The most important part of that is keeping any nuclear ambitions well away from our Bay. We will lobby the State and Federal authorities to keep the Bay clear of cruise ships and other environmental detriments. After that it's about keeping the forests and parks secure from development and making better use of what we have to achieve council's goals on housing and business. Our greatest resource is the Bay in so many ways. It must be protected

Labor, Ward 2

Leonie Ebzery

I am not an elected council member and currently have no stance on the issue of cruise ships accessing Jervis Bay. When elected please be reassured that I will investigate both sides of the issue and make a decision based on the information that I am privy to and what I believe would be best for the community

Greens, Ward 2

Evan Christen

1. No, cruise ships are not compatible with JBMP and Jervis Bay in general
2. Yes, the marine park needs greater protection as it is under pressure from tourism, aquaculture and climate change
3. very important, it is the key reason most people live here and the main reason why tourists come to visit
4. I will promote the use of more renewable energy building on the good work in Council that the Greens have led. This is a win/win as using renewable energy reduces greenhouse gases and reduces the energy costs to council.

Greens, Ward 2

Rob Barrell

1. No, Unlike Bega, for instance, where the port and town are integrated and the businesses and residents benefit from cruise ship visits, Jervis Bay residents do not benefit, yet any environmental damage caused by fuel leaks or biofouling would affect all the residents and visitors to the region.
2. Yes, Jervis Bay is an incredibly important natural ecosystem that must be protected. Even the degree of protection it currently enjoys has allowed benthic marine life to recover significantly from when trawling was allowed in the bay.
3. Very important, a healthy Jervis Bay is the whole reason my family and I moved from Fiji to Callala Bay.
4. Of the levels of Government, local Council has the fewest levers to pull to limit the drivers of climate change. However things that Council CAN do are to require inexpensive 3-phase wiring in new homes to support EV charging, upgrade public transportation to minimize the use of cars, and limit new development to land that is already cleared – keep our forests standing. Council can lead by example: install solar everywhere possible in order to electrify everything and change the vehicle fleet to EVs as older vehicles are retired.

Additional comment: Despite that my entire career involved running boats, I do not think that Jervis Bay is an appropriate destination for giant cruise ships and I detailed that opinion in the questionnaire. I have utilized the “any port in a storm” doctrine myself a few times and when I saw the Pacific Adventure anchored across the bay I was initially sympathetic. But thank you for pointing out that the stop here was premeditated, advertised, and needn’t have happened.

Thirty years ago, P&O recognized that a lovely little village full of thatched huts at the end of Fiji’s Yasawa chain would make a great destination for their ship. They made an agreement with the village to pay them something like \$2,000 four times a year to anchor offshore and bring their passengers ashore for a tour of the traditional village. Not long after a cyclone passed by and knocked over some of the quaint thatched huts, so the villagers sensibly used their payment to buy cement blocks and roofing iron to make homes that could resist a cyclone. P&O’s ship returned, found the ugly but strong new homes and left, cancelling the ongoing agreement. Everybody lost.

Even where island economies depend on cruise ships, the occasional influx of thousands of people is extremely disrupting. In 1979 I was on a small boat anchored at Niue when the Lindblad Explorer came in unannounced. They disgorged several hundred people who did what tourist do – they bought stuff, which in Niue’s case consisted mainly of tinned food. The ship left that evening and the next morning we and everyone living on the island were greeted with bare shelves with no supply ship scheduled for months....

SIGs, Ward 2

Alan Harvey

fishing friends don't support cruise ships
open to safe suggestions for cruises

SIGs, Ward 2

Lou Casmiri

By the way, I thought that I should share with you as to why I strongly believe that we do not want or need ships in our Jervis Bay: Primarily because the potential damage to the environmental health of our Jervis Bay Marine Park. However putting my business hat on, I believe that the risk is too high with absolutely no value or contribution to our economic situation in Shoalhaven (Huskisson/Vincentia) therefore, it is NO from me and should I be elected, I will object to any proposal that may have an impact to the environmental health of our magic Jervis Bay!

1. No
2. Yes
3. very important

Ward 3

Greens, Ward 3

Sue Taylor

1. No, I am strongly opposed to Jervis Bay Marine Park being identified as a cruise ship port or destination
2. Yes I strongly support this
3. Very important
4. Some of the things we can do at the local level to address climate change is to reduce our communities carbon foot print. I would support programs that reduce our use of fossil fuels. Actions such as, banning gas connections in new developments are important and supporting the electrification of our communities in general. Rolling out more charging stations for EV's , supporting the use of community battery systems, educating communities on how to better insulate their homes and encouraging tree plantings to provide shade. Educating our community in methods that can assist in the transition required to adapt to climate change is an important aspect. Refusing developments that impact on our coastline and contribute to loss of habitat and bio diversity is a role I would take very seriously. The matters you have raised are important issues that deeply impact our community and our environment and I appreciate being able to respond briefly to them. As a Greens candidate care for our community and our country are the two driving forces that motivated me to stand for council

Takesa Frank

1. No
2. Yes
3. Very Important
4. Climate Change is a very important issue to me and is actually the initial reason I got involved in politics. If elected on to Shoalhaven City Council I will advocate to both the State and Federal Government to have overall strong policies and action on climate change. I will also work hard with the other elected councillors to protect our natural environment, ensure developments are appropriate and sustainable, and support renewable energy projects.

Labor, Ward 3

Gillian Boyd

1. No, The Jervis Bay Marine Park is currently threatened by the level of development on the land surrounding the Marine Park. Cruise ships will introduce additional threat through the presence of large numbers of people ploughing through the Marine Park in giant ships and all that means – litter, potential sewage and waste-water leaks, potential fuel and oil spills plus churning of water and its impact on the growth of plants and the animals that feed on them in the underwater environment
2. Yes
3. Very important, The Marine Park is a sanctuary for sea creatures and plants. Sea creatures can multiply and grow with excessive disturbance by recreational and commercial fishing. Fish and other desirable species will be fished and removed but as long as the sanctuary exists these creatures will be replenished and the undersea ecosystem will remain viable
4. Shoalhaven City Council currently has a number of initiatives addressing the causes of climate change reducing the use of fossil fuels. These include development of a solar farm, replacement of street lighting with smart lights, recycling of waste water, installation of solar panels on council buildings, etc. These initiatives not only address the causes of climate change but save Council money in the long run. I fully support these initiatives and look forward to initiating, contributing to and supporting new initiatives that come before Council. I do acknowledge that the Shoalhaven initiatives to reduce fossil fuel use will not impact significantly on the weather patterns we experience but it is vital that we pursue this path. Every little bit counts

SIGs, Ward 3

Patricia White

1. No
2. I do not support cruise ships in JB. All activities, restoration and expansion need to be monitored carefully into the future. It is important to me that consultation is a high priority for residents on the Marine park.
3. very important
4. via council policies and recommendations. Consultation with residents and governments

Ward 1

SIGs, Ward 1

Peter Wilkins

Will submit the form soon, but I am 100% against cruise ships in Jervis Bay. A diabolical direction... Anything I can do I will

Greens, Ward 1

Sarah Waddell

1. No, I am of the view that Jervis Bay is a totally unsuitable destination for cruise ships
2. Yes, marine sanctuary zones in Jervis Bay are an integral part of sustainable management of the environment.
3. Very important.
4. Prevention involves playing our part in reducing GHG emissions which LGAs can do by prioritising climate change mitigation in all decision making such as fostering community uptake of renewable energy, not approving clearing of native vegetation, and looking for solutions in waste management to minimise the release of methane gas into the atmosphere. Minimising the impact of climate change requires adaptation measures such as review of coastal zoning categories, improved coastal management both of coastal land and near shore habitats such as in Jervis Bay and not approving development in sensitive or vulnerable coastal area in order to build natural resilience to storm surges and rising sea levels

Team Tribe, Ward 1

Jessica Bromley

1. No
2. Yes
3. Very Important

As the owner of Bomo Bulk (a store 100% dedicated to mindful shopping and sustainability and the winner of the 2023 and 2024 Shoalhaven's Excellence in Sustainability Awards), the over use of the Jervis Bay area is of great concern to me. Living in the Shoalhaven for the last 15 years, I've had many opportunities to enjoy this area, including hiking, scuba diving, kayaking, and of course enjoying the beaches. My whole life I have advocated that you leave nothing but footprints wherever you visit. I understand that tourism is a large part of the financial income to a lot of business' in the Jervis Bay area, and some may think that having cruises port in the bay would help the area, but a much larger view of this needs to be presented and understood. I believe that there are other solutions that could be adopted from other areas of the world that could provide the ability for tourism to continue to come to the area, without endangering the beautiful natural elements. Cutting down more and more trees and using land for transportation creates divide between humans and nature. It also creates divide between low income individuals and the rich, as these days not everyone can afford their own vehicles. By making Jervis Bay only accessible by car or cruises, it excludes the lower income population from being able to visit, and be mindful that low income now is not the people without jobs. With the cost of living now, low income includes everyone in the hospitality and services industries, which are the major employers in this area. One of the main reasons these industries are having a hard time finding staff is because the wages for those type of workers does not pay enough for them to live in the area they work as they are prices out by high living costs. This may seem like a round-about way to answering your cruise question, but I believe the answer to the increased tourism (and therefore more jobs being filled by locals, and the ability to have those workers in the area to fill those jobs), less destruction to natural environments, and more land available used currently by motorists (parking lots) for other useful purposes like lower income housing for locals (making cities only accessible for motorists means that council road land that all people pay for with taxes, for those who drive only, which is becoming harder and harder with increase fuel costs and costs of living. So regardless if you drive or not, you are paying for all this road land you don't use), the answer here is public transit, not cruises! Personally I stay away from the Jervis Bay area during high tourism times because the traffic and parking is unbearable, but if the area was accessible by public transport, then I would attend at anytime. Council already don't have the funds to repair roads as it is, and I think it is unfair that those who are trying to be more sustainable by biking, walking, or using transit (for areas where it's even available), or those who simply can't use or afford to have a vehicle, are having their hard earn money used to pay for roads. There a many cities in the world like Venice, Amsterdam, Greece, and all of Japan that create walkable/bike-able cities completely accessible by foot or transit, and tourists who travel to these cities, marvel and love them so much. Not only the noise reduction of being lower traffic, but the beauty created in the once road occupied land, now has trees, bike lanes, and community gathering spaces. The knock on affect is better health for locals also, where studies show a reduction of diabetes and obesity in these cities, which then frees up healthcare spending in the long run, which could be used for other things like education and public transit.

Jervis Bay area will never be a small quiet place again, we cannot stop population growth, but we do have a choice on how we conduct our movements within a space. We can choice transportation like cruises and roads for the rich only that is destructive to the environment in so many ways, or we start to move towards a more inclusive environmentally friendly way of movement, that many countries are doing right now in the form of public transportation. We need to think outside of the box, away from fossil fuels, and think about inclusive communities who are connected to the environment. My suggestion my not be the solution, but I think it can at least start a different conversation to maybe a better solution none of us realise yet, because I don't feel the current status quo is the best course of action.

I am 100% against cruises in Jervis Bay.