





17.1.3 May 2021

# DERWENT VALLEY COUNCIL

I have always said I will stand up for local government and local issues. I am very well connected to all political parties and government stakeholders. I have built a strong media profile, and as such will be a credible and sought after spokesperson for our sector. I'm more than comfortable going into fight for our sector when we need strong advocacy or to put forward what matters most to our sector.

I have recently just been through an unsuccessful legislative council election where I narrowly missed out on unseating an incumbent member. This experience has shown I have a very strong community supporter base that is outside my own council boundaries. Throughout the campaign I have honed my political nous and deepened my understanding of the systems in which we operate that will ultimately help us navigate through future negotiations with both state and federal counterparts.

In my professional life I have done many things but most notably I have been in electrical engineering and senior management for most of my career. I believe this professional experience gives me the attributes needed to help LGAT be the best it can be.

Whilst I am a strong leader I am also very inclusive, empathetic and willing to work with all members of our sector for the best outcomes for the Tasmanian local government sector.

I have already built a strong and cohesive working relationship with the CEO Dion Lester and the LGAT team. I have consolidated my knowledge around the issues we are facing federally and will fight for continued roads and infrastructure funding.

The Tasmanian political landscape is about to change with a Liberal government elected for a third consecutive time, with what I believe carries a strong mandate for change. It is already proposed that there will be sector reform, which will mean there will be some tough discussions ahead, requiring a strong leader to make sure we are well represented. I am up for that challenge.

As Vice president I've heard the issues surrounding local government reforms, the lack of state-wide planning schemes being introduced, the delays in regional land use strategies being implemented and the Councillors code of conduct review is stagnant and in my view needs to be pushed hard for better outcomes. These are a few of the things that I hear from our sector that I believe I can help with getting moving by having robust discussions.

Please feel free to contact me individually if you would like to find out any more about myself or my feeling on local government matters in general.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Shaw'.

**Ben Shaw**  
Mayor Derwent Valley Council