



# Kingborough Council Candidate Statements

## Councillor Gideon Cordover

**If elected, what projects will you prioritise to make it easier for people to walk and ride this term? What are your longer-term priorities?**

I support extending the Snug to Margate shared path to Kingston and to implement recommendations to improve cycling and active transport options in the [Kingborough Cycling Strategy 2021-2030](#) and the [Channel Highway Corridor Study](#) including dedicated cycle lanes, raised priority crossings and other safety measures to make cycling in urban areas more comfortable.

Everyone can benefit from making cycling more accessible, safer and more enjoyable in our road and trail networks. Leaders in Kingborough need to ensure that cycling is accessible and safe for everyone and not just the preserve of the brave and super-fit lycra riders.

The fact that lots of Kingborough residents, myself included, still lack the confidence to cycle in our urban environment on many of our connector roads is due to poor long-term planning that has left our urban environment overburdened with congestion and unsafe for cyclists. I support adding parkiteer secure bike parking and storage options at our park & rides as well as separated cycleways in new subdivisions.

Having previously worked for the Heart Foundation, I know the benefits of [Healthy By Design](#) principles and continually seek to implement such recommendations in Kingborough.

My long-term vision is for Kingborough to use best-practice lessons from overseas jurisdictions such as the Netherlands and British Columbia to retrofit our urban environment to include separated cycleways, parkiteers, and more public bike pumps and repair stations. As Deputy Mayor, I look forward to working closely with stakeholders including Bicycle Network to put all options on the table for improving Kingborough residents' health and wellbeing and help enhance mobility options for everyone.

**If your council does not have a bike plan, will you work to get one in place in this term?**

Kingborough has a Kingborough Cycling Strategy 2021-2030 and as Deputy Mayor and Councillor I will pursue adequate resourcing, investment and implementation of the Strategy's objectives:



- Developing and maintaining a connected network of trails, shared paths, cycleways and bike lanes that connect town centres, schools, residential areas, transport nodes, sporting hubs and adjoining local government areas.
- Prioritising active travel in planning of all new developments and subdivisions including end of trip facilities.
- Promote cycling and road safety.

My Greens colleague on Kingborough Council, Amanda Midgley, as Chair of the Kingborough Bicycle Advisory Committee, offers a wealth of knowledge and experience to help guide our conversations on Council to ensure we plan for improved cycle options. If re-elected, Amanda and I will continue to be champions for cycling on Council and work to make Kingborough a more connected, more liveable municipality that benefits from the many health & wellbeing improvements that come from a health-in-all-policies and Healthy By Design approach.

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## **Jill Hickie**

I stand for a Thriving Environment, Thriving Community and Thriving Economy – support for cycling infrastructure is a key part of my candidate platform.

I am an avid cyclist and have been cycling for recreation and commuting since I was a teenager. These days I own an electric hybrid bike which I love as it has made my regular commute from Taroona into the Hobart CBD so much easier. I also enjoy mountain biking and offroad biking adventures to various locations around Tassie when time allows.

My professional background in open space management and planning in Hobart has provided me with experience in delivery of plans that support shared use trails in the City of Hobart.

As a candidate in the Kingborough local government elections one my key platforms is action on climate change. One aspect of delivering that is the provision of integrated and

multimodal transport options to reduce reliance on cars, consumption carbon emitting fuels and reduce traffic congestion. Provision of cycling infrastructure is part of that which also provides greatly beneficial health and well-being outcomes.

In early 2022, I was pleased to see the Council sign off on finalisation of the Kingborough Cycling Strategy 2021-2030 overseen by the Kingborough Bicycle Advisory Committee. The strategy provides an excellent long-term framework for delivery of bike infrastructure in Kingborough. I wholeheartedly support its implementation.



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## **Clare Glade-Wright**

I have been a strong advocate for Park and Ride facilities in Kingborough.

I am aware of the 6000+ commuters that travel every day to Hobart from Kingborough and only 2% by public transport.

I feel that Kingborough, with the aid of the State and Federal governments can achieve a much more beneficial separated cycleway network, and especially to and from the Park and Ride facilities, so in the end we get more cars off the road which isn't just an environmental benefit but a healthy lifestyle improvement also.

Since being elected to council I voted to endorse the Cycling Strategy and I look forward to the elements in the plan being rolled out across Kingborough.

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## **Kaspar Deane**

Dear Bicycle Network Members,

There's no question for me about supporting cycling in Kingborough. Throughout my life I have regularly cycled to travel for work and study. You don't need to convince me that cycling is excellent for health, wellbeing, the environment and saves money- I have experienced all of this first-hand.

Kingborough is growing rapidly, and we need to ensure that we are making things easier not harder for walkers and cyclists.

I will support the development of a connected network of high-quality cycling infrastructure so that people of all ages can safely and enjoyably get to work, school and the shops.

I want Council to do what it can to ensure that new developments, home to many families, have high-quality and well-connected infrastructure built in- that way it's easy to choose active and sustainable modes of transport from the day you move in.

With commuter ferries on the horizon, we need to start making connections so that our beach suburbs don't become car parks.

I want to see Kingborough become an easy and safe place to walk and cycle.



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## **Dr Michael Rowan**

I have continuously owned a bike for most of my 70 years. From the three-wheeler I rode in the vacant block next to our house as a pre-schooler, up to the Specialized hard tail mountain bike I have now – which I don't ride as often as I should. I have happy memories -



and a few scars – from all of my bikes, luckily growing up in a time and place where kids could roam free on their bikes.

Over time our communities have become less friendly to kids, and to bikes, and indeed to healthy exercise. And that is harmful to the planet.

I am pleased that Kingborough Council has adopted a Cycling Strategy 2021-30. I assume this was based on informed community input, and expert advice. If so, the challenge then is to find funds in the budget to hasten its implementation.

But I would suggest something more. From my experience as a manager I am always concerned when an organization develops plans and strategies that sit alongside one another and all seem to add to the work of an already hard pressed staff and demand allocations from a budget in which almost all of the money is always already spent.

My approach to planning is to set high level goals – such as

- by 2027 the built up areas of Kingborough will be as safe and convenient to get around on a bike as in a car, and biking between them will be widely regarded as a safe option by those that would like to do so.

and then have all members of the Council administration and works teams, from the surveyor to the grader driver to the general manager to the person driving the machine clearing weeds from the side of the road, consider what opportunities they can find every day to achieve that goal.

While we certainly need the specific developments detailed in the strategy, we will also achieve a lot when every member of the Council goes about their work thinking like a cyclist. And similarly for reducing the Council's carbon footprint, increasing public amenity and so on. Good planning is not about changing what an organisation does, it is about changing the organisation so that it comes naturally to do different things.

<https://michaelrowanforkingborough.com>

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## Di Carter

Why do we bike ride? It is such a great activity to maintain our health and wellbeing, to go from A to B, and to get out and about to soak up the beauty and bird life etc.

I live on Tinderbox Hills track and I am in awe of the very skilled mountain bikers mastering the rugged steep hills. Some of us commute to work on our bikes and some enjoy leisurely



rides. And now we have ebikes (I've yet to move to those) they open up opportunity again, and recent research has shown how beneficial they are for exercise.

The bike tracks and paths that are provided by Kingborough Council are a critical amenity for our citizens, and the Cycling Strategy to 2030 is a great initiative, to maintain and improve options for safe and interesting cycling. Newer developments such as the separated cycleway from Margate to Snug are an asset. It will be great to connect up to that path from Kingston, especially because that road is incredibly busy and not an incentive to get on your bike there.

I believe car drivers are more attentive to cyclists and with the advent of more awareness-raising and signage to give 1.5m to bikes more drivers are doing the right thing. I have had some close calls, especially at busy intersections such as the Fork in the Road roundabout (a State road), and I believe more promotion for all road users to be aware of bikes, pedestrians and wildlife can only benefit our whole community.

I am an advocate for the community, encouraging health and wellbeing and inclusion. The more we can invest in building and maintaining paths and separated cycleways that link to jobs, schools, services and local shops and can be ridden by people of all ages and abilities, the better. I am hopeful that the new Park and Ride in Kingston will be safely accessible for bike riders and pedestrians too, as integrating modes of transport is an efficient and effective approach.

And as co-founder of Dementia Friendly Tasmania Inc. we fundraised for a trishaw – an ebike with a canopied seat upfront for 2 passengers to enjoy the wind in their hair and feel more connected to their community. It is hired out to aged care homes for the benefit of the residents and volunteers and staff and has been embraced across the State. To find out more email [dftasmania@gmail.com](mailto:dftasmania@gmail.com)





## **Amanda Midgley**

Cycling matters are a high priority for me.

I started my cycling journey while studying at Sydney University in the late 90s. I participated in regular critical mass bikes rides and reclaim the street actions to call on the City of Sydney for bikes lanes, links and connections. I participated in many long rides for pleasure and bike touring on the east coast of NSW and then some touring in Canada.

When moving to Kingborough in 2000, I certainly had not experienced a commute to work that involved so many hills! I soon got my fitness up and realised that having shower facilities at end of ride certainly made a difference for cycling to work. Sadly, many of my work places had no end of ride shower etc, so I did take a break from cycling to work. I wrote to Metro Tasmania about bikes on buses as living in Canada I had experienced the great benefits this provided. It was sad to see a small trial of this occurred to Fern Tree and I voice bringing back this concept where I can.

We purchased an electric bike in 2009 so that I could cycle with my small children about Kingborough. I soon felt unsafe on many of the roads, especially along Channel Highway to Margate train or Dru Point so, as they grew we had to purchase a second car.

While working at the City of Hobart, my e-bike was a great way to commute to work, spend more time with my children and get to work faster! I was very happy with myself that I cycled from Howden to Hobart through a Tasmanian winter. (Only one painful day when I forgot my gloves).

Over the past 5 years I have discovered the joy of mountain biking and have had many trips to Derby and NW for the tracks. Mountain biking has provided so many families with a fun way to get everyone riding, it is so great to see this.

When elected to Kingborough Council in 2018, it was my turn to have a say on cycling matters. I have been able to share my knowledge and interest with other councillors, many who had not experienced what it was like to cycle around Kingborough for fitness, fun or commuting.

During my first term on Council it has been an honour to be Chair of the Kingborough Bicycle Advisory Committee (KBAC) and Chair Cycling South. I will continue to be that squeaky wheel voice for cycling matters. Thanks to Councillor Flora Fox for her active voice for many years as Chair of KBAC.

1. I will ensure:

- Budgets include cycling projects as identified in the Kingborough Bicycle Strategy.
- New subdivisions include wide footpaths and or separated cycle lanes, links and connections.



- Future park and rides include safe and secure bike parking.
  - Lobby for secure bike parking at bus stops.
  - For new road, roundabout upgrades etc, ensure these designs have safe and secure cycling lanes, separated where they can be.
  - Hold council to account on the Channel Highway in Kingston CBD to remove the parking at stage 2 and implement a separated cycle lane.
  - Listen to voices of cyclists re matters that are important to them and implement actions where possible.
  - Ensure that council staff have good end of ride options.
  - Look at options for riding safely to school programs and upgrading areas so children can ride safely to school.
  - Lobby for funding for Algona Road feasibility study.
  - Lobby for funding for the off-road shared pathway from Margate - Huntingfield.
  - Continue to ask questions about Channel Highway Corridor study and ensure State Growth commit to actions.
  - Council keeps up to date with training and initiatives from Bicycle Network Tasmania and have a presence at Cycling South meetings.
  - Continue to support Cycling South in Council budget commitment.
  - Work with greater Hobart councils to ensure we can implant the southern cycling network plan.
  - See Kingborough as great destination for cycling tourism and look at funding options for this.
2. When council had secured funding for Transform Kingston (funding to look at options for people to use bus an active transport) I lobbied that some of this funding be put towards a Bike Plan for Kingborough. This was successful and now Kingborough has a Cycling Strategy 2021-2030 <https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Kingborough-Cycling-Strategy-2021-2030-Appendix.pdf>

The strategy has provided KBAC with a list of high, medium and low priorities. This guides the work and commitment that we do and is an integral part of our committee meetings eg it is not a strategy that sits on the shelf! It is a great strategy that provides direction for 'shovel ready' projects if there is funding for cycling projects from state and federal governments.

I hope to be elated for one more term on Council and I will lobby very strong for cycling projects. It has been inspiring to see the commitment of other local government across Australia on cycling projects and the rise in separated cycle lanes. In Tasmania we need long term, strong financial commitments for cycling. We need to see the 80% (or more) who would like to ride if safer to do so being able to.

Now more than ever we need to build active trail networks before we even consider such ideas as a 5th lane.

I will be strong and committed to active transport in Kingborough. I am out there cycling when I can. (If you see the person in formal wear on a e-bike in Kingborough that is probably me on my way to a council meeting!).





For the future generations, cycling / active transport options must be a priority. Therefore we need to commit to prioritise infrastructure projects for this.

I hope I can leave a legacy in Kingborough that will see more people, of all ages on their bike!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch for cycling matters: 0410 695 728.

