

Councillor Donald Clarke

I have been on Denmark Council for 2 years, having filled a vacancy created by the early departure of Geoff Bowley; I've tried to fill his spot adequately. Prior to this, I participated in much of the Shire's consultation over the last decade, with submissions and serving on committees.

Being a Councillor is a complex role, operating collaboratively within legislation, integrated planning, and community consultation; it takes at least one year to grasp the role effectively. With that experience, I feel responsible to be available for another 4 years.

I have also undertaken training through the WA Local Gov. Assoc., including Procedures, Financial Budgeting, and the State and Local planning frameworks.

I know corporate strategies, and financial spreadsheets. When first in Denmark, I was a small business officer and a consultant (including to the Tree Top Walk). I understand the tension between keeping rates affordable while providing the services we want.

Inspired by Denmark's community spirit, for the last 13 years I have committed these skills to full-time community organising. Most rewarding for my wife Ary and me has been our general volunteering, including at festivals, in the schools, and for in juniors/colts AFL, filling every parent role.

I am proud to have served 13 years with the Denmark SES. I am a DFES trained Peer Support Officer; the wellbeing of volunteers is vital.

My Great-Grandparents worked on the Millars' tramway from 1898 and had 3 children here. So, Denmark's heritage is special in my family history. Grown up a country lad, I returned with Ary and our children 15 years ago, to live in this clean, green, creative piece of paradise.

It has been an honour to worked with such an integrous, collaborative Council, and I hope all four Councillors seeking re-election are returned. I want to resume work with them to continue to progress our community's common values that bring us together.