

I'm Jarod Harris, a Belmont resident and ratepayer running to be an independent voice for responsible government in Central Ward. I've lived in Belmont for five years and am excited to see the City of Belmont rise to its potential. Part of that is building infrastructure that serves people, and not just cars.

I will push the City of Belmont to install a zebra crossing on Wright Street, between the Belmont Forum and the new Belmont Hub.

This is not a new idea for the City.

Four years ago, a City report said plainly that this crossing was the most important thing Belmont could do for people walking or cycling. When the question was posed six years ago on Belmont Connect of what we want the City to do to make it easier to walk around in Belmont, the most mentioned location and issue was a pedestrian crossing on Wright Street.

For years the City and Council have not fixed it.

Seniors, children and the full breadth of Belmont's diverse community use this crossing and must hurry across in the gaps between cars.

We can do better.

If elected to the Council, I can press the City to make our public spaces safer and more comfortable for all of us, whether inside a car or not. I will present a petition of local signatures for the Wright Street crossing.

If not elected, I'll present the petition and advocate for it anyway.

There are many more projects I would advocate in Council, including a safer and more comfortable city centre, planting and protecting more shade trees, helping communities address rat-running traffic and pushing for the full implementation of the Belvidere Street Revitalisation Project.

But sometimes a place to cross the street in safety and dignity can be the most important change a local government can make in our daily lives. Your vote could help make that change.

Thanks for your time and don't forget to vote,

Jarod Harris