

Bridgetown has held special meaning to me since I first visited at the age of 15. At the age of 26 I purchased a large property in Kangaroo Gully and four years later I became a resident.

I worked at the Shire in Community Services for four years, giving me a thorough understanding of local government operations, before leaving to pursue my passion in sustainability. I co-own and run Hemp Squared - manufacturer of hemp building materials - which is wholly operated in Bridgetown. My business was impacted by the Hester bushfire, so I am fully aware of the importance of emergency services and bushfire mitigation. Through my work I'm also aware of the challenges facing those wanting to buy, build and renovate in the region.

Our stunning natural surroundings, the Blackwood River and our forests are some of our biggest assets. We must ensure that the demand for development and growth does not come at the cost of losing our precious natural environment. Additionally, I believe work can be done to reduce incidents of dog attacks and other animal welfare issues which have caused a problem in past years.

My daughter Molly attends pre-primary at Bridgetown Primary School and I am a member of the school board. I know that Council decisions can have both positive and negative impacts on families, and I'm well placed to advocate for the needs of parents and families in Bridgetown-Greenbushes.

Our residents are diverse and I believe that policy decisions needs to take into account the impact on youth, families, our older residents, people with disabilities and those from different backgrounds. Understanding, kindness and respect should guide all leaders, including elected representatives. Together, we can only get better.