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COMPLETE

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Page 1: 2020 Moreland Council Candidate climate survey

Q1

Candidate Name

Meghan Street

Q2

North East Ward

Contesting Which Moreland Ward?

Q3

Sue Bolton Community Independants

Are you a candidate for a political party? Which Party?
Or are you standing as an Independent candidate?

Q4

If you are receiving campaign funding for this election, who are you receiving funding from? (list all or state 'None')

We have received donations from the Electrical Trades Union, the Firefighter's Union, Socialist Alliance and the rest are individual donations from residents and supporters.

Q5

North East Ward

Connections to Moreland Wards. I am a resident in:

Q6

What are your other connections to Moreland wards

I am a volunteer / unpaid carer in

North East Ward

I am a community advocate in

South Ward, North East Ward, North West Ward

Q7

Triple bottom line accounting brings to account three domains that we need for a good life. They are economic, environmental and social which includes health. Do you commit as a Councillor for Council to use triple bottom line accounting on all Council infrastructure projects and will you try to ensure that climate emergency is embedded in every Manager's performance plan?

(no label)

Agree Strongly

Q8

Transport: Upfield Rail Upgrade - Problems with parking and traffic congestion, capacity issues of public transport (once the pandemic passes) necessitate solutions for upgrading the Upfield Line. According to Infrastructure Australia, the northern region Transport Corridor will reach and exceed capacity in the next decade. Will you support duplication and extension of the Upfield rail line to Craigieburn and Wallan for provision of a more reliable and frequent rail service catering for the growing population in Moreland and residents in new growth suburbs further north?

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q9

Transport: Tram Network Extension: As a Councillor will you support ongoing advocacy for the Victorian State Government to extend the No 58 West Coburg Tram along Derby street in Pascoe Vale, and No 19 North Coburg tram routes further north along Sydney Road to Campbellfield?

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q10

Transport: Mode shift - What actions will you be pushing for to facilitate a mode shift to more sustainable modes of transport in Moreland as part of, or beyond, Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy (MITS), including changes to parking restrictions, increasing public transport advocacy, cycling and walking infrastructure?

The cities and countries across the world that have successfully decreased their car usage have implemented a facilitation strategy, making it as easy as possible to take sustainable alternatives. They have made their train/tram and bus systems thoroughly networked, reliable, frequent and importantly affordable. They have developed well networked, safe, and well lit cycling and walking pathways. I will push for more facilitative and less punitive strategies to decrease car usage. Punitive measures that make it harder to use a car are not successful in the absence of reliable, frequent and networked public transport, cycling and walking networks.

Moreland should be doing investigative work to identify barriers to take up of public transport by groups at risk of transport poverty, ie young people, young families and those on restricted incomes, such as pensioners and the unemployed. We also need the Moreland Council to dramatically increase its advocacy around public transport. It isn't good enough to say that the existence of a train line and trams means that we have sufficient public transport. Moreland council should actively petition the state government for the duplication of the Upfield Line and work with Hume council to this end. We know that the unreliability of the Upfield line because of the single track at the end means that many people in the north have resorted to driving because they can't trust their local train service. There are too many train cancellations for people who live north of Bell St. For people living north of where the tram line ends, frequent train cancellations mean that these people have NO public transport route into the city.

We need to duplicate the Upfield Line and increase frequency at peak hour and throughout the day and night on both train lines that go through Moreland, extend the #19 tram to Campbellfield, extend the Melville Rd tram to Boundary Rd, make sure that all bus routes go from first train to last train, with a 10 minute bus service during the peak periods. All bus routes need to operate at night and throughout the weekend. There's also a need to install more seats and shelters at bus stops to encourage bus use.

The tram routes need to have an increased frequency during the daytime and at night to alleviate overcrowding.

There also need to be more pedestrian crossings, especially on busy roads so that people feel safe to walk around their neighbourhoods. When new apartment blocks get built with supermarkets on the ground floor which will attract a lot of pedestrians, plans need to be made immediately to install pedestrian crossings. There are many areas around Moreland where there need to be pedestrian crossings – eg Moreland Road near the IGA, Murray Rd, Sydney Rd near Gowrie Station to name just a few.

We need to take this opportunity of the pandemic when there has been a massive increase in people cycling to increase the council budget for safe cycling paths, both making current cycling paths safer, and constructing new cycling paths. We are strongly committed to finishing the Craigieburn shared path, building the missing link in the Upfield shared path between Box Forest Rd and the M80, creating a Fawkner shimmy and building the Glenroy to Coburg bike route. There are many other improvements needed – these are just a few.

Q11

Heat Vulnerability: Large sections of Moreland's north are at the extreme end of the Heat Vulnerability Index, meaning residents are very susceptible to global warming. What will you do to address this beyond existing policies, including Moreland Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan (Word Doc 48MB), Moreland Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2017 (PDF 9MB), Cooling the Upfield Corridor Action Plan?

One of the most important aspects of addressing heat vulnerability is to increase tree canopy in Moreland, especially in the hottest areas which are primarily in the northern part of the municipality. We are committed to planting 5000 street trees each year, but there needs to be a bigger allocation for maintenance. There are too many young trees that don't survive because of vandalism or lack of maintenance or other reasons.

Another big problem is that as fast as the council plants trees, mature trees get ripped out of gardens when houses get demolished to make room for developments. While there have been some improvements to Moreland's planning laws to require the planting of a tree, planning laws still need to be strengthened to force developers to plant more vegetation and provide more permeable surfaces. There also needs to be more work done on recording and preserving significant trees on private land. Council needs to play a stronger role in advocating to protect urban habitats when other levels of government or corporations engage in big projects like the Level Crossing Removal Project plan to bulldoze a lot of mature trees. Moreland council didn't start to advocate until far too late for alternative construction methods to be used for the level crossing removals on the Upfield Line in order to save Gandolfo Gardens. There needs to be an audit of playgrounds for shade and a plan to plant trees in playgrounds which don't have much shade.

There is also a need to install more public water fountains in key locations such as along the Upfield Shared Path.

We also need to do a risk analysis of heat waves and the vulnerable in our community including the elderly and those with no/limited access to air conditioned living spaces. Measures need to be implemented to reduce the risk of heat related health effects in the light of increasingly hot summers.

Q12

Waste Management. Moreland aims to be a leading council in sustainable waste management, yet its rate of diverting waste to organics and recycling sits just above the state average. What will you do to help Moreland in the rollout of the Food and Garden Organics Collection Service, and achieve Moreland's 2030 zero waste to landfill target as part of Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme – ESD Policy v2.0?

A critical approach to effective implementation of strategies such as the Food and Garden Organics Collection Service is to identify barriers to take-up. Council should undertake work to identify which segments of the Community are finding it difficult (or are finding that this strategy has no relevance for them). When such groups are identified, strategies, particularly involving peer groups, to remove obstacles or increase relevance can be undertaken.

One of the big problems with recycling is that different recycling companies have different rules as to what they recycle or not. People move into Moreland from other municipalities in Melbourne, country areas, interstate or overseas – each different place has different rules around waste. One way to help overcome this is for council to work with real estate agents to inform tenants of the rules around waste, recycling and food and organics collection.

Better planning laws should be implemented including ensuring that developers do their construction in such a way as to provide space for green bins for food and organic waste and composting bins.

Q13

Energy Efficiency and Renewables. Moreland has a goal of “Efficient and 100% renewably powered energy”. Yet Moreland has one of Victoria’s lowest uptake of solar PV. How can Moreland “walk the talk” on renewable energy and meet the community goals set in the Zero Carbon Moreland – Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25?

Council needs to phase out the use of gas for heating swimming pools.

Council needs to continue pushing for more protection of solar panels in the planning scheme.

Council needs to investigate a range of schemes to improve the uptake of solar panels –

Community solar projects to give access to energy savings from solar PV for people living in flats, enterprise bargaining agreements for workers to include access to solar panels.

Make low/no interest loans to residents that can be paid back with savings from lower energy bills.

Work with social/community housing to provide rooftop solar via grants or community support schemes for residents who would most benefit from smaller energy bills and are least able to afford solar panels.

Team with groups like EarthWorker who manufacture heat pump water heaters in Victoria.

Work to encourage landlords to provide solar panels on rental properties.

Invest in community solar farms or wind farms to provide affordable renewable energy for Moreland.

There are many roofs of factories and offices in Moreland which could be a source of renewable energy, as occurs in Germany.

Q14

Pollution and litter: How will you educate and incentivise business in industrial zones (especially in the North East Ward) to avoid pollution and litter from entering our drains and our creek systems?

Planning permits need to include conditions regarding waste and litter. In addition, there need to be strong regulations ensuring that waste water pumped into our creeks does not include pollutants.

Council needs to engage with businesses such as big box retailers to ensure that their rubbish is secured and can't blow into nearby streets.

The Council should maintain a community based pollution reporting process that is easy for communities to access.

Q15

Supporting business and the environment as part of Covid RecoveryWhat actions will you take to help Council promote environmentally sustainable jobs as part of a Covid recovery such as by possible development of large abandoned sites for a sustainability hub (such as former Kangan TAFE automotive campus)? How else will you advocate for supporting small business Covid recovery that includes environmental co-benefits?

By creating a sustainability hub in the area for training/retraining in sustainable jobs, for residents to access resources on sustainable practices and information on access to resources such as solar panel grants.

Council should also invest resources into creating local jobs that assist with environmental issues in the area (i.e. the cleaning up of Merri creek and surrounds, planting trees and creating/maintaining green spaces, the creation of more local community gardens etc).

Investment in a solar panel program that employ community members to install panels.

Q16

Food SecurityHow would you address food security in Moreland beyond the existing Moreland Food System Strategy? (including as a part of the clean Covid recovery)?

Far more land can be given over the creation of local food bowls and managed to produce a significant amount of local food, which can be sold to benefit the farmers and the community.

In the light of the food security issues brought about by the pandemic, council should commit to the development of a council run food bank that services vulnerable people in the area.

Council can be a leader in the implementation of a program linking up community groups who distribute food with business that have left over food and produce.

Council should commit to buying more local foods for events.

Q17

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Food Security. The IPCC Special Report on Land and Climate Change Summary for Policy makers (2020) articulates major emissions reduction can be achieved from adopting a primarily plant based diet (B6.2). Will you advocate for public health policies that promote proper nutrition and dietary change by Moreland residents as per the IPCC (C2.4)?

Q18

Buildings, Biodiversity and Urban cooling: What would you do as a Councillor to ensure that with new building developments, Moreland has sufficient vegetation cover to contribute to biodiversity outcomes and urban cooling beyond existing policies in the Urban Forest Strategy, Moreland Nature Plan, and the Achieving Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme – ESD Policy v2.0 project?

Liaise with local ecologists to ensure that wildlife corridors are preserved and new ones developed.

Ensure that unused areas are rehabilitated with native vegetation to encourage native wildlife to the area.

Protect and clean up our waterways and ensure that we have healthier water ecosystems and wetlands in the area.

Ensure that planning permits include the planting of trees and the maintenance of existing natural ecosystems.

Q19

Cement Emissions. Use of Portland Cement contributes to 8% of global emissions. Alternative low emissions/zero emission cement products are available at reasonably competitive rates. Will you commit to amending Moreland Council Procurement policy sustainability filter to purchase low carbon/zero emissions cement/concrete products?

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q20

Climate Citizen Assemblies: Under the new Local Government Act 2020 (community engagement policy), all councils in Victoria are required to use deliberative practices for the development of their Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan, at the bare minimum. The gold standard of this kind of democratic, deliberative practice is a Citizens' Assembly. So, will you support such a democratic framework for Council's climate emergency response by establishing a Citizens' Assembly?

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q21

What are your top four priorities for the Council Plan to be formulated for 2021-2025.

Priority 1

Implement planning policies to reduce carbon emissions.

Priority 2

Ensure sustainable policies take into account the needs of the wider community.

Priority 3

Ensure that the requirements for community consultation on planning are preserved and strengthened.

Priority 4

Ensure that public and green spaces are protected under local planning laws.

Q22

Do you have any other comments on Council Climate Leadership and Advocacy (include any actions you have taken on this)? Do you have any supplementary comments relating to the questions above, comments on other issues related to climate change not covered, or comments on climate change generally?

I believe that local government has a significant role to play in tackling the climate emergency and is well placed to understand local issues and liaise with residents on policies that relate to this issue.

We must take decisive action on the climate emergency, but we must also ensure that the policies enacted do not unduly disadvantage the vulnerable in our community and those with less access to services like public transport and other amenities.
