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COMPLETE

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Page 1: 2020 Moreland Council Candidate climate survey

**Q1**

Candidate Name

Sue Bolton

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**Q2**

**North East Ward**

Contesting Which Moreland Ward?

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**Q3**

**Sue Bolton Community Independants**

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

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**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 Socialist Alliance, the Electoral Trades Union, the firefighters union and a number of small individual donations from candidates and supporters.

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**Q5**

**North West Ward**

Connections to Moreland Wards. I am a resident in:

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**Q6**

What are your other connections to Moreland wards

I am a recontesting Councillor

**North East Ward**

I am a volunteer / unpaid carer in

**North East Ward**

I am a community advocate in

**South Ward, North East Ward, North West Ward**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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**

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## 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 things which have the biggest impact on reducing car useage are public transport availability, safe cycling paths, pedestrian safety and the proximity of shops and parks. When public transport increases in frequency and span of hours, people do use it and leave cars behind. That is the international experience. Cars only got entrenched in western society when public transport got destroyed. A huge amount of public transport was destroyed in Australia in order to force people to buy cars and become reliant on cars.

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.

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.

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 Campbelfield, 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.

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## 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?

Urban Heat Island Effect is a key indicator of the outcomes of a wide range of environmental policy stances that Moreland Council has adopted over the last few years, including Climate Emergency and Zero Carbon Moreland strategies. Monitoring the UHIE will give insight into the effectiveness of those strategies, and thus should have a high priority in evaluation and benchmarking.

Incorporate UHIE performance metrics into Council Departmental performance indicators, PLUS they will be a key performance metric of the Climate Emergency Integration Officer.

These metrics should be based not only on environmental standards achieved, they should be checked against social vulnerability factors.

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.

And 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.

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## 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?

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.

Conditions also need to be attached to planning permits to make sure that developers do their construction in such a way as to provide space for green bins for food and organic waste and composting bins.

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### 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?

First, council needs to phase out the use of gas for heating swimming pools.

Second, council needs to continue pushing for more protection of solar panels in the planning scheme.

Third, 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.

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

Council also needs to:

- 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.
- Work with CALD community groups to identify barriers to solar panel uptake.
- Work to provide social/community housing with energy efficiency upgrades including insulation installation and loan schemes to replace energy hungry appliances with more efficient ones.
- Work with all residents via information, education and low interest loans to replace energy hungry appliances with more efficient ones.
- Work with schools to get and update solar panels.
- Continue with bulk solar purchases to help residents get easy access to solar panels work to take part in another community solar farm, or wind farm to provide affordable renewable energy for Moreland
- Team with groups like EarthWorker who manufacture heat pump water heaters in Victoria.
- Make low/no interest loans to residents that can be paid back with savings from lower energy bills.

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### 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?

The Council should maintain a community based pollution reporting process that is easy for communities to access and actively assist the community to get action from the EPA over industrial pollution.

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

**Q15**

Supporting business and the environment as part of Covid Recovery  
What 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?

I support the development of sustainability hubs and the development of environmentally sustainable jobs. Such projects should include unions.

However I don't believe that the emphasis should be on giving incentives to businesses that implement environmentally-sustainable practices (even if they are supportable in practice). Council's resources are best used for projects that it can has direct control over.

Responses to the climate crisis by governments (and councils need to be direct and not market-based).

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**Q16**

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

Food insecurity is a major issue for a substantial number of people in Moreland - people who are on low wages or on Centrelink benefits or who are not eligible for any government assistance.

There are various initiatives fo council to support urban agriculture. These are all good projects. But council also needs to enact some other measures such as establishing a food bank which provides food to all who need it and not just people with Centrelink cards.

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**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)?

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**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 exisiting policies in the Urban Forest Strategy, Moreland Nature Plan, and the Achieving Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme – ESD Policy v2.0 project?

Developers need to be forced to plant sufficient vegetation cover to contribute to the urban habitat. The only way that this can happen is if the council is successful in lobbying the state government to allow councils to mandate vegetation cover.

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**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**

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## 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)

**Agree with reservations**

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## Q21

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

Priority 1

**Rapid phase-out of fossil fuel (gas) for heating Moreland's pools**

Priority 2

**Implementing the new clause in Moreland's procurement policy: Excluding from future contracts, tenders or business dealings from any companies involved in developing new coal mines."**

Priority 3

**Increased council advocacy for improvements in public transport, particularly duplicating the Upfield Line**

Priority 4

**Increasing tree canopy in Moreland.**

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## 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?

Moreland council has done a lot but there is a lot that is still necessary. I was shocked that the council installed gas heating in the newly developed Oak Park Pool despite having declared itself a climate emergency council. I also feel that the council has not been strong enough in advocating around public transport issues. While public transport exists in Moreland, it is far from adequate if we are serious about people shifting on a mass scale from using cars to using public transport and other sustainable transport. I was the initiator of the fossil fuel divestment policy but a lot more work needs to be done to make this a reality. The council doesn't invest in shares so the divestment is focused on shifting council's banking transactions away from fossil fuel banks to non-fossil fuel banks. The non-fossil fuel banks currently don't provide all of the banking services that councils need. There is a need for council to support climate activists and climate action, because there needs to be pressure on federal and state governments and corporations to take serious action to address climate change. The work of activists is important because there are vested interests that are trying to prevent climate action. But the work that is done at the local level in Moreland can help build the pressure for change

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