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COMPLETE

Collector: NW ward (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, September 26, 2020 3:40:40 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, September 26, 2020 8:56:02 PM
Time Spent: 05:15:22
IP Address: 110.22.134.234

Page 1: 2020 Moreland Council Candidate climate survey

Q1

Candidate Name

Angelica Panopoulos

Q2

North West Ward

Contesting Which Moreland Ward?

Q3

Greens

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')

I am receiving donations from Greens supporters and members of the community. Unlike other parties, the Greens do not accept donations from property developers, the gambling lobby, or the pokies, mining, alcohol or tobacco industries. This way integrity is ensured in all decisions made. Additionally, donations over \$1500 are publicly declared.

Q5

North West Ward

Connections to Moreland Wards. I am a resident in:

Q6

What are your other connections to Moreland wards

Other (please specify) If you have other connections to Moreland, please state the ward(s) and the connection(s) briefly in 100 characters.

I have lived in Glenroy (North-West ward) my entire life and have grown up here. I use our parks, libraries, shops and public transport. This is my home.

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?

I am committed to working with the community to ensure that MITS is implemented effectively. A core component of this is ensuring that pedestrian, biking and public transport infrastructure is adequately invested in and funded. The Greens Councillors have successfully led the push to double the per head spend on bike and pedestrian infrastructure in this current Council term. The Greens will maintain this momentum, particularly given the Covid pandemic, where we are increasingly relying on our open spaces and social distancing is required.

I am especially passionate about strong advocacy for improved public transport services. We need public transport to be a frequent, reliable, safe and affordable alternative to driving. Take the 542 bus route, for example. It is one such bus that takes you to the Broadmeadows shopping centre, the Pascoe Vale Road shops in Glenroy, Pascoe Vale station and numerous strip shops along the way. This is an incredibly useful bus route. However, it often comes once every 50 minutes. The last service from Pascoe Vale Station on a weeknight, is at 7:32pm. This isn't good enough. As a thriving region, we need services to run at least once every 15 minutes. We need specific night shuttle services. We need more visibility and safety measures introduced around our train stations and bus terminals, so that when we are using them after dark, we feel safe. As a young woman just living in this area, I indeed understand some of the barriers to using active transport and that these need to be addressed to achieve mode shift.

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?

As Greens Councillors, we'll be advocating to push Council investment in assisting the community to access options that can reduce ecological footprint/emissions, whilst improving education and behaviour change. Three new Moreland Council staff have recently been employed to implement the overarching Moreland Zero Carbon: Climate Emergency strategy. The City's goal is zero community emissions by 2040. In order to achieve this goal, working with the community, industry and other governments, is essential. Monitoring these policies/strategies listed above is a key part of addressing existing policy implementation. Exploring the research and evidence, the science, and the climate sector's advice on how to make a real difference as a local government, is critical to be an effective Councillor or group of Councillors. We are hoping to have a strong Greens presence to collaborate with and effect change and pivot for new initiatives. It's important to be leapfrogging old technologies and boldly exploring new renewable technologies to demonstrate to the community how we can make change and provide hope. At the heart of Greens initiatives is ensuring that reducing, re-using, repairing and recycling is at the core of Council's work.

Some more specifics are as follows:

- Exploring initiatives like micro grids and community energy initiatives.
- Tackling the major issue re transport emissions and the transformation needed there.
- Giving greater import to ensure permeable open space is given greater weight in urban planning applications.
- The Greens have led the initiative for a new Environmentally Sustainable Design 2.0 tool kit for the planning scheme.
- Working with CASBE and other Councils to lobby the Local Government Minister to improve the low standards currently being used in new buildings.
- Lobbying the federal government re its building code, to improve the standards and ensure they are more 'climate proof' for current buildings and the next generation.
- Identifying resources to enable much needed trials to lead and test the way ahead in new initiatives to reduce the heat island effect.
- Increased funding to educate and promote behaviour change to address the problem too.

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?

The waste strategy is sadly behind where it was planned to be at by now. This is for a number of reasons. It has frustrated Greens Councillors and disappointed too. The plan now is to roll out the new FOGO (food and garden organics) collection service by early 2022. This is not meeting community expectations, when other Councils have done this already in 2020. The change includes reducing landfill bin pick ups to a fortnightly regime, with FOGO pick up being weekly. The need to include a new glass bin option (Vic Government has finally taken a bold measure by 2023!) is also being factored into this rollout plan. The one advantage with this delay is that it will enable greater engagement and increased likelihood of much needed education and behaviour change which we hope will see a marked improvement in compliance (ie, not contaminating bins with the incorrect items)!

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?

The Council Plan was to use the Energy Upgrade Agreements (EUAs) facility, that businesses have had access to for many years, for private residents. However, the Victorian Government needed to amend the state laws to facilitate this. These changes only occurred in early 2020, so Council has been constrained by this.

The good news is that Council has now allocated funding for low income households to access thermal efficiency improvements/upgrades and solar installations in the July 2020/21 budget. The newly employed officers will facilitate these initiatives along with the Australian Energy Foundation (AEF - formerly MEFL which has been a leader in this space at local government level for many years). While this is not nearly enough, it has started, and we expect the new Council will be in a stronger position (COVID recession, notwithstanding) to increase the uptake and options for residents, be they owners or renters.

The Council is working collaboratively with local community groups to support them in their work to educate the community and support residents that wish to make changes big or small. The Moreland Good Climate Network (established after the catastrophic fires of 2019/20) is a great example of what the community and Council can do collaboratively.

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 Greens are keen to see more on-ground signage indicating that what goes down the drain or street, ends up in our waterways and our bay/oceans. People need to know that their actions and inactions have a wider impact. This should be combined with more community education around micro-plastics and their impacts.

The Greens are committed to exploring any levers that Council may have to incentivise businesses and industries to do the right thing, without relying heavily on punitive measures.

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?

Moreland does not have its own waste recovery site within its boundaries. The city relies on other Councils to provide this service and on private waste transfer sites. The federal and state governments have the resources and powers to introduce measures of this size and importance. Land, like Kangan TAFE, is expensive and not part of Council's assets. Were the Vic Government open to a partnership to utilise this facility to support sustainable industries, the Greens would be eager to explore this and support such an outcome, or similar.

At a special Council meeting on 21/9/20 councillors voted to support funding for outdoor dining and related initiatives, including using car spaces and vacant land to facilitate eateries as they re-open, as the virus spread is brought under control.

Furthermore:

- The Victorian Greens are calling on the Vic Government to invest in COVID recovery plans including shopping strip renewals and shopping locally.
- The Victorian Greens have also called on the Vic Government to invest in 23 new or expanded recycling factories by 2025 to meet the state's needs and ensure high recycling rates and new jobs. It would be good for Moreland or the region to host one of these recycling factories.
- Advocating for small businesses to be supported is an easy ask of Council, making it effective and implementable is the challenge.
- The Greens would be keen to work on and develop such programs and outcomes that provide direct benefits for the community. Without these measures we won't meet the City's zero emissions goal by 2040.

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)?

The Greens led the work in updating the Food Systems Strategy in the 2016-20 term, under the leadership of Cr Natalie Abboud. Further support for the recently established Northern Food Community Hub, is needed, including initiatives in the urban agriculture domain bringing employment and enterprise prospects and other benefits too.

The Greens will continue to support and resource the establishment of new community garden spaces and nature strips across the city.

Follow up on Cr Dorney's recent work in the Council chamber to facilitate nature strip and laneway options for greening and food options will also be undertaken.

We will also advocate for additional funding of the Moreland Nature Plan to ensure it meets its goals, and that species are protected and saved.

Q17

99

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?

Greens on Council will work to:

- Ensure more resources are allocated to education for the community regarding the benefits of trees and their cover and the extent of the loss of trees and this impact in the private realm.
- Advocate for adequate funding of the Moreland Nature Plan to ensure it meets its goals.
- Ensuring that the ESD Policy 2.0 project is undertaken, monitored and then approved quickly by the Planning Minister, without the usual delays.
- Continue to promote the nomination of additional trees to the Significant Tree Register.
- Look to further support the Urban Forest Strategy to meet the targets or stretch (where additional resources can be found).
- Explore with the community other measures to reach the goals and measures in these policies/strategies.

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

Renew our local shopping strips

Priority 2

Increase the community's ability to enjoy their local area through traffic calming and visibility measures

Priority 3

Support the community, businesses and residents to properly address the climate emergency

Priority 4

Lead a 'green investment' recovery effort in the wake of Covid-19

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?

The Greens appreciate the incredible investment and interest by the broader Moreland communities in this most important area of Council and community work. Optimising collaboration and cooperation and facilitating this is essential if we are to achieve the goals and serious outcomes in the next Council term, especially without strong leadership from the Victorian Government (it has yet to announce it's new targets in 2020, under the guise of the COVID emergency) and the poor federal leadership in the climate and energy policy space generally.
