

Yarra Council Elections Candidate Survey (Langridge Ward)

Questions

1. Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan (CEP) aims to ensure that climate and the environment are central considerations in all decisions of Council. How will you advocate so that the CEP continues to be implemented with adequate budget allocations, despite the constraints of COVID 19 measures?
2. How should Council advocate for stronger climate action at State and Federal Government levels?
3. What is an impactful measure for Council to encourage businesses to reduce their carbon emissions from electricity consumption?
4. In addition to eliminating gas from its own buildings by 2030, how can council support residences and businesses to get off gas within that timeframe?
5. What is a priority action for Council to improve active transport infrastructure (for cyclists, pedestrians, public transport users) and users of electric vehicles?
6. What is a priority action that council could take to achieve the CEP target of diverting 72% of waste from landfill by 2025?

Candidate	Q1 response	Q2 response	Q3 response	Q4 response	Q5 response	Q6 response
Peter Hude	The climate emergency is getting more dire with every passing month. I strongly support the implementation of the Climate Emergency Plan.	The voice of local government is amplified when we collaborate with other councils and together push a consistent message that strong action to reduce carbon emissions is needed now. Several organisations with this aim already exist and I strongly support their continuation.	I support the work done by the Yarra Energy Foundation. Council should continue to fund, and support the YEF to continue to help all of Yarra reduce emissions.	Many of the actions in the Climate Emergency Plan will help to encourage residences and businesses to reduce, or completely abandon, use of gas. This is why full funding of the plan is so important.	The recovery from the pandemic is a once in a generation opportunity to reshape our streets and built environment. We should have a strong focus on making our streets enjoyable places to be, not just a thoroughfare. I am an avid cyclist, and strongly support upgrading cycling infrastructure in Yarra. In particular, there is a big role for council to play to advocate for the upgrade of the infrastructure on Parks Victoria land (for example, the Gipps Street Steps and Walmer Street Bridge).	I do appreciate the complexities that led to Yarra stopping recycling many items that were previously accepted. However that does not make it any less disappointing. I do not believe we will meet our waste diversion targets unless we are able to better inform residents about their recycling options and expand the range of products that can be recycled.
Karen Douglas	I fully support Yarra's climate emergency plan. I will advocate for appropriate staffing levels to maintain specialist knowledge within council to continue to deliver services that address and develop innovative responses to climate change. This includes facilitating community workshops that provide residents	Sustaining strong relationships between the three tiers of government is crucial for developing a suite of resources that can be shared to address climate action. I will support council officers to maintain links with other decision-makers, including other councils, to advocate for greater action on climate change and to	Partnering with other tiers of government council can advocate for funding for alternative power source such as switching to solar resources. Council can also facilitate alternative power suppliers for businesses that use renewable energy sources. In new business builds council can	Identifying residential sites in Yarra that can accommodate solar power sources and continuing with the bulk purchasing of solar panels are two ways council can assist residents in switching to renewable energy sources. In addition, council can work with our low income residents to	Connecting bike paths around the municipality and working with other councils to fund bicycle infrastructure is a key action council can take. I have committed to working with the member for Northcote Kat Theophanous and the Minister for Transport to complete the Farm Road link in Alphington on	Supplying households with recycling bins that cater to household size is a key action council can take to address landfill reduction. This is a new process for many residents therefore a clear and relevant information strategy needs to run parallel with the new recycling program. This should

	with a suite of options to reduce their carbon emissions, developing street gardens and supporting recycling changes that contribute to Yarra reducing its emissions.	continue to bring fresh and innovative ideas to Yarra that open up more options for possible action.	advocate for planning arrangements that require developments to be carbon neutral.	find ways for households to switch their purchasing of energy to providers that use renewables. Moreover, council can quantify and assess its capacity to assist low income households transition to renewable power sources.	the Darebin-Yarra Trail. Council can switch its vehicle fleet to electric vehicles powered by renewable sources. The provision of publicly supplied charging stations for electric vehicles is a further measure council can take to encourage the use of electric vehicles.	include the use of written and visual material in major language groups as well as plain English material. Participating in the circular economy through recycling not only reduces emissions but provides jobs.
Gabrielle de Vietri	Climate emergency planning touches all areas of local government's operations, and will be considered in every decision I make. I commit to diligently implementing ambitious actions to mitigate climate change and build resilience. I support initiatives that: increase building efficiency and renewables uptake by homeowners, renters and businesses; ensure the Yarra Energy Foundation remains resourced; reduce transport emissions and promote active transport; move Yarra to carbon positive without offsets; address urban warming by creating green spaces, biodiverse nature refuge areas and tree canopy; and support community-led action on climate change. Our ability to respond equitably and quickly to climate change intersects with our pandemic response, the waste crisis and the inequality crisis.	Councils lead the way in demonstrating pathways and benefits of transitioning to a climate-safe future. I will be a strong voice, working with the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, to advocate to the State Government to: Mandate better environmental standards for new residential and commercial developments, including renewable energy and efficiency, maximum parking provisions, secure bike parking, electric charging facilities; better green space, water, waste and recycling provisions; Support the development of large and small-scale renewable power sources, including locally distributed power schemes; Set State emissions targets that limit warming to 1.5 degrees; Not invest in or approve new fossil-fuel facilities; Reinstate the moratorium on onshore conventional gas, revoke offshore gas exploration.	Businesses contribute almost 60% of electricity emissions in Yarra and are varied in their needs and capacity when transitioning to zero-emissions energy. To reduce business emissions, the Council, through the Yarra Energy Foundation, can give customised support to help businesses choose better energy, invest in solar panels and battery storage, retrofit and increase the efficiency of their buildings. The Council has a role to play in promoting YEF and directing homeowners, renters and businesses to their services, as a reputable, arms-length organisation that can provide pathways and solutions for moving everyone to a zero-emissions future.	Gas is a fossil-fuel and must be phased out in order to respond to the climate crisis. To create a future free from gas pollution, Yarra Council can run educational campaigns that promote the environmental benefits and the savings to be found in switching off gas, as well as support the Yarra Energy Foundation to provide tailored pathways for residents, landlords and businesses to transition to clean energy. Council is also in a position to advocate to the State Government to introduce planning reforms that ban gas in new developments, such as the Zero Carbon Buildings amendment to the Planning Scheme, and provide grants to existing homes and businesses to replace gas heaters.	Yarra must develop a bold and future-proof Integrated Transport Plan to complement the CEP. While that is in progress, Yarra must actively preempt the increase in private transport uptake when COVID restrictions ease. To make provisions for cyclists and pedestrians, to keep transport emissions in check and to decongest our roads, the council must act quickly to enhance the safety and accessibility of active transport. I support an integrated network of best-practice protected bike lanes, 20-minute neighbourhoods, 30km zones, traffic filtering and calming mechanisms, the allocation of street space for pocket parks and increased bike parking. I will strongly advocate to the State Government to commit to building a fit-for-purpose bridge at Walmer Street, and to complete the Gipps St ramp project.	Organics waste collection must be a top priority for Council to get food out of landfill and reduce methane emissions. The four-bin system and the container deposit scheme are a great start to addressing the waste crisis, but there is a long way to go. To achieve ambitious goals on waste, Victoria must develop adequate processing infrastructure. Greens on Council will lobby the Victorian Government to open 23 new recycling plants by 2025 - creating 760 manufacturing jobs - to process increasing volumes of recyclable waste. Greens Councillors will move to extend the ban on single-use plastics in Council facilities to include plastic bottles, roll out an extensive awareness and education campaign on waste, encourage traders to remove plastic packaging, aiming to become a plastic-packaging-free municipality, while calling for a statewide ban on polystyrene and single use plastic packaging.
Michael Glynatsis	A climate emergency community grants program should be established to provide funding to ensure that a commitment to	The transitioning of Council buildings to zero emissions should include a call on State and Commonwealth governments to	The need to engage and collaborate with businesses and the wider community as CRITICAL to meeting the	Support and expertise for actions needed by residents and businesses. Support and assist residents, businesses to	Build safe cycling infrastructure. Reduce parking to improve sustainable transport infrastructure and public	Work with other councils and the State Government to enhance the infrastructure and waste management systems. A

	action can be sustained during the current pandemic.	pursue a similar in buildings owned and occupied by them. This should also extend to offices occupied by Members of Parliament.	challenges of reducing carbon emissions.	transition to renewable energy.	spaces. Support and facilitate electric charging stations across Yarra.	municipal-wide organic and food waste collection service
Jeremy Cowen	Despite COVID-19 putting a strain on council budgets, Yarra's CEP mustn't fall to the wayside. During this time, financial prudence is important and we should investigate cost-saving measures for Yarra. However, cutting funding to the CEP is a non-negotiable during this Climate Emergency.	Yarra should advocate for strong climate action by leading by example. It should lead the way in developing best-practice climate action policies, to show other municipalities and other levels of governments how practical and innovative policy can effectively combat this Climate Emergency.	Renewable energy uptake in local businesses (such as solar) should be supported and incentivised by the council.	Renewable energy uptake by local residents (such as solar) should be supported and incentivised by the council.	Protected bike lanes and improved cycling and pedestrian infrastructure are absolutely vital in our city. Balanced, pragmatic, and innovative trials for new active transport infrastructure must be prioritised. Also, a key policy point of mine is advocating for an electric-vehicle (EV) policy framework in Yarra, which is currently missing from the CEP. I believe we should look to best-practice examples of EV infrastructure and incentives. Norway has some of the world's highest uptake in EV usage and ownership, due to effective government policy. On-street EV charging and free parking for EVs are just some ideas that should be investigated to support EV uptake in the community.	We should, again, be looking around the world for best-practice recycling ideas and implementing them in our city. Things such as communal glass-only bins in our streets and council incentives for worm-farms and organic waste bins are just some ideas. Concerning, is the lack of conviction from our council for a swift roll-out of a 4-bin system (comprising of both a glass-recycling bin and an organic waste bin). Residents need clear action from our council as to the direction of our waste-management system.
Anab Mohamud	As a Councillor I would raise more awareness, getting the community to be more involved and teaching them the importance of CEP for all of us.	To always advocate, talk to the MP about the urgency of climate action, Getting a lot of people to show up for climate change protest. The more noise we make the more seriously the Federal government might be willing to listen	Educate them about solar power and how they could be saving a lot on their bills.	I would say raising awareness and showing the residents the importance of how climate change might affect us if not taken seriously. Creating ads that touch the importance of climate change. Introducing the idea to them that they would be protecting us and our environment if they were to get off gas.	I would prioritise where improvements and guidance is needed for all modes of transportation	Getting as many individuals, residents, business and all levels of government to work towards this goal to achieve the best possible outcome