

Yarra Council Elections Candidate Survey (Melba 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
Kate Drake	Continue with this focus, however the target will need to be revised for issues such as all-electric council buildings and fleet cars. Work with other municipalities to share the loads, therefore streamlining services. Rethink the four bin solution, possibly have two divided bins	Put height limits on buildings, this will allow more solar usage. Which is going to need discussions with power companies as they are rejecting residents request to sell their excess back into the grid, instead asking them to buy batteries	Reduce the arbitrary office spaces. I understand there is a need to have offices in all three wards, but the number of buildings in use by council, for example GTV in Burnley is not sustainable.	With Covid delaying many initiatives, I don't believe it will be achieved in the projected time frames. Cost is a very big consideration	A major rethink of the current policy is needed, and as seen recently with Trennary Crescent and Elizabeth St much of the community has been disenfranchised. Changes to our everyday life's in include more use of Artificial Intelligence, therefore a rethink of current objectives is needed to included driverless vehicles into this mix.	Harness energy from a low emissions waste-burning power plant, prioritise fully recycled plastic products when purchasing
Edward Crossland	Emphasised by the pandemic, the need for Council to appropriately respond to climate change is clear; to build resilience into our urban, social, and economic future. Climate emergency planning will be considered in every decision I make, as it touches all areas of local government operations. I will advocate that the CEP be prioritised for budget allocations over non-urgent matters, and where possible, that measures established in response to the pandemic also address the climate emergency. This includes the likes of encouraging active transport, with room to socially distance and appropriate infrastructure.	Councils play a leading role in establishing and demonstrating pathways to take climate action, and transition for a climate climate safe future. Yarra has played a lead role in this space, but there is opportunity to do more. Getting off gas, planning reform via the Zero Carbon Buildings amendment to the Planning Scheme, and by collaborating with community, stakeholders and other Councils, Yarra is well placed to lead by example and make change happen.	Noting that businesses contribute almost 60% of electricity emissions in Yarra, Council already funds the Yarra Energy Foundation, which can give tailored support to businesses to reduce their emissions, including means of improving building efficiency and installing solar. Council will need to continue to promote the Yarra Energy Foundation and the services it offers along with other emerging opportunities to assist businesses in reducing their carbon emissions.	Gas is a fossil fuel, and needs to be phased out. Council is in a position to advocate to State Government to introduce planning reforms which will require all new buildings to be zero carbon in their performance over their lifetime - via the Zero Carbon Buildings amendment to the Planning Scheme. For established buildings, and noting that approx. half of Yarra's residents are renters, the Yarra Energy Foundation can work with owners/ landlords to switch gas appliances to electric, and provide tailored support to reduce emissions, and improve energy efficiency.	More people are walking and cycling locally, which is one of the few silver linings of the pandemic. It's important that Council recognises and capitalises on this opportunity. This includes implementing a range of temporary walking and cycling initiatives so people can socially distance during the pandemic. Moving forward, I feel a top priority is establishing an Integrated Transport Strategy, and facilitating its implementation as soon as possible. This would likely include a review of the planning scheme to require the likes of better cycling facilities in new developments for a range of bicycle typologies, and provision of charge points for electric vehicles.	Funding and implementing organic waste collection is a top priority; as part of the four-bin system. The Greens in Yarra will work towards a circular economy, and zero waste to landfill by 2030. The Greens have an ambitious plan for waste and recycling, including pushing for 23 new recycling factories in Victoria by 2025 - creating 760 manufacturing jobs.

<p>Don Ash</p>	<p>Climate Change is real and it presents an existential threat to our continued existence on this planet. All political discourse should be led by evidence-based climate science. As such my position is simple. I will be led by science; I will advocate for science and most importantly I will absolutely support the fantastic work done by the previous Council in unanimously adopting an ambitious Climate Emergency Plan</p>	<p>Advocate for urgent climate action by other levels of government, including strong renewable energy and carbon emissions reduction targets, along with policy and economic measures that both enable recovery from the pandemic and drive emissions reductions.</p>	<p>Introduce zero carbon standards for new commercial and residential developments, working with other government partners to amend the planning scheme.</p>	<p>Get off gas' by transitioning all of Yarra Council's buildings to electric, powered by 100% renewable energy, by 2030.</p>	<p>Speed up the roll out of cycling infrastructure by trialling temporary bike lanes to inform permanent upgrades. Transition all of Yarra Council's fleet to electric vehicles powered by renewable energy by 2025.</p>	<p>[no response on waste]</p>
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