

# Kooyong Climate Change Alliance

## City of Boroondara Election 2020

### Candidate Questionnaire

The Kooyong Climate Change Alliance (KCCA) consists of a number of community based organisations working locally to promote action on climate change, including Lighter Footprints, ACF Boroondara, the Eastern Melbourne Climate Alliance and Stop Adani Kooyong. The Alliance is independent of, and has no affiliation with, any political party.

KCCA has developed this questionnaire for candidates in the October 2020 City of Boroondara election to assist residents in understanding each candidate's commitment to the role Council can play in addressing climate change. The responses to the questionnaire will be used as the basis for a candidate scorecard for each Ward that will help voters in the election make their decision. The scorecards and candidates' full responses to the questionnaire will be made available on our website at [https://www.kooyongvotesclimate.com/council\\_campaign](https://www.kooyongvotesclimate.com/council_campaign). Printed scorecards will also be distributed to selected Wards during the voting period (subject to coronavirus restrictions).

Most of the questions require a 'Yes', 'No' or 'Maybe' response, however candidates are also given the opportunity to make general comments. The comments will not affect the scoring, but will be available to voters via the website. Any unanswered questions will be given the lowest possible score.

For the 'Yes', 'No' or 'Maybe' questions, click on the relevant box to indicate your answer. Please type any comments in the boxes provided, which will expand to fit your response if necessary.

Your Name:

Ward Contesting:

#### 1. Climate Leadership and Advocacy

- 1.1 Do you think Council should do more to respond to climate change and provide community leadership on the climate?  Yes  Maybe  No
- 1.2 Would you support Council declaring a climate emergency?  Yes  Maybe  No
- 1.3 Would you support Council finalising a plan to take strong climate action, covering Council emissions, all community emissions, community resilience/adaptation and Council advocacy?  Yes  Maybe  No
- 1.4 Would you support increased Council expenditure for strong climate action?  Yes  Maybe  No

1.5 Would you support Council taking a strong advocacy role for climate action with other levels of government (State & Federal)?  Yes  Maybe  No

1.6 Do you have any other comments on Council Climate Leadership and Advocacy?

Bottom line, climate change is real and we need to do all we can to ameliorate its potentially devastating impacts.

## 2. Emissions Targets for Council Operations

2.1 Should Council set a target for net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its operations?  Yes  Maybe  No

2.2 If so, in what year should Council target net zero GHG emissions from its operations?

A key is to clearly have a zero target to work towards. The year should be as soon as practically possible to enable us to have any broader impact, including influencing others.

2.3 Do you have any comments on Emissions Targets for Council Operations?

They need to be identified, and a realistic plan of action put in place to achieve them. What is of little value is people making big claims and not following through on them.

## 3. Policies & Actions on Council Emissions

3.1 Would you support rapid installation of solar panels on all Council buildings where building design, exposure and use make it feasible?  Yes  Maybe  No

3.2 Would you support rapid phase out of natural gas use at Council facilities?  Yes  Maybe  No

3.3 Would you support development of a program to convert the Council fleet to electric vehicles with transition to occur as soon as is feasible?  Yes  Maybe  No

3.4 Do you support review and updating of Council's asset management strategy to strengthen its focus on minimising the carbon footprint of all assets?  Yes  Maybe  No

3.5 Would you support review and updating of Council’s procurement policy to ensure that for significant procurements, preferential weighting is given to suppliers with a demonstrable commitment to eliminate GHG emissions?  Yes  Maybe  No

3.6 Do you have any other comments on Council Emissions?

This should clearly be an agenda item on every formal Council meeting. Keeping it in full watch to ensure performance is being achieved.

#### 4. Community Emissions Targets

The Council cannot directly control all community GHG emissions across the municipality, but a number of Councils in Victoria (e.g. the City of Melbourne) have set a target year for achieving net zero emissions in their municipality in order to clearly articulate community aspirations and encourage community-wide action.

4.1 Should Council set a target for net zero community GHG emissions?  Yes  Maybe  No

4.2 If so, what should be the target year for net zero community GHG emissions?

Year to be set on what is realistic; not fantasy.

4.3 Do you have any comments on Community Emissions Targets?

We should all be doing whatever we possibly can to reduce our emissions footprint. Our next generation coming through will suffer as a result of poor decisions we make today.

#### 5. Policies & Actions on Community Emissions

5.1 Would you support Council commissioning a baseline study of community GHG emissions from all sources?  Yes  Maybe  No

5.2 Would you support Council providing financial incentives to encourage installation of solar panels by households in Boroondara (e.g. no up-front cost with repayment through rates and/or support for low income households)?  Yes  Maybe  No

5.3 Would you support Council providing financial incentives to improve energy efficiency for households and businesses in Boroondara?  Yes  Maybe  No

5.4 Would you support Council action to promote electric vehicle use, including, for example, investment in public charging points and parking incentives?  Yes  Maybe  No

5.5 Would you support establishment of a Council program to actively promote and support effective community and business emissions reduction initiatives?  Yes  Maybe  No

5.6 Do you have any other comments on Community Emissions?

This would be a great way to get a whole of community response. Where Council can be an instrument of positive change to help in the fight against adverse climate change.

## 6. Policies & Actions on Community Resilience and Adaptation

6.1 Would you support expanded Council programs to assist residents and business in dealing with changing climate conditions (e.g. extreme temperatures and reduced rainfall)?  Yes  Maybe  No

6.2 Would you support greater Council investment in tree planting to reduce urban heat island effects and in improved water run-off utilisation to assist adaptation to climate change?  Yes  Maybe  No

6.3 Would you support greater Council investment in projects to preserve open space and canopy tree cover to assist adaptation to climate change?  Yes  Maybe  No

6.4 Do you have any other comments on Community Resilience and Adaptation?

Council should be looking at all possible ways to positively impact climate change, whether it is planting trees, solar panel programs on their own buildings as well as encouraging rate payers to do similar, etc.; we should be doing all we possibly can.

## 7. Policies & Actions on Council Accountability and Democratic Processes

7.1 Would you support establishing a standing Community Advisory Committee to advise Council on environmental matters?  Yes  Maybe  No

7.2 Should Councillors be expected to hold open Ward meetings with their constituents at least once each year?  Yes  Maybe  No

7.3 Would you support increasing opportunities for constituents to ask questions at Council meetings?  Yes  Maybe  No

7.4 Would you support live streaming of all public Council meetings?  Yes  Maybe  No

7.5 Would you support recording of all Councillors' votes on motions at all meetings of Council (including Special meetings)?  Yes  Maybe  No

7.6 Would you support having a Council policy to include an acknowledgement of country at all Council meetings and events?  Yes  Maybe  No

7.7 Do you have any other comments on Council Accountability and Democratic Processes?

I strongly believe Council need to be fully accountable to its Constituents. It should be transparent and fair in all its dealings.  
It is appropriate also to recognize the original indigenous peoples of this great land.

## **8. Other Comments**

8.1 Do you have any other comments on meaningful climate action in Boroondara?

I commend the efforts of organisations like KCCA who have committed people working hard to educate on the concerns and protect our environment. Such stewardship is crucially important for our long-term sustainability and survival.

**Thank you for completing the questionnaire!**