

## **KCCA Climate Questionnaire – Process and Scoring**

The Kooyong Climate Change Alliance candidate questionnaire for the 2020 Boroondara Council elections was mainly focused on the Council response to climate change, but also covered Council transparency and accountability.

### **The Questionnaire**

The questionnaire consisted of seven sections:

1. Climate Leadership and Advocacy
2. Emissions Targets for Council Operations
3. Policies and Actions on Council Emissions
4. Community Emissions Targets
5. Policies and Actions on Community Emissions
6. Policies and Actions on Community Resilience and Adaptation
7. Policies and Actions on Council Accountability and Democratic Processes

With the exception of the two sections about targets (Sections 2 and 4), all sections consisted primarily of questions requiring a 'Yes', 'Maybe' or 'No' answer. In Sections 2 and 4, candidates were asked whether a target for net zero emissions should be set, and if so, what should be the target year.

In all sections, candidates were also given the opportunity to provide comments or explanations of their answers to the specific questions.

A blank questionnaire and the full responses provided by each candidate are available on the Kooyong Votes Climate website.

### **The Process**

Questionnaires were emailed to candidates as their contact details became available, starting on 9 September 2020. The formal nomination period for candidates was from 17 September to 22 September, and about half the candidates received their questionnaires during this period. Five candidates did not provide contact details until after the nomination period, four of whom received late questionnaires when they published contact information. One candidate (Amelia Clark in Studley Ward) was not contactable.

Although the aim was to give all candidates the same amount of time to complete the questionnaire, in many cases this was not possible due to the late availability of contact details. However, all but two candidates were initially given at least five days to complete the questionnaire, and any candidates who did not respond by the deadline were granted an extension of time (unless they indicated they did not intend to respond). All candidates who did not respond were advised before the final deadline that their failure to respond would be highlighted on the scorecard.

### **Scoring the Candidates**

A panel of three members of the Alliance carried out the scoring. Every questionnaire was scored by at least two members of the panel, and the results reconciled.

Candidates were given a score of 'Good', 'Fair/Maybe' or 'Poor' for each section in the questionnaire. These scores were assigned as follows:

**1. For all Sections excluding the two sections on targets (i.e. Sections 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7)**

- Scores were based primarily on the answers to the Yes/Maybe/No questions
- Candidates who responded as follows were given a **'Good'** score:
  - Section 1 (Climate Leadership): 'Yes' to all questions
  - Section 3 (Council Emissions): 'Yes' to all questions OR 'Maybe' to one and 'Yes' to all others
  - Section 5 (Community Emissions): 'Yes' to all questions OR 'Maybe' to one and 'Yes' to all others
  - Section 6 (Resilience & Adaptation): 'Yes' to all questions
  - Section 7 (Accountability): 'Yes' to all questions OR 'Maybe' to one and 'Yes' to all others
- Candidates who responded as follows were given a **'Poor'** score:
  - At least one 'No' answer, and more 'No' than 'Yes' answers (irrespective of the number of 'Maybe' answers).
- Candidates who responded as follows were given a **'Fair/Maybe'** score:
  - Any other combination of answers (e.g. all questions answered 'Maybe')
  - If there were any 'No' answers, there must be at least the same number of 'Yes' answers
- The comment provided by a candidate was also taken into account in the extremely rare cases where all members of the scoring panel agreed these significantly qualified the candidate's Yes/Maybe/No answer.

**2. Sections about targets (i.e. Sections 2 and 4)**

- Where it was provided, candidates' nominated **target year for zero emissions** is recorded in the scorecard.
- Other candidates received a **'Fair/Maybe'** or a **'No'** score, depending on their answer to the question about whether a target should be set.

**3. No response and late responses**

- None of the candidates who failed to respond by the submission deadline requested a further extension of time, and they were therefore scored as having declined to respond.
- One candidate submitted a completed questionnaire after publication of the scorecards, almost two weeks after the submission deadline. No change was made to this candidate's score ('Declined to respond').
- One candidate submitted a revised response to the questionnaire shortly after publication of the scorecards. In order to ensure fair treatment of all candidates, no change was made to this candidate's scores.