

# 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?

- Boroondara Council has not been a leader on matters concerning climate change. It is important that this change. Ideally Boroondara Council would lead by example while informing and supporting residents as they seek to reduce their emissions.
- The declaration of a Climate Emergency would be a useful symbolic step. I attended the vote on declaring a climate emergency in May 2020 and was frustrated by the outcome. I realise that this has created divisions within the Council which potentially make it harder to achieve meaningful reductions to GHG emissions. Concerted, smart and effective action is what is needed to take on the challenge we face globally, and to do this, the Council must be able to work together.
- The Council can and should show leadership and advocate for change regardless of whether a Climate Emergency is declared.
- The Council needs to demonstrate its leadership by initiating measures to obtain significant reductions in its' own emissions and then develop and advocate interventions to reduce community emissions

## 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?

2025

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

- The Council has been very slow to reduce emissions from its' own operations until this year when a new 10-year PPA was signed to obtain renewable electricity from the Bald Hills Wind Farm. The PPA has resulted in a reported 70% reduction to GHG emissions from Council operations. While this is commendable, reducing emissions can and should be much more than just purchasing renewable energy.
- This provides a momentum to implement further measures to reduce the GHG emissions to very low level or to zero in the near future.

## 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?

- The above measures could form part of a range of measures to reduce GHG emissions. However, good governance requires that we assess value-for-money. Projects must lead to clear outcomes that are measurable and cost effectiveness needs to be assessed so the projects delivering the best CO2 reduction per \$ are prioritised.

#### 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?

2043

4.3 Do you have any comments on Community Emissions Targets?

- Accurate and comprehensive measurement of community emissions is required to establish a baseline for future reduction, determine the priority GHG emissions sources to reduce, and assess the success of emissions reductions.
- The timeframe to achieve net zero community emissions will need to meet or preferably beat the Paris Climate Agreement, IPCC and CCA guidelines. I have chosen 2043 as that is the City of Melbourne goal and it seems appropriate to work to this together as a state.
- Use of an evidence-based approach to determining the most suitable emission reduction actions or projects delivering the best CO2 reduction per \$ in the quickest timeframe.

#### 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?

- I am very much in support of measures to assist residents and businesses to reduce their emissions. However, such measures should be targeted at specific problems or market failures, such as (a) residents and businesses which cannot easily take action themselves, such as tenants, or the joint owners of an apartment building; or (b) residents which do not have sufficient access to credit to invest in energy-efficiency. Action should be targeted to ensure that projects delivering the best CO2 reduction per \$ are prioritized

## 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?

- Need to model climatic impacts of climate change upon Boroondara community and prepare programs to mitigate
- As mentioned above, projects need to be assessed on basis of effectiveness. In principle, the use of natural resources like the trees and water run-off needs to be maximized.
- A regular audit of the entire Boroondara tree canopy needs to be undertaken to determine the current baseline and future changes.

## 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?

7.1 Council has previously had Community Advisory Committees and I believe they are a sensible and important mechanism to not only hear from the community but garner community expertise to get the best outcomes.

7.2 I have already made a commitment to hold open ward meetings or 'listening events'. I think once a year is probably too infrequently and I would aim for twice a year though it will depend on issues, interest and demand.

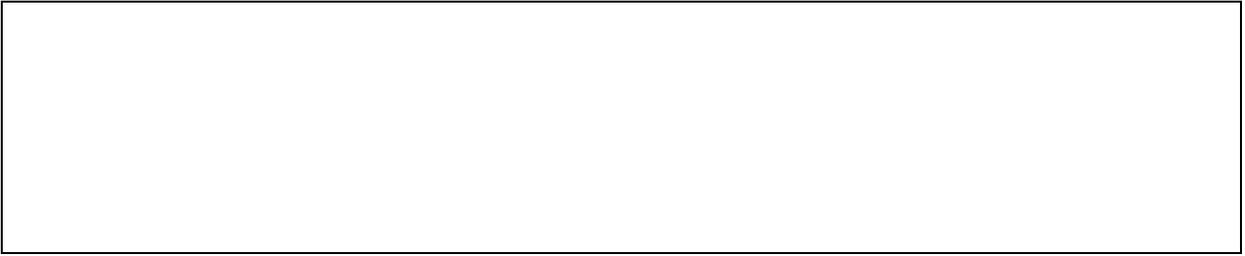
7.3 I support constituents being able to ask questions with the least possible bureaucracy or limitations. The only hesitation I have on this is that there is limited time and it's important that Council not only hear from the few very loud voices, but that all members of the community have an opportunity to be heard. But, in principle, I agree with open questioning.

7.4 and 7.5 – I had always assumed these things were happening. They make sense to me if Council is committed to transparency, which is a fundamental aspect of good governance.

7.6 I was shocked to discover that this is not a requirement at all Council meetings. I work for a large national organisation which is committed to cultural safety in the Australian health system and this is just an expectation for all of us. There is so much work to be done to address racism and systemic issues that affect the ability of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples to be healthy, be safe and live well in Australia. An acknowledgement of country is a small but important reminder of this and an opportunity to show respect to the Traditional Owners of our lands.

## 8. Other Comments

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



**Thank you for completing the questionnaire!**