

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. 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?

As a sitting Councillor at the time, Council passed Notice of Motion 49 – Climate Change which has led to the commencement of consultation toward the Boroondara Climate Action Plan [BCAP]. I have already noted Council has a role in climate leadership both current and planned in responses to Council’s commitment to the environment and combatting the impacts of Climate Change by passing this Motion.

I would entertain a discussion with fellow Councillors early in the new council term regarding a Councillor Assignment, comprising Councillors, Council Staff and selected Community Representatives like that referenced in question 7.1 below. The ultimate decision is a matter for the new council.

Answered with ‘Maybe’ - Refer ‘Winky Pop’ in item 8.1 below.

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?

To be considered by the Community through consultation on BCAP and Council through deliberation.

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

I have a desire that any emissions targets are measurable and accountable to the Boroondara Community and the decision making around such targets are transparent.

Answered with ‘Maybe’ - Refer ‘Winky Pop’ in item 8.1 below.

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?

To be considered by the Community through consultation on BCAP and Council through deliberation.
Answered with ‘Maybe’ - Refer ‘Winky Pop’ in item 8.1 below.

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?

To be considered by the Community through consultation on BCAP and Council through deliberation.

4.3 Do you have any comments on Community Emissions Targets?

As per 4.2
Answered with ‘Maybe’ - Refer ‘Winky Pop’ in item 8.1 below.

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?

To be considered by the Community through consultation on BCAP and Council through deliberation.
Answered with 'Maybe' - Refer 'Winky Pop' in item 8.1 below.

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?

Climate resilience and adaption to a changing climate is very important, both within Council and across the community. We will have many challenges in the years ahead, and the urban heat island effect is one of them. Our municipal trees are coming toward end of life is another, combined with a desire to increase our tree canopy coverage across the municipality. A strategic approach is needed to address these challenges, and I look forward to these discussions in the next council term through consultation on BCAP.
Answered with 'Maybe' - Refer 'Winky Pop' in item 8.1 below.

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?

The Council should be accountable and decision making democratic.

Answered with 'Maybe' - Refer 'Winky Pop' in item 8.1 below.

8. Other Comments

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

You will note that many of the above are answered with 'Maybe', neither in the affirmative nor the negative. I am reserving my rights to remain impartial, open-minded and free of prejudgement. In doing so, I can freely sit in the chamber and vote on the above matters should they be brought before Council for a decision. It is highly likely that the Adoption of the Boroondara Climate Action Plan and resulting consideration of Public Submissions, will consider many if not all the questions above. As such answering in the affirmative or the negative on these questions, where they have not come before Council previously, could consider the matters 'prejudged', and compromise the ability of an elected representative to speak freely in the chamber on these items. I reference the case of Winky Pop Pty Ltd v Hobsons Bay City Council [2007].

Cite: <https://www.kottgunn.com.au/updates/government/winky-pop-and-the-quasi-judicial-role-of-council/>

Thank you for completing the questionnaire!