

creative, compassionate community

responsive, efficient council

a movement for change

progressive
port phillip



Personal details – Earl James

- 1. Name :** Earl James
- 2. How long have you lived in the City of Port Phillip?** 9 years.
- 3. What is your current occupation and employment background?**
Union organiser, economics teacher for nearly two decades
- 4. What community services, community groups or local issues have you been involved in here in the City of Port Phillip?**
Local school, lifesaving club and yacht club.
- 5. Are you currently a member of a political party?**
YES
- 6. If yes, which one? And for how long?**
Australian Greens Victoria, 10 years.
- 7. Have you previously been a member of a political party?** YES
- 8. If yes, which one? And for how long?**
Australian Democrats, 3 years, 1990
- 9. Please list your major campaign donors:**
Small donations only.
- 10. Do you have a policy and practice of not taking donations from property developers?**
YES

Key Priorities

- 11. What are your top three priorities for your ward in the next term of Council?**
Childcare, housing and active transport infrastructure.

Community engagement in decision-making

- 12. How will you strive to enact the requirements in the new Local Government Act 2020 for increasing community engagement in the work of local government?**
Improved use of deliberative democracy models

13. Will you support Citizen Assemblies for significant decision-making tasks, such as in the development of the Council Plan and Budget and other appropriate forms of public participation in the development and implementation of Council Strategies, Policies and Plans?

YES

14. Will you commit to quarterly ward meetings to keep abreast of what your community wants from you as a councillor and to inform them of Council activities?

YES

15. Any further comments on community engagement in decision-making?

Culture, music & the arts

16. What is your attitude to Council investment in the local arts sector?

Increase Council funding

17. Will you commit to supporting Council's current and ongoing investment in Gasworks Arts Park and Linden Gallery?

YES

18. Will you support an analysis of Covid-normal restrictions and distancing for the future of local artists, venues and live music in Port Phillip?

YES

19. Do you support repurposing the 2020/21 budget allocation (\$1.7M) for the now cancelled St Kilda Festival so as to nurture local artists and live music in the municipality in COVID-safe ways?

YES

20. Will you reverse the 2020/21 Budget cut to the library book vote?

NOT SURE

21. Are you committed to the major upgrades to Port Phillip library buildings and the collections over the next four years?

YES

22. Any further comments on culture, music and the arts?

The environment, open space & local climate action

23. List your top three priorities for Council action to address climate change locally:

Preserve and expand the tree cover, manage storm water to replace drinking water, solar bulk buy to assist with energy transformation

24. Do you support the role of the Port Phillip EcoCentre in environment education and fostering sustainability in Port Phillip and Council's investment in the EcoCentre's operations?

YES

25. Do you support the current Council decision to commit funds to the re-development of the Port Phillip EcoCentre subject to Council receiving partnership funding of \$2.75 million for 50 per cent of the project costs?

YES

26. Do you support the Council's investment of \$1m for the Elster Creek Catchment Partnership?

YES

27. Do you support the development and implementation of a Green-Blue City Plan for Port Phillip, along the lines of Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's 'Planning a Green-Blue City: a how to guide for planning urban greening and enhanced stormwater management in Victoria'?

YES

28. Will you work for stronger Council advocacy to the State Government to get the Grand Prix removed from Albert Park?

YES

29. Do you support reducing the number of days when the foreshore is closed to the public for commercial events?

YES

30. Do you support the development of more open space across Port Phillip, especially in under-resourced areas?

YES

31. Do you support a stronger Tree Policy which will increase canopy cover in Port Phillip and reduce the heat sink effect, especially in areas where this is most pronounced?

YES

32. Do you support continued provision of council land for community gardens?

YES

33. Do you support expanding and connecting the municipality's bike lane and bike path networks, even if these projects are solely funded by council?

YES

34. Any further comments on the environment, open spaces and local climate action?

The already strong street gardening culture needs stimulation and support.

Waste management and recycling

35. Do you support the rollout of FOGO bins as widely as possible throughout Port Phillip in 2020/21?

Yes

36. Do you support the introduction of a separate waste charge given rising waste and recycling costs to the City of Port Phillip?

NOT SURE

37. Any further comments on waste management and recycling?

Hypothecated charges on waste could have the reverse of the intended effect. I would like to get more evidence on this move, as well as examining behavioral 'nudges' to get less waste and improved recycling.

Working smarter: council financial strategy and efficiency

38. Will you support the conduct of an independent review of Council efficiency and management, prior to the development of the new Council's first Plan and Budget?

NOT SURE

39. Do you support Council developing a plan for prudent borrowing to support social and economic recovery in response to the COVID-19 crisis?

YES

40. Any further comments on council financial strategy and efficiency?

My support for a review depends on the terms of reference. I will not support service reductions and privatisation of services.

Rates/rate relief

41. Would you support targeted rate relief in 2020/21 for businesses currently eligible for JobKeeper and residents on JobSeeker?

NO

42. Do you support a rates' freeze in 2021/22?

NO

43. Do you support freezing or reducing rates in 2022/23 and 2023/24?

NO

44. If yes, what Council activities would you seek to reduce as a result of reduced revenue?

45. Any further comments on rates & rate relief?

Planning & heritage

46. What do you see as the most important task for Council in relation to Fisherman's Bend during its next term?

Fisherman's Bend requires good public transport, open spaces, schools and affordable and community housing options. The key task will be to work with state government to get the best outcomes in these areas.

47. What do you see as the most important task for Council in relation to the Triangle during its next term?

Preserving and ensuring that this space is open to the public. Options for development may be limited at this stage.

48. Do you support enhancing protection of Port Phillip's urban heritage by investing in updating the neighbourhood heritage plans?

YES

49. Any further comments on local planning & heritage?

Major council assets

50. Will you ensure that community groups continue to have access to space in the South Melbourne Town Hall following its planned re-development?

NOT SURE

51. Will you commit to bringing forward the much needed upgrades planned for Council's early childhood education and care facilities?

YES

52. Will you support Council maintaining ownership and management of the South Melbourne Market?

YES

53. Any further comments regarding major Council assets?

Building our community: social housing, early childhood services and more

54. Do you support increasing Council's current level of investment in secure, low cost local social housing over the next four years?

YES

55. Do you support advocacy to State and Federal Governments to increase the provision of secure and high quality public housing for low income people and those experiencing, or at risk of homelessness in our community?

YES

56. Do you support Council making an annual contribution to the Council-established Phillip Housing Trust for the Trustee to leverage new social housing developments in Port Phillip?

YES

57. Do you commit to upholding Council's 5 August 2020 public interest decision to continue to run its childcare centres as a direct service provider?

YES

58. Do you support Council actively partnering with the State Government in the planned roll-out of free three year-old kinder to the families of Port Phillip?

YES

59. Any further comments on social housing, early childhood services etc. ?

Supporting and reviving the local economy, including local shopping strips

60. Do you support Council developing a rescue package in partnership with local business to revive our local shopping strips in response to the COVID-19 crisis?

YES

61. Will you support freeing up local laws to allow more outdoor dining to enable local cafes and restaurants to adapt their businesses in COVID-safe ways?

YES

62. Any further comments on supporting and reviving the local economy?

One last question and final remarks

63. Do you think of local government primarily as an economic unit that should be run as a business?

No

64. Any final comments you'd like to share with voters in the City of Port Phillip?

It is a fallacy that any arm of government should be run as a business. The role of government is completely different to a business, indeed government should be there to stimulate business activity.