
Page 1: City of Port Phillip Council Elections Candidate Questionnaire

Q1

Please enter your name

Name

Heather Cunsolo

Q2

Climate Emergency Almost 100 Australian councils have declared a climate emergency, covering over 8 million Australians. This includes our neighbouring councils in Glen Eira, Stonnington, and Bayside. In 2019, the City of Port Phillip council declared a climate emergency. Climate emergency declarations: <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/> Do you support the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency?

Support,

Additional comments:

This has already been established. We should continue on a forward path. I do think there needs to be more education to the public on what this actually means though.

Q3

Climate Emergency Action Plan We believe that Council should prioritise the development of a Climate Emergency Action Plan in response to its declaration of a climate emergency and commit to strong targets to reduce the environmental impact across the City of Port Phillip. The Climate Emergency Action Plan should be consistent with what science tells us is necessary to stay within a 1.5C temperature range target. The Climate Emergency Action Plan should be integrated into an updated Council Plan. PECAN Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan: <http://pecan.org.au/climate-emergency-action-plan/> PECAN's Climate Emergency Action Plan is based on analysis of best practice from councils across Victoria (Yarra, Moreland, Melbourne, and Darebin) and informed by the most recent science. Do you commit to developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan that includes targets and regular reporting and integrate this into an updated Council Plan?

Commit conditionally,

Additional comments:

I do need to have a closer read and consider what the residents and businesses say.

Q4

Council Advocacy We believe that Council should engage with other local government bodies, state and federal governments to advocate for strong action to tackle the climate emergency. Do you support Council advocating to other tiers of government for action to tackle the climate emergency?

Support conditionally,

Additional comments:

It is important for the different levels of government to work together. I believe the local government's role is speaking about the local specific issues of climate change to represent the people more directly than looking at larger scale like globally. However, we are a part of the whole.

Q5

Council Sustainable Procurement Port Phillip Council's current procurement policy favours council engaging with socially responsible and environmentally sustainable suppliers. We believe the Council should strengthen this procurement policy. Will you advocate for and support a Council procurement policy that gives strong priority to the purchasing of goods and services from environmentally sustainable companies and suppliers?

Support,

Additional comments:

This is the best practice to work towards.

Q6

Council Sustainable Procurement (cont) Will you advocate and support a policy that cuts Council's ties to businesses with links to socially irresponsible companies including fossil fuel companies?

Support conditionally,

Additional comments:

There has to be an evaluation of all the factors. The goal is to be more sustainable but know there is a process to getting there.

Q7

Council Ethical Investment Port Phillip Council currently minimises investment in the fossil fuel industry and other socially irresponsible investments. We believe that Council should only invest in ethical companies. Do you support divestment of Council investments in fossil fuel and other non-ethical companies?

Support,

Additional comments:

We need to identify what opportunities there are to improve.

Q8

Climate Emergency Education Port Phillip Council currently undertakes many educational activities in environmental sustainability. We believe that Council has a key role in informing and educating residents about the climate emergency. Council should integrate this educational function as a priority of the Council Plan. Do you commit to educating residents, businesses and other organisations about the actions that council and other parties are taking to tackle the climate emergency?

Commit,

Additional comments:

Absolutely, without the support of the people, how are we going to achieve progress. Education is key.

Q9

Council Sustainability Funding We believe that Council should adequately fund its sustainability and climate emergency initiatives. Do you commit to increase funding so that Council's sustainability strategies and initiatives are adequately funded?

Neutral,

Additional comments:

I would have to learn more about what is invested at the moment before committing or opposing.

Q10

EcoCentre Funding The EcoCentre performs a vital education, resource and advocacy role across the City of Port Phillip. EcoCentre link: <https://ecocentre.com> Do you commit to ongoing Council funding for the Port Phillip EcoCentre?

Commit

Q11

EcoCentre Redevelopment EcoCentre Redevelopment Plan: <https://ecocentre.com/redevelopment> Do you commit to Council funding the redevelopment of the EcoCentre building?

Commit conditionally,

Additional comments:

Partnered State funding is more ideal.

Q12

Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Masterplan We believe that the redevelopment of Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve makes a crucial contribution to the City of Port Phillip's Integrated Water Management strategy, mitigating flooding, reducing pollution runoff to the Bay, providing unparalleled open space and free water for greening the municipality. Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Masterplan: <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/news/plan-elsternwick-park-nature-reserve> Do you commit to Council formalising an agreement with Bayside Council and Melbourne Water to ensure ongoing involvement in the implementation of the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Masterplan?

Commit conditionally,

Additional comments:

This sounds like a great idea but I need to learn more about it.

Q13

Open Space and Water Management Many Councils are developing Green-Blue Infrastructure Plans, incorporating tree planting integrated with open spaces and water management features. Do you support integrated planning for increased tree planting and more open space, especially in areas that are deficient?

Support,

Additional comments:

Absolutely.