
Page 1: City of Port Phillip Council Elections Candidate Questionnaire

Q1

Please enter your name

Name

Jo McDonald

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 conditionally,

Additional comments:

I support the climate change and qualify my commitment based on limited information available to me at this time, specifically on balancing the council budget with immediate climate emergency requirements and the impact of financial pressure to rate payers relevant to the State of Disaster we are currently in. I do not want to see residents financially impacted more than they are now.

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

Q4

Support

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?

Q5

Support

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?

Q6

Support conditionally,

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?

Additional comments:

Conditionally support on the basis that PECAN has a clear strategy on how this would be achieved, ie This statement requests that Council stops using fuel as a source, as fuel businesses fall into this category. I'm unclear if this is what you are asking me to advocate and what the short term impacts are to community if so?

Q7

Support

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?

Q8

Commit

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?

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?

Commit conditionally,

Additional comments:

As stated in Q2, I support the climate change and qualify my commitment based on limited information available to me at this time, specifically on balancing the council budget with immediate climate emergency requirements and the impact of financial pressure to rate payers relevant to the State of Disaster we are currently in. I do not want to see residents financially impacted more than they are now.

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:

A financial impact statement on the community is required as I would not like to see residents already feeling financial pressure from COVID paying more in the short term. Currently the the Council partners 50% funding. Currently the council replacing the \$50,000 budget allocation in 2020/21 in the draft budget document and \$2,236,000 forecast allocation in 2021/22 for the Port Phillip EcoCentre Redevelopment Project with \$926,000 in 2020/21 and \$1,702,500 in 2021/22 subject to receiving partnership funding of \$2.75 million for 50 per cent of the project costs, noting that bringing forward funding to the 2020/21 financial year will require a drawdown on reserves in order to maintain the cumulative cash surplus of close to \$1 million and that Council's budget provision for future financial years would need to be reduced to replenish any drawdown.

Q12**Commit**

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?

Q13**Support**

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?
