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Page 1: City of Port Phillip Council Elections Candidate Questionnaire

**Q1**

Please enter your name

Name

**Katherine Copsey**

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**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:

I'm glad that Port Phillip has joined the growing movement recognising the climate emergency and am also very proud that our community played such a strong role in advocating for this to happen, it shows the local passion for climate action. I support measures to further embed a response to the climate emergency across the Council organisation and the creation of a climate action plan.

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**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,**

Additional comments:

Thanks to PECAN for the work in analysing progress across the sector on this topic, I continue to be impressed by the effort and commitment our community displays when it comes to taking local climate action.

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**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,**

Additional comments:

Yes, absolutely. While the federal and state government dither and delay on climate action informed by the science, local communities have been active in demanding more. I believe we can have a real impact at local government level but that every level of government should be taking responsibility for a climate response informed by the science. I've supported advocacy on Council to stop the polluting Adani mega-mine and stood in solidarity with the school strikers demanding a fossil free future. I'll continue to advocate for strong state and federal action to tackle the climate emergency.

**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:

Local government can play a role here not only securing more sustainable goods and services for the organisation and our community, but in supporting the development of sustainable alternatives through our purchasing power.

**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,**

Additional comments:

Yes I have advocated for us to reduce our involvement with socially irresponsible businesses and will continue to do so.

**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:

I want to see Council investment in ethical companies reach 100% over time and track progress towards this.

**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:

Yes, in addition to raising awareness of the need for a response to the climate emergency, educational activities can empower locals to take meaningful climate action in their own lives.

**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,**

Additional comments:

Sustainability and climate emergency initiatives should receive adequate funding to be implemented.

**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,**

Additional comments:

Yes I support the valuable role the EcoCentre plays locally in providing education, resources and advocacy.

**Q11**

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

**Commit,**

Additional comments:

I support the current advocacy position and commitment of Council, seeking that Council and State to co-fund this redevelopment.

**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,**

Additional comments:

I would like to see the beneficial outcomes to our community from this redevelopment secured and formalising an agreement is a path through which this can occur.

**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:

Yes, steps to track our progress towards cooling and making our city more resilient to risks associated with water management are vital.