
Page 1: City of Port Phillip Council Elections Candidate Questionnaire

Q1

Please enter your name

Name

Tim Baxter

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 moved the motion to declare a Climate Emergency, and I want to expand upon it and properly embed the climate emergency in everything we do, including the preparation of a climate emergency plan.

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:

Our declaration runs the risk of being tokenistic without a strong plan behind it. We have already been embedding the climate emergency declaration in our strategies, but I think we can and should do much more.

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:

I and my Green colleagues have a track record of supporting advocacy to other levels of government including on plastic bag bans and Adani.

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:

I strongly believe that this not only provides us with more sustainable products and services, but it stimulates the industry for such goods and services.

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:

I support strengthening the existing parts of our procurement policy regarding this.

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 will push for progressive increases in the percentage of investments with ethical companies, until we reach 100%.

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:

Council may undertake this ourselves, or engage someone like the EcoCentre to provide, whichever will have the greatest benefit.

Q9

Commit

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?

Q10

Commit

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?

Q11

Commit,

Additional comments:

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

The current plan is for Council and State to co-fund this redevelopment and I would like to continue pursuing that.

Q12

Commit,

Additional comments:

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?

A formalised funding deed or agreement is the logical next step, so that we can ensure we are paying for beneficial outcomes to our community.

Q13

Support,

Additional comments:

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?

I think it's important for Council to re-assess its draft Open Space Strategy to be more bold, as we need to achieve these aims.