Kooyong Climate Change Alliance
City of Boroondara Election 2024
Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire for candidates in the Boroondara election has been developed by the Kooyong Climate Change Alliance, a group of community organisations concerned about climate change including Lighter Footprints, ACF Boroondara and Move Beyond Coal Kooyong. The Alliance and its member organisations are non-partisan and will not be endorsing any candidates in the election.

The questionnaire has been developed to assist voters in understanding each candidate's commitment to the role Council can play in addressing climate change. The responses to the questionnaire will be used as the basis for a candidate scorecard for each Ward that will help voters make their decision. The scorecards and candidates' full responses to the questionnaire will be made available on our website and extensively advertised on social media. Printed scorecards will also be widely distributed to households during the voting period.

All the questions require a 'Yes', 'No' or 'Maybe' response, however candidates are also given the opportunity to make general comments. The comments will not affect the scoring, but will be available to voters via the website. Any unanswered questions will be given the lowest possible score.

Click on the relevant box ('Yes', 'No' or 'Maybe') to indicate your answer to each question. Please type any comments in the boxes provided, which will expand to fit your response if necessary.

Your Name: | Kate Bellamy

Ward Contesting: | Solway

1. Climate Leadership and Advocacy

1.1 Do you agree that we are facing a climate emergency? — ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

1.2 Do you think the Council should take a stronger leadership role in the community's response to climate change, increasing the ambition of its action on the climate? — ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

1.3 The specific allocation for CAP implementation in the 2024-25 Council Budget is only $1 million in a total budget expenditure of $261 million (operating) and $80.6 million (capital) and a projected surplus of $14.4 million. Do you support an increase in the annual budget for CAP implementation, including an allocation for significantly more staff? — ☐ Yes ☒ Maybe ☐ No

1.4 Do you support more proactive advocacy with other levels of government on climate issues by the Council (e.g. higher standards for all new housing to increase energy efficiency and minimise emissions)? ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

1.5 Do you have any other comments on Council Climate Leadership and Advocacy?

I support further climate action however every action taken, every decision made, needs to be transparent, consultative and fiscally responsible.

2. Policies & Actions on Council Emissions

2.1 Do you support using renewable electricity to power Council recreation centres/pools, abandoning the proposed use of gas at the Kew Recreation Centre and converting all other centres to renewable power? ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

2.2 Do you support increased Council effort to expedite the phasing out of gas at all its facilities, increasing the current target of 50% of facilities by 2030 to at least 85%? ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

2.3 Do you support faster transition of the Council fleet (including major contractors) to EVs, with all new light vehicles to be EVs and new heavy vehicles (e.g. rubbish trucks) to be EVs (or a zero emissions alternative) as soon as practicable? ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

2.4 Do you support a policy to ensure that all new Council facilities exceed current minimum standards for energy efficiency, have the maximum feasible number of solar panels and produce zero emissions? ☐ Yes ☒ Maybe ☐ No

2.5 Do you have any other comments on Council Emissions?

Reducing emissions is clearly important and decisions made need to be collaborative and evidence based.

3. Policies & Actions on Community Emissions

3.1 Do you agree Council should provide more visible and proactive free advice services to residents on emissions reduction/energy efficiency (e.g. pop-up information services, a shop front demonstration venue at busy locations)?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

3.2 Do you support Council establishing a new program to support businesses to reduce their emissions, including free advice tailored to the business? (For an example, see Bendigo Council.)   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

3.3 Do you support development of a strategy to promote and support the community's rapid transition from gas to all electric renewable energy?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

3.4 Do you support the introduction of Council subsidies for low income households to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their emissions (e.g. by installing solar panels)? (Subsidies could be in the form of direct grants or payment via rates; for examples, see Merri-bek or Darebin Councils.)   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

3.5 Do you support Council ensuring a significantly greater level of access to EV chargers (provided by Council or privately), including options for those with no off-street parking?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

3.6 Do you support development of a strategy to encourage the use of alternatives to private vehicle transport in the municipality, including walking, bicycles and public transport? (This could be part of an update of the *Integrated Transport Strategy* (2006))   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

3.7 Do you have any other comments on Community Emissions?

4. Policies & Actions on Community Resilience and Adaptation

4.1 Do you support strengthening of the Council's new tree canopy target (27% by 2040 across public and private land in the draft *Tree Canopy Strategy*) and a well-resourced program to ensure it is delivered?   ☐ Yes ☒ Maybe ☐ No

4.2 Do you support strengthening of the *Boroondara Tree Protection Local Law* (e.g. by requiring bonds from developers when significant or canopy trees are at risk during construction)?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

4.3 Do you support more active Council advocacy for regulations/planning controls to maintain/improve tree canopy cover, including consideration of requirements at new buildings for minimum tree canopy cover, green cover and site permeability?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

4.4 Do you support a more active community education program about preparing for extreme heat risks, and the development of a program to support vulnerable people (including the homeless) during periods of extreme heat?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

4.5 Do you have any other comments on Community Resilience and Adaptation?

In light of the potential changes to State Government planning regulations tree canopy targets could become an issue with the effects to be discussed extensively at Council.

5. Policies & Actions on Council Accountability and Democratic Processes

5.1 Do you support establishing a standing External Advisory Committee (including community members) to advise Council on climate action issues?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

5.2 Do you support publication of agendas and minutes from all External and Internal Advisory Committee meetings (subject to confidentiality requirements)?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

5.3 Do you agree that Councillors should be expected to hold well-advertised events at which their constituents can meet them in person at least once each quarter?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

5.4 Do you support routine recording of all Councillors' votes on all motions at all meetings of Council, including Special meetings?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

5.5 Do you support more meaningful public consultation on the Council Annual Budget, including opportunities for community input early in the process of formulating the budget?   ☒ Yes ☐ Maybe ☐ No

5.6 Do you have any other comments on Council Accountability and Democratic Processes?

Any external advisory committees needs to have a rigorous selection criteria for eligibility representing a cross section of community.

6. Other Comments

6.1 Do you have any other comments on meaningful climate action in Boroondara?

As a strong advocate for collaboration, I believe it's imperative we bring together and listen to all views if we are serious about creating and delivering a positive and sustainable outcome.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire!