

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:

Ward Contesting:

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?

Climate science is undeniable. The world is on an unswerving course to decarbonization by the middle of this century. We need to do our part, at all levels of government, industry and society. We need to think globally and act locally. And government needs to be the leader, not the follower, of attitudinal change.

I support increases in budget allocation to support key climate initiatives such as those stated in the Biodiversity Action Plan and the Climate Action Plan, like increasing canopy cover by 1.5ha p.a

See my website for more details.

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?

Renewable electricity, and the phasing out of gas, are demonstrable levers in our efforts to decarbonize and achieve zero emissions. These should be explicit goals of the Council for all Council owned facilities. Solar electricity generation, purchasing of green energy, battery storage, and energy efficient building and appliances, are proven and reliable technology, and should be implemented for council assets in a managed way. Council should conduct a Conversion Audit of all its assets to set out the method, timing, cost and implications of converting them to environmentally efficient buildings. The cost and waste of removing redundant technology must be balanced against the benefits of installing the new, and it must be accepted that the plan for each asset will vary according to its particularities, life cycle and available funding. An annual scorecard on building conversions could be implemented to track progress.

EV's are fantastic, we love ours, and the Council fleet should be converted to EV's as soon as practicable.

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?

Public transport improvements should include super tram stops, linked and extended bike and e-scooter paths (such as the Box Hill to Hawthorn bike track), separated pedestrian paths, electric buses and more carparks allocated for electric car-share companies such as GoGet.

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 addition to the measures above, Council could be more strategic about its planting policy. There are many locations on nature strips with missing trees and roads medium strips can carry more. More pocket parks should be created, and ghost development sites pursued for temporary greening. Tree planting along vacant fence lines bordering linear parks, which I call "Green Curtains", including along freeway noise walls, should be prioritized ahead of planting out all available open space which is also valued highly by society. Lobby State Government to green all freeway noise walls by planting vines and consider central medium strip canopy trees.

Council should investigate and trial alternative road resurfacing materials including recyclable materials to lighten the colour of roads in order to help reduce the heat island effect.

See my website for more info.

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?

I support transparency in government to avoid decisions being made behind closed doors. I am concerned some decisions at Boroondara rely on Council briefings which are not open to the public. Clearly some matters are sensitive, have legal or privacy matters associated with it, or are commercial in confidence, and are not appropriate to be made public.

6. Other Comments

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

Demolition of existing buildings is extremely wasteful and has huge implications for our environment caused by the transportation and disposal of waste and the energy and resources required to manufacture new materials. Developers should be encouraged to reduce consumption by making use of existing building fabrics where possible. Reuse of building materials should also be encouraged by, for example, a Council sponsored "Renovators Op-Shop".

Similarly, our throw away society is deplorable. Council should consider leading attitudinal change by educating people on the cost of waste, by supporting and promoting centres that fix or recycle items, and by discouraging huge piles of hard waste collections. Can & bottle deposit centres should be encouraged in many more locations.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire!