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COMPLETE

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Page 1: 2020 Moreland Council Candidate climate survey

**Q1**

Candidate Name

Melissa Yuan

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**Q2**

**South Ward**

Contesting Which Moreland Ward?

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**Q3**

**Independent**

Are you a candidate for a political party? Which Party?  
Or are you standing as an Independent candidate?

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**Q4**

If you are receiving campaign funding for this election, who are you receiving funding from? (list all or state 'None')

gf.me/u/yzqt6q GoFundMe (friends & family)

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**Q5**

**South Ward**

Connections to Moreland Wards. I am a resident in:

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**Q6**

What are your other connections to Moreland wards

Other (please specify) If you have other connections to  
Moreland, please state the ward(s) and the connection(s)  
briefly in 100 characters.

Coordinate Brunswick Communities for Nature <https://brunswickc4n.wordpress.com/> Retired in Term 1, 2020 as Joey Scout  
Leader, 5th Brunswick Scout group

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## Q7

Triple bottom line accounting brings to account three domains that we need for a good life. They are economic, environmental and social which includes health. Do you commit as a Councillor for Council to use triple bottom line accounting on all Council infrastructure projects and will you try to ensure that climate emergency is embedded in every Manager's performance plan?

(no label)

**Agree with reservations**

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## Q8

Transport: Upfield Rail Upgrade - Problems with parking and traffic congestion, capacity issues of public transport (once the pandemic passes) necessitate solutions for upgrading the Upfield Line. According to Infrastructure Australia, the northern region Transport Corridor will reach and exceed capacity in the next decade. Will you support duplication and extension of the Upfield rail line to Craigieburn and Wallan for provision of a more reliable and frequent rail service catering for the growing population in Moreland and residents in new growth suburbs further north?

(no label)

**Strongly Agree**

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## Q9

Transport: Tram Network Extension: As a Councillor will you support ongoing advocacy for the Victorian State Government to extend the No 58 West Coburg Tram along Derby street in Pascoe Vale, and No 19 North Coburg tram routes further north along Sydney Road to Campbellfield?

(no label)

**Strongly Agree**

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## Q10

Transport: Mode shift - What actions will you be pushing for to facilitate a mode shift to more sustainable modes of transport in Moreland as part of, or beyond, Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy (MITS), including changes to parking restrictions, increasing public transport advocacy, cycling and walking infrastructure?

I would like to see a thorough review of the Infrastructure plans and priorities for the next term of Council. These should also be subject to a "scorecard" review which assesses their contribution to sustainable development. Apart from recent controversies around parking, there is broad community consensus on sustainable transport. What seems to be lacking is implementation. In terms of the State Government, I am advocating a Mayor for the duration of the next term of Council to ensure consistent and sustained lobbying. Many infrastructure and transport projects Moreland cannot do alone; buy-in is essential. It is likely that Federal and State government economic stimulus will include additional funds for infrastructure - we need to be in the box seat to take advantage of this.

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## Q11

Heat Vulnerability: Large sections of Moreland's north are at the extreme end of the Heat Vulnerability Index, meaning residents are very susceptible to global warming. What will you do to address this beyond existing policies, including Moreland Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan (Word Doc 48MB), Moreland Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2017 (PDF 9MB), Cooling the Upfield Corridor Action Plan?

Existing policies are all well and good, but they must be implemented with action. If these strategies are still being implemented, then there must be regular and consistent evaluation of:

- the ongoing relevance of high-level objectives
- tracking of actions including whether initiatives are funded or not, and
- if the actions resulted in the expected benefits

We need to make sure we do what we say; measure the outcome; and this will lead us to the next set of actions to take.

It is important that these strategies are reviewed with key stakeholders, especially those in the community, to assess buy-in and progress. What are the barriers? Failures? Achievements? How will we adjust this strategy to make it more successful next time.

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## Q12

Waste Management. Moreland aims to be a leading council in sustainable waste management, yet its rate of diverting waste to organics and recycling sits just above the state average. What will you do to help Moreland in the rollout of the Food and Garden Organics Collection Service, and achieve Moreland's 2030 zero waste to landfill target as part of Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme – ESD Policy v2.0?

Again, success here lies in the implementation. I would like to see a more nuanced examination of people's behaviour and what the barriers to diverting from landfill are. Probably some marketing segmentation is needed in terms of housing type, location, socio-economic demographics to better understand those who do, and don't compost/ recycle. Undifferentiated marketing messages are probably not effective with certain segments, i.e. flat dwellers with no access to a compost bin and commercial waste collection with no recycling facilities.

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## Q13

Energy Efficiency and Renewables. Moreland has a goal of "Efficient and 100% renewably powered energy". Yet Moreland has one of Victoria's lowest uptake of solar PV. How can Moreland "walk the talk" on renewable energy and meet the community goals set in the Zero Carbon Moreland – Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25?

50% of Brunswick residents rent (see my recent post on this). Energy efficiency needs to be a greater focus for those who simply cannot install solar panels on their rental house. ESD standards give developers some incentive for solar, but naturally developers 'game' these standards to maximise their profit and focus on sustainability features that have marketing benefits.

Green Power energy products also play an important role for renters, so greater awareness would assist and the uptake of these products might give a better indication of community efforts for energy efficiency.

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## Q14

Pollution and litter: How will you educate and incentivise business in industrial zones (especially in the North East Ward) to avoid pollution and litter from entering our drains and our creek systems?

The creek Friends groups do an excellent job of dobbing in cases of pollution on the creeks to the EPA. The EPA must be held accountable for proper enforcement. Additional local laws may be appropriate, but this has the potential to lead to greater confusion or create excuses for polluters. In this case, I would say that the "stick" approach is more relevant than the "carrot".

## **Q15**

Supporting business and the environment as part of Covid Recovery What actions will you take to help Council promote environmentally sustainable jobs as part of a Covid recovery such as by possible development of large abandoned sites for a sustainability hub (such as former Kangan TAFE automotive campus)? How else will you advocate for supporting small business Covid recovery that includes environmental co-benefits?

Ultimately, Council needs to ensure that the conditions are right for new business investment. Relevant infrastructure, local laws, permit systems, etc. should be in place to support new commercial initiatives.

Council's financial investment on initiatives such as a sustainability hub should be dependent on such an initiative's own business plan.

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## **Q16**

Food Security How would you address food security in Moreland beyond the existing Moreland Food System Strategy? (including as a part of the clean Covid recovery)?

The Food System strategy addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental issues. The relative environmental impacts of various food production systems are debatable. In South Ward, the forces that are driving fewer and fewer people to grow their own food also have their own environmental benefits, i.e. fewer large housing blocks with private green space and more high-density development with shared green space. It could be argued that using land in Brunswick to grow lettuce has far more environmental downside than using that same space for housing that would lower daily commute times for city workers - and the price of land reflects this.

Communal food growing spaces in public open space is a worthwhile application for public land, at least for its social and communal benefits. However, transfer of private benefit from public land can be contested and great care should be given to ensure that there are no negative distributive effects, i.e. that more secure home owners get defacto priority over allotments than less secure renters.

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## **Q17**

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Food Security. The IPCC Special Report on Land and Climate Change Summary for Policy makers (2020) articulates major emissions reduction can be achieved from adopting a primarily plant based diet (B6.2). Will you advocate for public health policies that promote proper nutrition and dietary change by Moreland residents as per the IPCC (C2.4)?

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## **Q18**

Buildings, Biodiversity and Urban cooling: What would you do as a Councillor to ensure that with new building developments, Moreland has sufficient vegetation cover to contribute to biodiversity outcomes and urban cooling beyond existing policies in the Urban Forest Strategy, Moreland Nature Plan, and the Achieving Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme – ESD Policy v2.0 project?

More needs to be done to implement these strategies and assess the effectiveness of the measure therein.

The Urban Forest Strategy's tree planting targets are unsustainable and there is insufficient priority put on trees for habitat, the Nature Plan is new and has barely begun to be implemented. The effectiveness of the ESD Policy 1.0 should be at the forefront of ESD Policy 2.0. See my recent post about flaws, for example in the BESS.

## Q19

Cement Emissions. Use of Portland Cement contributes to 8% of global emissions. Alternative low emissions/zero emission cement products are available at reasonably competitive rates. Will you commit to amending Moreland Council Procurement policy sustainability filter to purchase low carbon/zero emissions cement/concrete products?

(no label)

**Agree with Reservations**

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## Q20

Climate Citizen Assemblies: Under the new Local Government Act 2020 (community engagement policy), all councils in Victoria are required to use deliberative practices for the development of their Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan, at the bare minimum. The gold standard of this kind of democratic, deliberative practice is a Citizens' Assembly. So, will you support such a democratic framework for Council's climate emergency response by establishing a Citizens' Assembly?

(no label)

**Agree with reservations**

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## Q21

What are your top four priorities for the Council Plan to be formulated for 2021-2025.

Priority 1

**Covid recovery**

Priority 2

**Alignment of the Council Plan with the myriad of sub-strategies for greater delivery, transparency**

Priority 3

**Better Master planning for open space, community halls, sporting facilities and other community assets**

Priority 4

**Greater transparency around Infrastructure investment**

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## Q22

Do you have any other comments on Council Climate Leadership and Advocacy (include any actions you have taken on this)? Do you have any supplementary comments relating to the questions above, comments on other issues related to climate change not covered, or comments on climate change generally?

I am one of the organisers of Brunswick Communities for Nature which is featured in a few of the policies above:  
<https://brunswickc4n.wordpress.com/>

On a personal note, my husband is a commuter cyclist, my kids (usually!) walk/ cycle to school, and we are waiting to move into our new highly energy-efficient home with SIPs, 7.5 star energy, nearly 6kW solar.

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