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Page 1: 2022 State Election Candidate climate survey

Q1

Candidate Name

Arie Huybregts

Q2

Climate Emergency. Merri-bek Council declared a climate Emergency in 2019. It is now widely recognised that we face an emergency situation in addressing the climate crisis, including recent comments by the UN Secretary General. Will you advocate for the next Victorian government to declare a climate emergency?

(no label)

yes**Q3**

Science and Targets. The IPCC 1.5C report said the world needs to get to net zero emissions by 2050 to limit temperatures to the 1.5C target. Australia has now set a 43% by 2030 target and a net-zero by 2050 target. Victoria's Climate change Minister recently reported that Victoria had cut emissions to 2020 by 29.8 percent. Premier Dan Andrews and Climate Change Minister Lily D'Ambrosio announced on 20 October new Victorian climate targets of 75-80% emissions reduction target for 2035, Net-zero by 2045 (five years early) and New Renewables energy Targets (VRET) of 65% by 2030, 95% by 2035 Climateworks says these targets are consistent with 1.5C decarbonisation pathway. Do you support the new Victorian climate targets?

(no label)

Agree with reservations**Q4**

Climate Adaptation. The flood emergency in Brisbane, Lismore, Sydney, Melbourne, regional Victoria and Tasmania have demonstrated once again how climate driven extreme weather is impacting Australia. Three years ago we also had the bushfire emergency and bushfire smoke affecting our health with over 400 excess deaths. We seem to be locked into a disaster response cycle lacking the overview of addressing the systemic problems of climate impacts and devising long term adaptation strategies, although in Victoria we have made a start, See DELWP Working towards a net-zero, climate-resilient Victoria. At the state level will you push for further refining climate risk and vulnerability assessment and Victorian adaptation action plans?

(no label)

Agree Strongly

Q5

Just Transition: Structural support should be provided by the Victorian Government to affected workers and communities in which transition needs to occur. This includes coal and power station workers in the La Trobe Valley and people working in forestry and logging of native forests. This includes involving those communities, businesses, unions in the transition process of Economic diversification, reskilling, and ensuring social supports are in place. Do you agree?

(no label)

Agree Strongly

Q6

Transport Emissions - Trains. The State Government has committed to remove another 8 level crossings in Brunswick. Completion of the Metro tunnel will eliminate the city loop bottleneck to allow more trains, however increased frequency will be stymied by the northern bottleneck of single track between Gowrie and Upfield stations. Improving public transport in the Northern transport corridor is key with the Craigieburn line approaching capacity and 27 new residential suburbs needing access to good public transport to reduce car dependency and congestion in Melbourne's northern region. There are no public plans to extend the Upfield line via the Somerton Link to Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn and to Wallan to service car dependent new residential suburbs. Will you support duplication and rail line extension of the Upfield Line as a priority?

(no label)

Agree Strongly

Q7

Transport Emissions - Buses. The Australia Institute May 2022 report - Next stop: Zero emissions buses by 2030 - highlights that prioritising bus electrification is well supported by the public and is crucial for reducing transport emissions, reducing vehicle pollution and noise, and encouraging more public transport use. currently, Victoria has committed to 100% electric bus purchases from 2025 but does not have a fleet target. While this purchase commitment is a good start, it could be bolstered by a complimentary fleet target in line with NSW's target of 100% by 2030, says the report. Will you support local manufacturing and 100% electrification of Victoria's bus fleet by 2030, and new and upgraded bus depots to charge solar electric buses.?

(no label)

Agree Strongly

Q8

Transport Emissions - Active Transport. The UN Environment Program recommended in 2016 that active transport receive up to 20 percent of the transport budget. Victoria usually struggles to reach 1%. The Liberal State Government in NSW has an active transport budget of \$950 million for a five year period, which the Minister wants to double. The Victorian Government allocated \$21.8 million in the 2022 state budget for cycling, according to Bicycle Network. Many cities in North America and Europe are enhancing pedestrian spaces (including making them greener) and providing a network of protected cycling lanes. RACV reports that bikes are now outselling cars in Australia. Research in Melbourne in 2022 found that 3 in 4 people want to ride a bike but are put off by lack of safe lanes. Will you advocate to establish an Active Transport Ministry and increase active transport budget to reflect the need to provide safety to pedestrians and cyclists?

(no label)

Agree Strongly

Q9

Energy: GasVictorians use more gas than any other state in Australia. It's the most expensive source of power in our energy network, it has dangerous impacts for our health AND it's responsible for 17% of our annual climate pollution. Extracting, processing, transporting and burning gas releases huge amounts of methane into our atmosphere – a climate pollutant that is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The Victorian Gas substitution roadmap released in July 2022 has no firm goals or timeline for actions. Will you support the next Victorian government to phase out gas by:

Provide Incentives to support homes and businesses to shift off gas to clean, cheap electricity **Agree Strongly**

Remove outdated laws that force new homes to connect to the gas network **Agree Strongly**

Stop gas exploration in Victoria and development of conventional gas drilling near the 12 Apostles **Agree Strongly**

Setting firm goals and timelines for gas phaseout in the Gas substitution roadmap **Agree Strongly**

Q10

Logging of Native Forests The present government has said they will end logging of native forests by 2030. But after the devastation of the 2019 bushfires our native forests and species biodiversity are under particular threat. Victoria has some of the most carbon dense forests in the world sequestering carbon and thus providing negative emissions to achieve climate targets. Scientists have warned about landscape trap changing ecosystems since 2011 and it appears in 2022 this is now underway being driven by the interactions between wildfire, logging and climate change. Scientists say we should stop logging native forests as soon as possible as the ecosystem is nearing collapse and the remaining intact forests are key to reaching net-zero emissions. Will you commit to stop logging Victorian native forests by 2024?

End native forest harvesting by 2024 to focus on plantation timber **Agree Strongly**

Declare Greater Forest National Park (GFNP) **Agree Strongly**

Ensure structural transition programs for timber workers and communities **Agree Strongly**

Support for forest conservation and forest tourism **Agree Strongly**

Q11

Do you have any supplementary comments relating to the questions above, comments on other issues related to climate change not covered, or comments on how we can reduce emissions and increase climate adaptation within the Northern Melbourne region or Victoria generally?

While I haven't read the whole of state Labor's recent announcement of new targets, it doesn't appear to involve an immediate end to gas exploration, which I think is a very needed promise.

I think we are mandated to be more radical in our renewable and net zero targets, as well as our targets on ending native forest logging.