

Q9 Heat Vulnerability: Large sections of Merri-bek's north are at the extreme end of the Heat Vulnerability Index, meaning residents are very susceptible to global warming extreme heat events. What will you do to address this beyond existing policies, including Merri-bek Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan (PDF), Merri-bek Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2017 (PDF), Cooling the Upfield Corridor Action Plan 2018-2028 (PDF)?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Support Council's efforts to respond to the urban heat island effect, and increase canopy cover. Support the use of reflective coatings to roads and footpaths to reduce heat absorption. Investigate cooling centres - air-conditioned public spaces where vulnerable people can escape the heat. Install shade cloths in local parks. Ensure building codes stipulate better insulation, cool roofs and efficient air-con systems. Use heat mapping technology to identify hot spots. Ensure roll out of Vic Gov battery program caters for high energy demand periods during hot days.	10/1/2024 11:15 PM
2	The climate emergency means our community is already experiencing more extreme heat events more often. Extreme heat is particularly dangerous for already vulnerable community members, including older residents and people with existing medical conditions. We need to create more green, open space and plant many more trees to help cool our community. We also need to make sure community members have easy and free access to 'cooling centres' during extreme heat events.	9/30/2024 4:40 PM
3	Merri-bek Council's existing strategies to combat extreme heat are incredibly valuable tools and resources. We need to fully fund them to ensure maximum benefit for communities most at risk. There is potential for further work to help homeowners and renters to keep their homes cool by expanding programs like solar savers (assisting low income households to install solar panels and insulation) and workshops on making rentals climate friendly. Increasing tree canopy and introducing more green and blue infrastructure is also important for reducing the urban heat island effect.	9/30/2024 10:59 AM
4	To deal with heat islands, we really need to be reducing the popularity of car parks, and replacing these exposed concrete surfaces with swales and trees. Sure, humans can stay inside with air conditioning, but our local wildlife doesn't have this luxury when dealing with more frequent heat waves. For popular streets like Sydney Road and Lygon Street, we might like to spray rainwater on the road on hot days, to keep the area cool.	9/29/2024 8:06 PM
5	Merri-bek already has some fantastic existing strategies to combat extreme heat, however, they need to be fully funded to ensure maximum benefit for communities most at risk. There is potential for further work to help homeowners and renters to keep their homes cool by expanding programs like solar savers (assisting low-income households to install solar panels and insulation) and support to make rentals climate friendly. If elected I would also like to continue the work of greens on council in significantly expanding Merri-bek's tree canopy and overall native planting, and creating more green spaces to combat the heat island effect. I'll also carefully consider the climate impact and heat resilience of all proposed development and advocate for better sustainable design standards for new builds to increase their climate resilience.	9/28/2024 4:28 PM
6	These are all good documents and I support them all. In terms of additional steps, I'm not a fan of having trees tightly pollarded. Where possible I'd like to see canopy trees extending further across footpaths and roads, even where there are trams. Park St in St Kilda is an example. Another small action is that I've noticed in many parts of Merri-bek some footpaths are excessively wide, so I'd like to see more nature strips introduced, reducing the amount of bitumen or concrete. Mown grass is not huge contributor to cooling, but it's an improvement. Council could work with Ceres to help residents with other low height planting as well.	9/23/2024 2:14 PM
7	I will encourage the expansion of tree canopies and advocate for more green spaces.	9/22/2024 4:57 PM
8	Merri-bek Council's existing strategies to combat extreme heat are incredibly valuable tools and resources. What is needed is for them to be fully funded to ensure maximum benefit for	9/21/2024 10:26 AM

communities most at risk. There is potential for further work to help homeowners and renters to keep their homes cool by expanding programs like solar savers (assisting low income households to install solar panels and insulation) and workshops on making rentals climate friendly. As a current Councillor, I am incredibly proud to have championed practically doubling Merri-bek's tree planting budget, however the allocation towards meeting and exceeding our urban forest goals can always be increased. Planting trees that grow into creating canopy cover are one of the best defences we have against increasing temperatures.

9	Increase greening everywhere from shopping strips to apartments, and house areas with horizontal and vertical greening, rooftop gardens, ; appropriate heat minimising colours,& building materials; increased use of water and landscaping. I would work towards all these targets as budget permits.	9/20/2024 4:30 PM
10	We have plenty of strategies but how is reality meeting these goals? What measures are we using to assess progress? Is it working? Are we getting value for money in these initiatives?	9/19/2024 10:11 PM
11	As an ecologist, heat vulnerability to wildlife has been a key part of my research. I will support Merri-bek Council's existing strategies to reduce the urban heat island effect in our communities via tree planting and replacing concrete with natural areas. With council support, we can work on expanding programs like solar savers (assisting low income households to install solar panels and insulation) and find other novel solutions to keep the community cool.	9/19/2024 8:13 PM
12	absolutely. Most important that these actions are recognised and implemented	9/19/2024 6:15 PM
13	I will advocate for the planting of more trees in Box Forest, which is unfortunately lacking a lot of Greens spaces. Additionally, I will continue to advocate for home insulation programs	9/18/2024 8:56 PM
14	I am not sure.	9/18/2024 2:56 PM
15	To address the heat vulnerability in Merri-bek's north, I will advocate for increasing green spaces and accelerating tree planting programs to create more shade and cooling areas. Sustainable development is crucial, and I will push for stricter guidelines that prioritize green building designs, permeable surfaces, and energy-efficient infrastructure to reduce the urban heat island effect. I will also work towards enhancing community awareness and engagement, ensuring that all new developments contribute positively to our environment without compromising existing green spaces. By building on the existing action plans and implementing these targeted strategies, we can make Merri-bek more resilient to extreme heat events	9/17/2024 11:47 PM
16	Plant more trees with large canopy, buy more plan in hot-spot activity centres for tree plantings. Change the planning laws to include more green spaces and rooftop gardens. Install more shade in the city, water fountains and cooling devices.	9/17/2024 10:05 AM
17	I initiated Merri-bek's Urban Forest Strategy in 2017. Expansion of the Tree planting with adequate maintenance of the newly planted trees is important. Council also needs to do more to preserve mature trees that are threatened by development. There is also a need for the council to establish Cooling Centres for periods of extreme heat. Currently the council relies on its libraries to act as cooling centres but the libraries aren't open on Sundays so something more needs to be done.	9/16/2024 2:37 PM
18	Greater tree cover is the most important part of this strategy, which is also popular for residences as I've spoken to them. Greater parkland with more shade, particularly at playgrounds. Less bare concrete and asphalt and more natural landscapes, shade and greenery.	9/15/2024 12:39 PM
19	Beyond implementation of local policies, I would advocate to the state government for urgent action to address climate change. I would also support all grassroots initiatives and community campaigns aimed at promoting sustainability.	9/15/2024 9:38 AM
20	I strongly support the existing plans. I think we could do more with the Food systems strategy encourage growing edibles(not necessarily heat related but important for access to food with low food miles) and I think we could do better with shading of public areas (especially those used by dog owners) and provision of better public cool spaces for respite during heatwaves such as better shading in public areas like the Coburg Mall.	9/14/2024 5:15 PM