

#5

COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Name

Lambros Tapinos

Q2

Brunswick West Ward

Contesting Which Merri-bek Ward?

Q3

Labor

Are you a candidate for a political party? Which Party?
Are you standing as an Independent candidate? If you
are standing as an Independent but you are also a
member of a political party, please write that party in the
Comment box.

Q4

Connections to Merri-bek Wards. Outline your connection to Merri-bek, do you live in the ward you are contesting, do
you work in that ward? What are your other connections to the Merri-bek community?

I live in the ward I am contesting, I have lived here my entire life. I love our community, I wouldn't live anywhere else.

Q5

Climate Emergency. Merri-bek Council declared a Climate Emergency in September 2018. Do you accept the
research evidence from climate scientists and the UN Secretary General that:

	Answer
the earth is already too hot and we are outside the safe climate zone?	Yes
we face a climate emergency?	Yes
local cooling is required to prevent runaway warming?	Yes

Other (please specify):

I support higher emission reduction targets - it should be net zero by 2035

Q6

Governance and Triple bottom line accounting brings to account three domains that we need for a good life. They are economic, social and environmental sustainability. In the past projects have been delivered based on organisational silos often not considering other aspects outside the silo. Will you endeavour as a Councillor for Council to use triple bottom line accounting on all Council infrastructure decisions to ensure that climate emergency priorities are embedded in Council decisions? Note that triple bottom line is already encapsulated in the Local Government Act 2020 Section 9, 2b and 2c for good Council governance.

(no label)

Yes

Q7

Transport: Upfield Rail Upgrade - Problems with parking and traffic congestion, capacity issues of public transport need solutions for upgrading the Upfield Line. According to Infrastructure Australia, the northern region Transport Corridor will reach and exceed capacity in the next decade. Do you support the Northern Councils Alliance campaign to Connect Melbourne's North for 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 Merri-bek and residents in new growth suburbs further north?

(no label)

Strongly Agree

Q8

Transport: Mode shift - What actions will you be pushing for to facilitate a mode shift to more sustainable modes of transport in Merri-bek as part of, or beyond, Moving Around Merri-bek Strategy (PDF), including increasing safety for walking and cycling and increasing public transport advocacy?

Invest in footpaths, speed reduction in suburban streets, closing rat-runs, more dedicated bike paths and advocate for more public transport including elevated rail, duplication, accessible tram spots, more frequency of trains, trams - (especially the 58) and busses.

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)?

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.

Q10

Waste Management. Merri-bek aims to be a leading council in sustainable waste management. What will you do to help Merri-bek in educating citizens on waste streams , to achieve Merri-bek's 2030 zero waste to landfill target as part of Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme – ESD Policy v2.0?

Review the hard waste collection to encourage more reuse and recycling, have circular economy principles in procurements and contracts. Support food and organic recycling and investigate textiles recycling.

Q11

Energy Efficiency and Renewables. Merri-bek has a goal of “Efficient and 100% renewably powered energy”. How can Merri-bek “walk the talk” on renewable energy and meet the community goals set in the Zero Carbon Merri-bek – Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020/21 – 2024/25 (PDF)?

More community solar projects and batteries; the council can support sports clubs, and community organisations with solar panels, batteries, removal of gas and eventually make this also available to households and businesses via grants.

Q12

Supporting business and the environmentWhat actions will you take to help the Council promote environmentally sustainable jobs in the municipality and for businesses to reduce emissions in their operations?

There is a growing list of eco jobs that we want to attract to Merri-bek - this includes manufacturing of sustainability products, and installation services. Merri-Bek activity centres should be green hubs / 100% renewables with more solar and batteries.

Q13

Food SecurityHow would you build community resilience and address food security in Merri-bek beyond the existing Merri-bek Food System Strategy 2024 - 2027 (PDF)? How do you think Council could further support culturally relevant and nutritionally rich food to diverse and vulnerable communities?

Heathy food is very expensive compared to take away leading to obesity problems. While this problem needs to be addressed at all levels of government; locally, we can invest in more community gardens, and plant more edibles in our parks and community. Working with CERES we could develop community food and relief programs to harvester food like herbs, fruit and olive oil from public places, community gardens, urban food forests.

Q14

Buildings, Biodiversity and Urban cooling: What would you do as a Councillor to ensure that with new building developments, Merri-bek residents have protection from overshadowing existing solar PV systems, and that Merri-bek has sufficient vegetation cover to contribute to biodiversity outcomes, urban cooling, and water sensitive urban design beyond existing policies in the Urban Forest Strategy (PDF), Merri-bek Nature Plan, and the Achieving Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme – ESD Policy v2.0?

Strengthen and actually implement the policies during the application stage. There needs to be more protection in the planning laws for our creeks and wetlands, and parklands. Development should not be allowed to negatively impact our open spaces, creeks and biodiversity. We need to revitalise out creeks especially the Moonee Ponds Creek and this will be a major priority for me on council.

Q15

What are your top four priorities for the Council Plan, to be formulated for 2025-2029.

Priority 1	Community Services, Aged Care and Childcare
Priority 2	Footpaths, Cycling, Drainage, Infrastructure
Priority 3	Open Space, Creeks and New Parks
Priority 4	Jobs and Economic Development in our activity centres, this includes beautification, greening, more amenities and cleaning of activity centres.

Q16

Democracy and representation: advocacy to State Government on multi-member wards versus single member wards. The state government has imposed single-member wards on Merri-bek against the recommendation of the council, the Local Government Association of Victoria, and even the Victorian Electoral Commission. This shift in electoral structure is an imposition by the parliament, not a choice of experts.

Answer

Do you support or oppose single-member wards?

Oppose

If (re)-elected will you initiate and/or support measures to pressure the state government to return to multi-member wards?

Support

Q17

Do you have any other comments on Climate Leadership and Advocacy by Council? Do you have any supplementary comments relating to the questions above, comments on other issues related to climate resilience and climate adaptation, or comments on making decisions for the whole municipality?

We can do more regarding the creeks and water quality by investing in more water sensitive designs.