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COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Name

Louisa Bassini

Q2

Bulleke-bek Ward

Contesting Which Merri-bek Ward?

Q3

Victorian Socialists

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 Bulleke-bek ward that I am contesting and have lived in Merri-bek for most of my life. My kids attend Brunswick North
Primary School and my extended family live in the area also.

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

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?

I support lower car speed limits where necessary to ensure greater pedestrian and cyclist safety. I support investment in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. I support more efficient and accessible public transport and would advocate around this at a higher level.

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)?

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.

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?

I would take all opportunities to promote these policies, but also advocate at a higher level for more urgent and structural changes to waste management, such as bans on single use plastics.

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)?

I believe the community in Merri-bek would be committed to the significant structural changes needed to achieve zero carbon, but they need to be aware, engaged and supported in this and I would seek to assist that wherever possible. These changes really demand a community campaign that can impact wider thinking and be used as leverage to insist on governmental and business changes as well.

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?

I will consider sustainability in all decisions that come before council if elected. I believe that business should be supported to transition to sustainable practices wherever possible, but required to through regulation where necessary as well. I would advocate for these approaches at a state level also.

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?

I support urban food farming and consider this to be not only an important strategy to promote food security but also a way in which community members can be engaged in caring for land. I understand that communal gardens also have great benefit for social health and cohesion and would promote where possible.

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?

My knowledge on these issues beyond what is established in the policies referred to is limited. However, I fully recognise the importance of these planning issues and would seek out expert recommended best practice approaches to further my understanding, and ensure any decisions I make are aligned with promoting sustainability over profit-driven development.

Q15

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

Priority 1	Housing security/ renter representation
Priority 2	Sustainable, equitable and liveable development
Priority 3	Improved and accessible transport infrastructure
Priority 4	Opposing council sell-offs and a return to strong services

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

Respondent skipped this question

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?