

#12

COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Name

Jenne Perlstein

Q2

Warrk-Warrk 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 was born and bred in Pascoe Vale South and lived in Merri - bek for a total of 55 years with the last 31 years in Brunswick East thus living in the ward I am contesting.

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?

Utilizing expertise 7 local input in planning & engineering to ensure safe separation of walkers, cyclists, scooter riders and cars especially on Merri Creek . I support looking into innovation to increase EV car charging stations and access to those with EV's with on street parking; advocacy to PTV for more PT especially East -west across the municipality. Ensure adequate parking for those who depend on cars for transport, socialization caring roles ,employment. I have met with Walk Merri - bek and see that pedestrian walking access, safe & repaired paths, more pedestrian crossings, lighting are essential. That public transport needs to be advocated for to the State government, that walking cycling , scooters be promoted BUT with safety and legal adherence by riders paramount. That EV's are promoted and with adequate accessible charging stations and innovation for cars which have only on street parking .That car share options are promoted.

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)?

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.

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?

Yes. I think this essential, as many people wish to address landfill , but may only know how though education.

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)?

Implementing as many of these initiatives as possible , particularly the community education initiatives . Labor in Merri-bek will continue to protect the local environment and taking strong action on climate change including establishing and supporting CERES Environment Park. I and Labor will support Merri -bek becoming one of the first council's to be carbon neutral.

Creeks and Waterways

- Labor will protect our local environment and support our creek corridors and ecosystems, investing in water catchment systems to prevent litter from entering our river systems. Small and affordable changes that can have big impacts, effective drain catchers and time and salary support for rubbish collectors to clean up bin spills during collections.
- Merri-bek's waterways are a scarce and wonderful resource and their improvement has been instrumental in bringing back native flora and fauna to the area. Labor in Merri-bek will protect our creeks and waterways and create more open space along our creeks and wetlands for native wildlife to return to the creeks.
- Labor in Merri-bek will support the consolidation of open space corridors and advocate for all state-owned land along the creek corridors to be gifted to council to be permanently rezoned for open space.
- Labor in Merri-bek will complete the Edgars Creek Conservation and development plan and continue to revitalise the Moonee Ponds Creek.
- Labor in Merri-bek will continue to work with the Creeks Friends groups, believing that the most effective way of improving the creeks is to involve residents.

Merri-bek is known for its pedestrian and cycle-friendly streetscapes

- I support services access close to home, in '20-minute neighbourhoods' designed to suit people (rather than cars)
- Renewable-powered buses, trams and trains provide a quick, reliable and affordable way to travel
- Use of electric 'car/ride share' services complement active travel and public transport options, helping to reduce private vehicle ownership

Recognizing though, with all these positive initiatives , ideally reducing car use/ parking needs , and increase on green spaces that people will still need (aged, those with differently abled needs , carers , where it is essential for employment , social connections) and want to own cars but increasingly these will be EV's and thus looking at innovations in charging vehicles for those with 'on street' parking.

Along with Labor, I support the Brunswick Design

District to evolve as Merri-bek's first 'zero carbon and circular economy' precinct.

- Progress next steps of the AEF 'Moreland Power' pilot that is testing the feasibility of using community-owned renewable energy to deliver benefits to investors and households struggling to pay their energy bills.

Other concepts requiring further investigation include:

- Microgrids and community energy storage – potential pilot sites include CERES and Halpin Street in Brunswick West
- Solar + Battery integration and targeted Energy Demand

Management (especially in areas with identified grid constraint)

•'Passive House' certification

'Carbon Neutral' certification

Purchase renewable energies ..

Most of the ideas in this Zero Carbon report i would support

Q12

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

Along with Labor, I would support Economic Development Strategy to promote environmentally sustainable jobs in the municipality and for businesses to reduce emissions in their operations revitalized our local economy and create local jobs.

- Labor will support our local traders and business community with regular programs, network events, promotion of local economy, business development investment and new businesses including shared spaces and amenities, with environmentally sustainability as a number one priority.
- Labor remains focused on the provision of council services while working with businesses to support enterprise and to develop the skills of the local workforce.
- Labor will support centers of innovation, including promoting clusters for creative arts, science and innovation, health and biomed, and information technologies.

Q13

Food Security
How 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?

Labor and I support resilient food systems, which adopts a food system approach to help deal with climate change impacts, the rising cost of living and inequality.

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?

These initiatives as outlined in these reports are essential in the Climate crisis we face and I would advocate to the Council and state and federal governments for these requirements to be fulfilled.

Q15

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

Priority 1	A healthy and caring Moreland
Priority 2	An environmentally proactive Moreland
Priority 3	Moving and living safely in Moreland
Priority 4	Vibrant spaces and places in Moreland

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

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?

As a Labor candidate in the upcoming elections in Warrk Warrk , i support environmental policy implementation where ever possible to ameliorate climate change , food insecurity, promote sustainable & increased public transport , zero carbon status, car sharing, safety for walkers. cyclists , scooters and car drivers. , green and heat sustainable development . I would listen the experts and local people , but aim to advocate and lead.