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1. How serious a threat are global warming and climate disruption?

The threat of climate change is well documented and supported by strong evidence and vast majority of the world's scientific and social science academies. As stated during the Darebin Planning Forum, I believe the key in tackling climate change is behaviour change in individuals. It IS possible for individuals to make changes to tackle climate change. The council should and must play leadership roles in educating residents about climate change; practical steps for adaption and sustainable living; and infrastructure to support individual actions. That's why I have released three key policies on

- a. Assessing health impact of all council policies, in addition to financial and environmental considerations (please see below re link between climate change and health).
- b. Sensible, Sensitive and Sustainable Development.
- c. Sustainable Transport, including key infrastructure for bikes, public transport and cars.

Details of these policies can be found on
<http://www.boli3072.com/election-policies.html>

2. Do you support the following Darebin Council initiatives? Please comment briefly on each.

a. *Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2009* including the aim of carbon neutrality for council operations by 2020?

b. *Darebin Community Climate Action Change Plan 2009-2015* including the aim of carbon neutrality for Darebin municipality by 2020?

c. *Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan 2009?*

I comment these three documents *en bloc* as I believe they are interrelated. I am supportive of these three above documents. However, it should be noted that the Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2009 will need to be updated. In addition, the Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil -Adaptation Plan 2009 may need to be reviewed to ensure its currency. If elected, I will support a review of these three documents to identify areas of synergy and, where appropriate, a closer re-alignment of strategies to ensure efficient use of council resources, in terms of both human and financial capital. This may result in the drafting of a comprehensive climate change action plan that combines the three documents, or, a continuation of the documents in their existing formats. Finally, I will ensure the updated document(s) have SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound) so that they can be reported to all residents in their first two years of operation, and again before the next council elections (i.e. 2014 and 2016).

d. Membership of the *Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action?*

It is very disappointing that Darebin has suspended its membership of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA), especially given the commitment demonstrated by 8 other neighbouring councils, not to mention regional and shire councils in other parts of Victoria. I strongly believe that collective efforts with other local governments not only underscore Darebin's resolve in tackling climate change

at a community level (and give meaning to the three abovementioned documents), they also provide best outcomes for residents through economies of scale so the council can pass any savings directly back to its residents through bulk purchases in collaboration with other councils (e.g. renewable energy). Darebin should renew its membership with NAGA as soon as possible after the election. This will be a priority should I be elected on the council.

3. What action have you taken to influence climate change and/or sustainability policies at the local, state or federal level?

What I have come to appreciate in my 12-year experience in policy and community development is that in order for policies to succeed in the short term and be sustainable in the long term, they must be integrated with other policies and not operate in silos isolated from each other. That's why I strongly believe that climate change policies must be evident and integrated in all other aspects of council policy, such as planning and development and local infrastructure. I have used the Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan 2009-2015 in my submissions to VCAT opposing an 8 storey development on the old Windsor Smith factory site on High Street. I have also made personal submissions to the Darebin Housing Strategy, Darebin Cycling Strategy as well as to the review of the State Planning Framework (all these submission are accessible via my website). I was proud to have introduced my organisation (the Australian Psychological Society) to the Climate and Health Alliance (<http://caha.org.au/>) in order to bring about closer collaboration between the climate change movement and that of health policy development.

4. What action would you take on climate change and/or sustainability policies if [re]elected to council?

In addition to reinstating Darebin Council's membership with NAGA, I will support the following actions:

- a. Community awareness and education programs through local groups. These education programs can be both general (e.g. information on climate change) and specific (e.g. increase recycling to decrease landfill).
- b. Upgrade and increase access to community open space, particularly in Preston and Reservoir. This will encourage families to utilise local infrastructure and decrease energy consumption.
- c. Improve local transport options (as outlined under my Sustainable Transport policy). This will amplify the effect of point b. above (e.g. families cycling to a local park instead of driving to another park 10 km away). This is also a demonstration of my policy integration approach as outlined in my answer to question 3 above. Data supporting my calls for access to open space and sustainable transport can be found here <http://www.boli3072.com/media-releases.html>
- d. Work with households, businesses and clubs to increase use of renewable energies, which can be bulk purchased through partnerships with other councils via NAGA.
- e. Review and implement recommendations from the three documents in question 2, targeting particularly council asset purchases (e.g. low energy streetlights, energy efficient vehicles and other plant and equipment).

5. We are also interested in your community campaigning in areas other than climate change and sustainability. What other community groups or campaigns have you been active in and what was your role?

I am credited as the first candidate with a social determinant of health (housing,

transport, local environment, community services etc) election platform [footnote i]. The links between health and climate change is well established. In addition to extreme weather variations and its effect on personal health, the health of communities is also impacted by climate change (e.g. housing security and access to fresh food). By advocating for a “health in all policies” approach [footnote ii], Darebin can examine issues and their policy responses from financial, environmental, social inclusion and health perspectives in order to play a balanced role in supporting the health and wellbeing of residents and local communities. That’s why I have released detailed policies on planning and development as well as sustainable transport, as they can both be integrated with existing health and environmental considerations. All my policies are well researched, with established evidence and can be practically implemented under a SMART goals framework as I outlined in my answer to question 2 c. above.

Footnote i

<http://blogs.crikey.com.au/croakey/2012/09/05/is-this-australias-first-political-campaign-on-the-back-of-a-social-determinants-of-health-agenda/>

Footnote ii

http://www.health-inequalities.eu/HEALTHYQUITY/EN/policies/health_in_all_policies/