

Response from Bridgid O'Brien		
Guidance Unless specifically identified, these questions relate solely to the Yarra Bend Ward of the City of Yarra, and the forthcoming council elections to be held in October 2024.		
1Q.	Are you a representative of any political party, or have any other affiliations with other candidates running for Council? If yes, which Party please? (please send us a copy of any policy statements especially in regard to heritage protection and planning)	
1A.	NO, I am an independent candidate. I collaborate with other independent candidates	
2Q.	In no more than 30 words, what do you see as the major issues facing East Clifton Hill relevant to the City of Yarra?	
2A.	Inappropriate development, loss of neighbourhood character and reduction of local amenity. Increased rat-running, pressure on small businesses, community cohesion and impacts on local parks and open spaces.	
3Q.	East Clifton Hill is subject to a heritage overlay, and other heritage protections. Do you favour strengthening these protections, weakening them, or that they remain the same?	
3A.	<div>Strengthen. RemainSame. Weaken/remove</div> Comment if any I favour strengthening them as our heritage is central to our neighbourhood character. We can increase housing stock without destroying the heritage that makes Clifton Hill so special.	
4Q.	Are you in favour of the protection of the designation of The Spensley-Berry and Ramsden-Myrtle commercial precincts as Local Activity Centres?	
4A.	<div>YES. NO UNDECIDED</div> Comment if any I am in favour of the protection of the designation of The Spensley-Berry and Ramsden-Myrtle commercial precincts as Local Activity Centres as this works to strengthen community cohesion and local amenity.	
5Q.	Do you support introduction of mandatory height limits in The Spensley-Berry and Ramsden-Myrtle Local Activity Centres? (as is the case in some other council areas)	
5A.	<div>YES. NO UNDECIDED</div> Comment if any I support the introduction of mandatory height limits in The Spensley-Berry and Ramsden-Myrtle Local Activity Centres as we managed to achieve with C231 on Queens Pde.	
6Q.	East Clifton Hill has numerous heritage buildings designated as 'individually significant'. Do you favour strengthening these protections, weakening them, or that they remain the same?	
6A.	<div>Strengthen. RemainSame. Weaken/remove</div> Comment if any	

	I am in favour of strengthening them to ensure they are protected.		
7Q.	The City of Yarra in its current term has reduced the ability of the public to ask questions at Council Meetings. Do you favour making it easier for the public to ask questions without notice at Council meetings?		
7A.	YES.	NO	UNDECIDED
	<p>If yes, How would you address this issue?</p> <p>I am absolutely in favour of bringing back the community's ability to ask questions in the Council chamber without having to register to speak, submit them in writing first and I want to return to the 5 minute speaking time. Having pre-prepared responses to questions from the public has resulted in questions not being adequately responded to and is eroding community confidence in Council. If elected I will put forward a Notice of Motion in the first Council meeting to this end.</p>		
8Q.	Do you support improving the <u>transparency to residents</u> of the processes of planning within the City of Yarra and in particular those that relate to heritage values of any area under consideration of planning change or development?		
8A.	YES.	NO	UNDECIDED
	<p>If yes, how would you address this issue?</p> <p>Absolutely, YES. I want to see a review of the Governance rules around the number of objections required for a planning application to be heard at a Planning Decisions Committee, greater transparency of decisions taken under delegation by Officers and a push notification system implemented by Council to inform residents of planning applications in their area.</p>		
9Q.	The CoY Transport strategy has determined that on designated cycleways, angled parking will be replaced by parallel parking. If implemented in East Clifton Hill this will lead to a dramatic reduction in available parking in both Spensley Street and Roseneath Street. Both streets are relatively quiet, and we have no evidence to suggest that cyclist safety is an issue on these two roads. If elected, will you seek to ensure that angled parking is retained on both Spensley and Roseneath Streets?		
9A.	YES.	NO	UNDECIDED
	<p>If yes, how would you address this issue?</p> <p>Yes, I will immediately seek a review of the Transport Strategy and ensure angled parking is retained on Spensley and Roseneath Streets. I will ensure better community consultation on any changes proposed to current parking arrangements, seek public access to the data on cyclist safety and push for community cabinets to come up with solutions to any identified issues.</p>		

Additional Comments from the Candidate are welcome here

I am a strong advocate for better community engagement, strengthening community cohesion and protecting our environment. I want to improve the delivery of Council services and make Council more accountable to the people it

serves. I will work to ensure the community has a seat at the decision-making table. If re-elected I pledge to collaborate with all other elected councillors in the interests of decisions reflecting the interests of the community. If you want to discuss any of my responses or would like further detail please give me a call on 0413 104 580.