

East Clifton Hill Residents Incorporated (No A0114110I)

Leonie Gnieslaw

	<p>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.</p>
1Q.	<p>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)</p>
1A.	<p>I am acting in a personal capacity; I am not connected to Liberal/Labor/Greens</p>
2Q.	<p>In no more than 30 words, what do you see as the major issues facing East Clifton Hill relevant to the City of Yarra?</p>
2A.	<p>My priorities (equal importance):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public safety particularly for woman 2. Accessibility for people with disabilities, physical and intellectual 3. Bullying of others in all levels of society 4. Animals and Environment (Destruction, Climate Change, Dumping, etc) <p>All these priorities tie in with street design/transport strategy as well</p>
3Q.	<p>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?</p>
3A.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen. <input type="checkbox"/> Remain Same. <input type="checkbox"/> Weaken/remove</p> <p>Not for me to decide without consulting with the whole community as to what they want, but I would lean towards heritage protection of historical value and allowing development where it's with the permission of the neighbours affected (including overshadowing). There needs to be a balance between new homes to ease the shortage and heritage which is valued by those who already live here.</p>
4Q.	<p>Are you in favour of the protection of the designation of The Spensley-Berry and Ramsden-Myrtle commercial precincts as Local Activity Centres?</p>
4A.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES. <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED</p> <p>I have not seen any specific plans, maybe it is buried somewhere and needs to be more accessible. Generally speaking, these things need to be taken on a case-by-case basis as to what exactly what is being proposed, and what the residents actually think about it once they know what is being proposed.</p>
5Q.	<p>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)</p>
5A.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES. <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED</p> <p>Same answer as the previous two answers combined – Community consultation and need to see the plans.</p>
6Q.	<p>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?</p>

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6A.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen. <input type="checkbox"/> Remain Same. <input type="checkbox"/> Weaken/remove
	<p>If something is already ‘individually significant’ then it must be for good reason. If there was some reason not to respect that it must be a very compelling reason and still be handled by the local community in meaningful consultation. The community would need to be overwhelmingly on board with it, not by having the state government overrule the will of locals. For example, with the APM Boiler House in Alphington, there could have been a middle ground to renovate it into apartments in a similar character to the original, while opening Yarra up to more residents (during a housing crisis) and to help meet state government targets of new housing to avoid planning powers being seized by the state. Not to mention that there must be other opportunities within the city available to build which are not heritage protected, and we should be open to creative solutions. Without advocating for anything, I am just pointing out that there is plenty of open space above the Eastern Freeway.</p>
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES. <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED
	<p>If yes, How would you address this issue? It is no secret that the City of Yarra is controlled by the Greens councillors. According to the Greens own Local Government Policy, they declare “6. Local government must be transparent, accountable and democratic”. I do not have much of an issue of what the Greens claim to support for the most part, but when they do have a good policy, I would like to see that they would actually follow through with what they claim to support. Complete rollback of rules.</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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES. <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED
	<p>If yes, how would you address this issue? Same answer as before</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.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES. <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNDECIDED
	If yes, how would you address this issue?

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Again, this is one of these case-by-case basis things to be decided upon with the community, and we need new solutions to solve the problems.

I am a massive supporter of walking, cycling, public transport and safety especially for women. Anything which adds safety is always a good thing and in an ideal world I would like us to move towards a world without the need for cars in most situations.

I do not see cars, even EVs, even when they are powered by 100% renewables, as being environmentally sustainable because of the high impact of mined minerals and emissions of producing them, the amount of energy required for them to move is high, the large amount of public space they use, the cost to maintain roads (environmentally and the money which could go towards better things), and the disposal/recycling impacts, is quite high.

Not to mention that they are still a risk to pedestrians/cyclists, and cars are quickly becoming “throw away” items especially when the EV batteries wear out because they are cost prohibitive to replace, and manufacturers are making repairs difficult. I would be hesitant to offer public EVs chargers without someone having a good reason to actually own a car, as not to support them too much. I actually think that PHEVs are preferable to EVs for people who use them for short trips, because they have smaller batteries. eBikes are better still, for those who are able bodied because they only use a handful of lithium cells.

Having said that, we do not yet live in a perfect world where we are in a position to get rid of cars yet, and in line with what I have said with my other comments, this is something which needs community buy-in not just my personal opinion.

Cars are still the primary transport which women use to feel safe as it provides somewhat of a barrier to the outside world of danger which women face from a particular subset of creepy men out there, particularly at night. So, in the short term, getting rid of car parking right now is just not a viable option, nor is it fair for existing residents or equitable for people with disabilities, at least until alternative options are ready and have gained community acceptance.

Perhaps what we could do is upgrade to smart street lighting (light beam only at the streets) and look at other designs which can safely accommodate bikes and cars, and offer incentives for residents to voluntarily forfeit their rights to street parking until the car demand is reduced to the point of no longer needing angled parking.

For Spensley and Roseneath Streets in particular, I think that there are opportunities to retain the angle parking safely. For example, there could be a Two-way protected bike lane - Parallel Parking - One-way road lane - Angled Parking, and planting a lot of greenery (trees, plants, planter boxes for community vegetables, etc) in between. Subject to community input of course.

I also note that protected bike lanes, even on quiet streets, gives riders the confidence to actually use them because it just feels safer, and is good for bringing customers to local businesses and the whole community.

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Additional Comments from the Candidate are welcome here

There is also a lot of other problems, including illegal dumping/pollution particularly of waterways, Stormwater drain kerfuffle causing flood risk – We might need to build detention basins under sporting fields to smooth out the stormwater load and increase pervious surfaces for water to drain naturally, subject to engineering and state funding.

Urban designs are lackluster with many parts of town not even having a nature strip.

Need to be concious of new buildings (not subject to heritage restrictions) built built too high which blocks sunlight or look ugly, and built too small, not enough sound proofing, shoddy materials/workmanship, too small, or bringing in even more car traffic.

We do fundamentally need more housing to fix the housing shortage leading to high prices to buy/rent, and also to welcome more people into Yarra, which I think can be done in the non-heritage protected areas (Not necessarily Clifton Hill East specifically, which I understand has a high amount of Heritage overlay, but in other parts of Yarra Bend/Yarra).

I am also extremely unhappy with the way that the Greens have conducted themselves in council. They were meant to set an example of how great progressive governments can be, but they have been nothing but scandalous, be it having councillors allegedly being involved in fights with LGBTIQ+ people, or chopping down mature trees at the Burnley Golf Course. I am very disgusted with them, we need to vote in progressive independents to give progressive politics another shot.

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