

Darebin Council Elections 2020: Questions for Candidates

23rd September, 2020

Dear Candidate,

Below is a list of questions compiled on behalf of Darebin community groups; Darebin Progress Association, Darebin Residents Group, Save THE Preston Market and Darebin Appropriate Development Association.

The aim is to supply our members answers to question most important them in the hope it will aid their voting choices in the upcoming council election.

We have aimed to keep the impost on your time to a minimum by posing most questions for yes or no answers with some also asking how you might achieve the answer as a Councillor.

Your answers will be posted, unedited, on our websites and Facebook pages for maximum coverage to our members across Darebin.

Please leave a YES or a NO and remove or cross out the answer you don't want.

GENERAL RESPONSE

Name: _____ CR TIM LAURENCE _____ Ward: NORTH EAST WARD _____

Please tell us in 50 words the main reason you are running for Council and your top three issues you want council to adopt

I'm an ex-CFA firefighter and Labor councillor. I'm standing to put our community first. Raising my family here made me passionate about Darebin.

I'll stop unfair 2% rate rise, save preston market, give pensioners \$200 rates rebate, build a 50-metre Reservoir pool, save BUNDOORA openspace, and start a jobs recovery.

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILTY AND TRANSPARANCY

One of the glaring weaknesses of the majority of current councillors has been their inability/failure to accept that they represent the community. The following questions require a simple yes/no/how answer to demonstrate your commitment to important democratic procedures.

1. Will you support complete transparency in issues affecting the community?



Darebin Council Elections 2020: Questions for Candidates

YES	NO
HOW? WE NEED TO RECONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY AND EXPAND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEES AND DO REAL CONSULTATION OF RESIDENTS ON KEY ISSUE OF PLANNING & PARKING & AGED SERVICES	

2. Would you guarantee regular meetings with the community by all means available?

YES	NO
HOW? I am always free to meet people and groups to see issue first hand. The council needs to do more face to face meetings with residents in wards.	

3. Will you actively consult with community groups prior to any local by-laws being enacted?

YES	NO
HOW? The council needs to do more face to face meetings with residents in wards and do written surveys (and community languages) before making decisions.	

4. Would you restructure Public Question Time in allow questions directly to Councillors?

YES when councillor has relevant position or information etc	NO
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5. Will you support a review of the Council newsletter to make it more informative, regular and representative?

YES I'd like to see more community news and views in it.	NO
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It has become a bit corporate.

6. Will you ensure Advisory Committees recommendations are heard in General Council meetings?

YES YES AND MINORITY VIEWS AS WELL	NO
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7. Will you work for the community and not to serve any political party?

YES My track record is bringing issues to attention of other levels of govt. Our first duty is to those who elect us.	NO
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8. Will you insist on an annual staff survey and make it available to the community?

YES This should done every 3 months and posted annually	NO
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9. Will you listen to the Community's opinions when motions for spending and approvals for planning are brought before Council?

YES Community views must be heard first not drowned out by corporate agendas	NO
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HOW? We need to expand speaking time for objectors at planning and council meetings. I would also like to see briefings made public via web cast. There has been too many decisions made in closed rooms with very poor transparency.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Will you oppose the demolition and relocation of the Preston Market elsewhere on the site and actively support its retention?

YES	NO
HOW? Council's role is to fight for a fair dinkum plan at the Market. I will not trade off a strong heritage overlay, protection of 100% of the current footprint or mandated height limits to get a 20+ storey Green towers for the wealthy.	

2. Will you support mandatory heights limits be applied to the Preston Market site?

YES	NO
HOW? I have supported the previous structure plan that had mandated height controls. I have voted with Crs Greco and Williams for mandated heights in the current council submission to the state govt. We must revise the council submission that is silent on heights and is a white flag to massive towers.	

3. Will you oppose the practice of trading off of objectives and standards, such as height limits in the planning scheme that can result in poorer outcomes but gets developments built in Darebin?

YES	NO
HOW? Post coronavirus I have learnt two things - 1. 20 storey towers are not safe and 2. the government can house the homeless if it wants to. I will not be trading of any local planning schemes on anything - because both the banks and the government need to help house the poor without any trade offs.	

4. Do you agree to a complete review of the Darebin Planning Scheme including consultation with community groups and members to ensure it is clearer in its intent, eg: applies mandatory heights to development plans, better protects neighborhood character and increases neighbourhood residential zoning?

WE MUST EMPOWER THE COMMUNITY &	
YES UNDO MATTHEW GUY'S TERRIBLE REZONING OF DAREBIN'S RESIDENTIAL ZONES	NO

5. Will you support the Open Space Levy and Developer Contribution Levy that adequately increases the amount of land dedicated to open space in order to meet the future needs of Darebin's growing population and ensure that the money is spent in the general locale of where the development occurs?

YES I voted for a higher % openspace levy than Green Council	NO
HOW? We need to prepare a better case for an openspace levy to replant and develop ALL of our openspaces so that developers can help pay for the city to reach 40% tree cover. It is currently only 13% tree cover.	



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6. Will you support a review of the Planning Committee Charter to give objectors more time to present their case, to allow at least one councillor to call up planning applications and, release the agenda papers and reports at least seven days ahead of meetings and to allow residents to ask questions and make submissions?

Yes. post virus we need to look at residents' planning rights and livability and health and well being. we need to put residents first at council level as residents are not served well by VCAT

YES	NO
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AGED CARE AND DISABILITY SERVICES

1. Will you support Council having an ongoing role in the direct delivery of home support care services to eligible older people and people with a disability in Darebin?

yes this is a must. we must maintain standards of Age care. We have seen deregulation causes deaths and suffering with Age care Homes & with the under funded NDIS system

YES	NO
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2. Will you support Council subsidising the cost of home care services to eligible residents?

YES Yes.	NO
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3. Will you support Council continuing to directly deliver to eligible older residents and people with a disability the following :

• home support services;	YES YES	NO
• personal care,	YES YES	NO
• shopping,	YES YES	NO
• respite,	YES YES	NO
• food services,	YES YES	NO
• home care,	YES YES	NO
• community transport,	YES YES	NO
• home maintenance	YES YES	NO

4. Will you oppose further restrictions of eligibility criteria for home care services in Darebin?

YES YES	NO
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5. Will you agree to support Council becoming a registered home care provider?

YES YES	NO
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6. Will you agree to maintain at least \$6m in council co-funding for age care services and provide open financial reporting of aged care services?

YES YES	NO
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FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVICES

1. Will you campaign and vote to provide more public facilities eg; toilet facilities, bins, footpaths upgrade, bike paths, Outdoor Gyms, upgrading parks, and regular removal of graffiti and litter in Darebin?

YES	YES	NO
HOW? As councillors we need to wind back waste and expensive reports and get the council back focussed on fixing real assets and delivering real services		

2. Will you vote for balanced services and equal spend across all of Darebin, particularly Reservoir, including rebuilding to the Reservoir Leisure Centre?

YES	YES - ALL DECISIONS MUST BE BASED ON NEEDS AND EQUALITY	NO
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3. Will you oppose unsubstantiated use of money spent on consultants?

YES	YES - WE HAD A FEEDING FRENZY OF REPORTS THAT ARE JUST GATHERING DUST ON SHELVES	NO
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4. Will you vote for more parking and vote against blanket parking restrictions?

YES	RESIDENT PARKING PERMITS MUST BE DRIVEN BY CONGESTION & RESIDENT VIEWS ON A STREET BY STREET LEVEL. NO LAZY BLANKET BANS	NO
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5. Will you support Council in making publically available more detailed financial reporting on departmental, program and project expenditure?

YES	WE SHOULD SHARE THE PERFORMANCE OF MAIN BUSINESS UNITS & KEY PROGRAMMES	NO
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• **ENVIRONMENT**

1. Given that we are in a climate emergency and everyone; individuals, corporations and all three levels of government must be part of mitigation and adaptation, are you prepared to commit to strong action on global warming?

YES	NO
HOW? We need to move past the slogans of A CLIMATE EMERGENCY. A GREEN NEW DEAL IS NEEDED IN DAREBIN THAT COMBINES SOCIAL JUSTICE WITH ACTION ON CLIMATE. WE NEED TO GET MASS PLANTING ABOVE BELL STREET AND WE NEED TO USE OUR OFFSET PROGRAM TO ATTRACT LOCAL RENEWABLE JOBS IN DAREBIN. FLOODING AND HEAT WAVES ARE KEY MITIGATION ISSUES AS 10% OF DAREBIN IS IN A STORMWATER FLOOD PATH. YET COUNCIL HAS NOT GOT A PLAN TO FIX DRAINAGE PROBLEMS IN EAST RESERVOIR, PRESTON AND THORNBURY. SADLY THE POOREST PEOPLE LIVE IN FLOOD PATHS AND THEY ARE NOT LISTENED TO. WE ALSO NEED TO HELP THE ELDERLY COOL THEIR HOMES AND GET MORE TREES IN OUR PARKS TO REACH 40% TREE COVER.	



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2. Will you bring policies to Council that will make a real improvement at a local level to Darebin’s environment and biodiversity?

YES	NO
YES	NO
HOW? (please provide examples) BRING IN UNIVERSAL VEGETATION STANDARDS ON ALL PUBLIC PARKLAND. 40% TREE COVER TRAGET. SAVE 15 HECTARES STRATHALLAN OPENSACE SO KANGAROOS HAVE SUSTAINABLE GRAZING AREA.	

3. Darebin Council set up both Climate Emergency Darebin and the Darebin Nature Trust as key initiatives very early in their term. What do you know about these two entities and their specific achievements?

CLIMATE EMERGENCY JOBS AND VOICES FAILED TO REFLECT DIVERSE DAREBIN GENUINE VOICES ON THE NATURE TRUST WERE IGNORED

4. Have they been effective?

YES	NO
	THEY NEED WORK TO MAKE EFFECTIVE

In order to share this information to voters please return your responses to the sender in a Word, PDF or JPEG document by the 30th September 2020.

Thank you.

On behalf of:

Darebin Progress Association: <https://www.facebook.com/Darebin-Progress-Association-163813440325401/>

Save THE Preston Market Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4553059228098235/>

Darebin Appropriate Development Association: <https://www.darebinada.org/> and

Darebin Residents Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/695607447257408>

