

**Kate McKay** Vote Climate Questionnaire Responses 239 – amended by candidate

1. Name: Kate McKay
2. Email: katemckayforswipersgully@gmail.com
3. Phone: 0494123587
4. Council: Nillumbik
5. Ward: Swipers Gully
  
6. **Are you nominated, supported, or backed in any way by a political party in this election? If so, which one?**  
Victorian Greens
7. **Are you a member of a political party? If so, which one?**  
The Greens
  
8. **Why are you standing for (re)election to council? What are your top priorities if elected? (100 words maximum.)**  
I love my community and I want the residents and environment to thrive. My priorities include: Protect our Green Wedge and urban tree canopy. Encourage safe active transport with improved trails, footpaths and crossings. Clean up and better maintain public toilets. Ensure rates are not wasted. Broaden Council's recycling program. Protect neighbourhood character while allowing for appropriate housing development. Support local food pantry programs. Advocate for a pedestrian rail crossing from Coolabah reserve to provide safe access to the Diamond creek trail, Eltham North Primary, Edendale farm, Eltham North Adventure playground and sporting clubs. Promote and support the Biodiversity strategy.
  
9. **What are three of your achievements in recent years? (100 words maximum)**  
Policy co-ordination role at local kinder and have updated every policy as they were all out of date.  
Act as campaign manager and run a viable Greens campaign for Eltham seat in 2022.  
Career promotion to Intensive care Clinical Nurse consultant.  
Bonus: (survived raising toddler and preschool children and moving house twice whilst working in a tertiary Intensive care department during a Pandemic and not getting divorced).

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

10. **Do you accept the research evidence from climate scientists that the earth is already too hot and we are outside the safe climate zone?**  
Yes.
  
11. **Do you agree that we face a climate emergency?**  
Yes.
  
12. **If your council has declared a climate emergency, do you support this declaration?**

My council has declared a climate emergency and I support this declaration.

- 13. If (re)elected will you initiate and/or support measures to educate residents and stakeholders about the climate emergency and put pressure on other levels of government to act?**

I will initiate.

- 14. Do you agree that it is now too late to restore a safe climate via emissions reductions alone and that additional measures, including drawdown and local cooling, are required?**

Yes. This is the reason I joined the Greens.

- 15. Will you initiate and /or support measures to rapidly reduce the municipality's emissions towards zero, draw down carbon dioxide (eg planting trees), and increase the reflectivity of surfaces (eg roofs and parking lots)?**

I will initiate.

- 16. Will you initiate and/or support measures to protect vulnerable people and ecosystems within the municipality from dangerous climate impacts?**

I will initiate.

#### **PARTICIPATORY AND DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY**

- 17. Under the Local Government Act 2020 Community Engagement Policy, councils are required to use deliberative practices. What action will you take to involve a broad cross-section of residents in deliberating respectfully and effectively on important issues? For example, will you push for the use of Citizens' Assemblies to deliberate on contentious issues and/or to have input into the council budget? (100 words maximum)**

I will push for citizens assemblies on contentious issues. I will host ward meetings to raise issues in a setting outside of the council meeting. I will encourage wide, early and diverse ways of consulting with residents, community groups and reach out to interested and notable individuals and groups in that area of interest. I will make myself easily and readily available to residents and promise to listen to them. I promise to deliberate in a respectful manner and with an open mind.

- 18. Over recent years difficulties within some councils have resulted in the need for monitors, mediators and arbiters. The 2023 Arbiters Report on Darebin Council estimated that \$600,000 had been wasted in just two years to deal with these failures. There have also been issues in Brimbank, Glenelg, Hume, Knox, Moira and Yarra Councils. What would you do to ensure that your council deliberates effectively and respectfully? (100 words maximum)**

I will show respect to my fellow councillors and promise to deliberate in good faith. I will act in a professional manner at all times. I will value others viewpoints and not

be blinded by my own preconceived ideas. I will ensure all members of the discussion have the opportunity to contribute. I acknowledge that it is OK for myself or others to change their mind. I will not hurry deliberations in the interest of time.

- 19. Do you promise not to accept campaign donations from property developers or gambling interests, directly or via intermediaries, in this council election campaign?**

Yes.

- 20. Do you promise to support the introduction of a requirement that all gifts or donations larger than \$500 are declared in real time (similar to the measures adopted by the Melbourne City Council)?**

Yes. I think it should be all donations. Not just those above \$500.

- 21. The state government has imposed single-member wards on councils against the wishes of many councils and the recommendation of the Local Government Association. Do you support or oppose single-member wards?**

Unsure

- 22. Dr Sonia Randhawa from the Sortition Foundation is running a one-hour Q&A session for council candidates covering Citizens' Assemblies and other deliberative processes. It's on Sunday 29 September starting at 5pm. Please register here if you'd like to attend. Will you attend this session?**

I can't attend on that date, but would be keen to come on another occasion.

- 23. Please provide a link to your candidate's statement or paste it below.**

I love living in Swipers Gully and raising my young children here. I'm deeply invested in this area. I'm actively involved in the local kinder, primary school, sporting clubs and Scouts. I'm an Intensive care Registered Nurse, caring and advocating for patients and colleagues for 17 years. I'm running for council to advocate for my community and ensure that residents thrive. As your councillor, I will listen to you and advocate strongly on your behalf. I will support the invaluable work that our community groups do, and will work to improve the standard of local amenities and services. I care about protecting our area's special local character from inappropriate development. As a member of the Nillumbik Greens, I'm passionate about our green spaces and Green Wedge. I'm keen to support local food pantry programs and broaden recycling. Good financial management is essential, and I won't allow your rates to be wasted. Local residents deserve a representative who will listen. I will be a strong voice for our community.

Vote [1] for Kate McKay.

Contact me on 0494 134 587 or [katemckayforswipersgully@gmail.com](mailto:katemckayforswipersgully@gmail.com)