



Glen Eira City Council Elections 2020: Questionnaire to all candidates.

Given the current COVID environment, electioneering by candidates is extremely difficult. **Save Glen Eira** believes that ratepayers would welcome candidates' views on numerous issues currently confronting our municipality. We therefore are inviting all candidates to fill out this questionnaire to provide residents with some insight into their future councillors. All submitted questionnaires will be published on our website.

1. Name: Cristina Santos
2. Glen Eira Ward: Tucker Ward
3. Why did you decide to run for Council?

I don't believe the council has an genuine community consultation process, their decision making is neither open nor transparent, and consistently fails to consider the needs of residents. I believe the council has fail to create a shared vision for Glen Eira

4. What local activities are you involved in?

I was until early this year a volunteer with the State Emergency Service and am currently exploring other volunteer opportunities.

5. What do you see as your strengths/skill set to be a Councillor?

Determination and a genuine commitment to work for this community to make Glen Eira a liveable city for all. I was a federal government employee for some 34 years and as such I have a good understanding of governance, interpreting/applying legislation and decision making.

6. Are you a member of a political party? If so, which one?

No

7. What do you see as the current important issues facing Glen Eira?

Glen Eira has seen a significant increase in development, and an in increase in the density of our residential side streets. This growth has occurred without corresponding increases in infrastructure or



amenities to support it. We need to slow development down to allow infrastructure to catch up. We need the amenities, schools, parks, playgrounds and so on to support a growing population and higher density living.

8. How would you evaluate and take into consideration residents' views on topical issues?

The process of considering residents views begins with a genuine consultation process, where residents are actually given the opportunity to put options forward. Not everyone is always going to be happy with council decisions but I believe people are generally more likely accept that decision if they believe they were heard and their views given due consideration. I also believe that councillors need to be held accountable for their decisions and should be required to provide reasons for reaching the conclusions they did and which articulates the weight they gave to all options.

9. Would you support and lobby for mandatory formal oversight committees with community representatives to help ensure greater accountability of council actions?

Yes

10. Would you support the banning of political donations from developers, as in NSW?

Yes - very strongly

11. Our planning provisions require Councils to balance important and often competing issues How would you prioritise the following issues? (Rank: **High/Medium/Low**)

- Prioritise purchase of new open space in areas of lesser open space. **HIGH**
- Protection of residential amenity. **HIGH**
- Economic activity through construction and development. **LOW**
- Heritage conservation **HIGH** - But heritage conservation is not just about one house, it's also about those house around it, which may not be of heritage significance but which provide character to the one that is. There is no point in listing one house and then allowing high rise development around it.



- Housing affordability and social justice. **HIGH**
- Medium rise infill in low rise streets abutting low rise residences. I am not really sure what this means but to be clear I am completely opposed to further medium or high rise development of our residential streets. I am also opposed to the increasing density of those streets with low rise development. There are many examples of two storey apartment buildings going up in small side streets where there used to be one residential home. This continuous over development and densification of our residential streets this needs to stop.
- Protecting communities, small local businesses & shopping strips. **HIGH**
- Sustainable initiatives **HIGH**
- Protecting fauna corridors and biodiversity **HIGH**
- High-rise development in Activity Centres. **LOW**
- Increasing the tree canopy **HIGH.**
- Support for council initiative cultural events **MED**
- Inclusion of affordable/social housing in new developments. Affordable and social housing are a high priority for me. However, as I have previously stated I don't believe Glen Eira can continue to support new development. Our current rate of growth without corresponding growth in infrastructure and amenities will bring about its own social and health problems.
- Support for new bike or pedestrian paths through Glen Eira. **HIGH.**
- Support for Council initiatives to reduce carbon footprint (Council & Residential) **HIGH**
- Support for creation of deliberative community panels for all major projects/budgets **HIGH**

12. Is the current residential development adequately making provision for affordable housing?

NO



13. How happy do you think the residents of Glen Eira are with the current level of development?

I don't think they are happy at all.

14. Some zoning types eg Activity Centre Zoning (ACZ) can result in no later appeal-rights for residents. Do you think this is fair on residents?

I don't think the issue is the appeal right attached to the zone, but more importantly why or how the zone was imposed on residents. For example I think a person who buys a property in an industrial zone say where there are conditions around what they can or can't do, wears the consequences of that purchase decision. I don't think that resident should have the right to object to further development consistent with the zoning within which they purchased their property. However, if a person purchases a property in say a residential zone and then the council re-zones it to say an activity centre zone, without true consultation removing appeal rights then I would be opposed to this process. I strongly believe that decisions to re-zone areas need to be appealable.

15. Do we need tighter planning controls and added scrutiny to protect residents in or nearby to mixed-use zones?

Absolutely

16. What changes would you like to see implemented by the Glen Eira City Council? Eg planning scheme, local laws, meeting procedures, other changes

I would like to see a whole of council approach to planning, that is all council areas planning, environment, infrastructure and others, come together to develop one shared vision for Glen Eira, bringing the community along with it. I would like to see the development of an Urban Forest Strategy and a heritage listing process, that is binding on all decisions made by council including zoning and planning decisions. I consider the issues around open and transparent decision making is critical and councillors need to be held accountable for the decisions they make.

Meet the Candidates Forums (on zoom):

Camden Oct 6th

Rosstown Oct 7th

Tucker Oct 8th

Registration details to follow