



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:** David Zyngier
2. **Glen Eira Ward:** Camden
3. **Why did you decide to run for Council?**

I was brought up in Glen Eira and returned five years ago to Caulfield North. After 35 years in education I am now at a time when I can give back to our community. Strengthening community and caring for our environment have driven me to stand for Council. Improving residents' voice in decision-making, and greater openness will be my priorities. As Greens councillors will stand up for Glen Eira's residents and our heritage against inappropriate proposals. We aim to conserve the character of our suburbs and ensure they are liveable in a time of increased challenges. We need greater attention to the human and environmental factors which make good planning not just for now but times to come. Glen Eira needs to not only talk about heritage, sustainability and connectivity but apply them in practice at scale

4. What local activities are you involved in?

I am a founding member of the Glen Eira Emergency Climate Action Network; we successfully lobbied Council to declare a Climate Emergency. I participated in the Glen Eira 2040 Community Vision, and the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust Land Management Plan. I volunteer for the Ardoch Foundation, and as a school facilitator for the anti-bullying foundation, Courage to Care, and deliver meals to food insecure residents in Glen Eira for the Father Bob Foundation. I have strong connections to the Camden Jewish community as former Principal of a Jewish school, an active member of Kehilat Nitzan, an advocate of Jewish LGBT rights, and an activist in the Jewish Climate Network.

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



I was a school principal and union official with considerable administrative and collaborative decision-making experience. As an Associate Professor, I have been responsible for many staff, large budgets and a member of various University Boards and committees. I have a Doctorate in Education and significant experience in conducting research and understanding complex submissions. I am very approachable and a good listener. I love to work with others to make a difference. I am highly experienced in dealing with complex issues and problem-solving. I am an innovative and divergent thinker. I have excellent social media and IT skills.

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

Australian Greens Victoria.

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

- (a) Council upholding its commitment to carbon neutrality and increasing open green space for public use. Promoting wellbeing and inclusion for all groups, ages and abilities.
- (b) Pursuing greater openness, transparency and resident participation in local government decision making. Preserving our heritage places, re-invigorating our unique local shopping strips and neighbourhoods.
- (c) Transforming Glen Eira into a model 20-minute sustainable city, making it possible for people of all ages and abilities to access our local amenities. Providing a safe movement of people on our roads, footpaths and shared cycle trail network. Reducing waste and improving recycling by trialling a 4 bin system.
- (d) Creating places and spaces for our teenagers to feel safe and meet and play.
- (e) Creating a Councillor register for all contacts with developers.
- (f) I will never support the sale of Council's aged care facilities. As has been highlighted by Covid, the aged care facilities in public hands have not had outbreaks and deaths due to Covid. They have been very well managed, and the residents very well cared for. This level of care is clearly not achieved in all private facilities and is one of the key reasons I would oppose the sale. The residents and their families regularly report that they are very happy with the level of care received and are happy to be in one of Council's facilities. The facilities Council operates are aging and in need of maintenance and upgrade as



- Heritage conservation Very high
- Housing affordability and social justice. Very high
- Medium rise infill in low rise streets abutting low rise residences. Medium to Low
- Protecting communities, small local businesses & shopping strips. Very high
- Sustainable initiatives Very high
- Protecting fauna corridors and biodiversity Very high
- High-rise development in Activity Centres. Medium to Low
- Increasing the tree canopy Very high
- Support for council initiative cultural events Very high
- Inclusion of affordable/social housing in new developments. Very high
- Support for new bike or pedestrian paths through Glen Eira. Very high
- Support for Council initiatives to reduce carbon footprint (Council & Residential) Very high
- Support for creation of deliberative community panels for all major projects/budgets Very high

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

There is NOT enough provision for affordable housing in Glen Eira. Council needs to work collaboratively with neighbouring councils, state government and developers to ensure that all those that want to live in Glen Eira can afford to do so. The Greens will advocate for more affordable and sustainable housing through using tools at Council’s disposal, advocating and sharing with neighbouring councils.

We will rebalance a system that currently favours developers over the community by ensuring that residents are not just consulted, but that their views are genuinely taken into consideration by actually putting residents at the decision-making table.

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

I have had many discussions with residents about this issue and fully understand and appreciate the dissatisfaction of residents with what appears to be very inappropriate development in certain areas of Glen Eira. I see the frustration of residents' objections being seemingly overlooked by certain councillors on a regular basis. We want



our neighbourhoods to be well designed, so they enhance communities. They must be well serviced for people of all ages and easy to get around. We want our neighbourhoods to have open spaces, plenty of trees and connected through active and sustainable forms of transport like walking, cycling, and public transport.

The Greens support urban development that incorporates increased density of development in predetermined areas, especially major activity centres where public transport is adequate. Any moves towards increased density should be implemented in a way that provides certainty and clarity to residents, improves, or at least has minimal impact on, neighbourhood amenity and respects neighbourhood character and built heritage.

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?

The views of residents should always be our priority. The Greens will always support the local residents. The Greens are represented in State Parliament, so we would be in a position if necessary to actively lobby to change the laws and regulations in State Parliament. Community interests, not developers, must lead planning decisions. Planning must be for people, not profits. Local people must have a real say about what happens in their communities, and work with the Council to create liveable, connected, sustainable neighbourhoods that are not overrun by developers.

We need to create an independent, fair and accessible planning system in guiding sensible, sustainable development and resource management, protecting both conservation values and the public interest. The Greens will work to place affordability, sustainability and transparency at the centre of every planning decision.

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

I agree that in the past some members of the Council have made decisions that appear on face value not to follow agreed planning controls. I would ensure that the Council conducts full and proper consultation with the community about development, including height limits, open space projects and major capital projects. I would ensure that a full suite of engagement tools is used from social media, the Glen Eira news, signs in the study area, letter drops to houses, the Glen Eira Voice, and posters in Council facilities. If your members have suggestions as to how to reach more of the community through different channels, I am more than happy to hear them and include. I understand



that the Council must work within the restrictions of the Planning Scheme and Structure Plans when considering all applications for planning permits.

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 understand that Pre-COVID, the public question time session was always at the end of the meeting and the requirements have always been that the person needs to be present for the question and answer to be readout. No matter whether the person is present or not, they receive an answer in writing shortly after the meeting. Former Cr Delahunty, when Mayor, introduced the public participation section of the meeting. Pre-COVID this occurred at the start of the meeting, and anyone can participate. When the Council meets in the Chamber again, post-COVID, public participation will continue.

I believe that the Council needs to increase reporting back on progress on key strategies to residents in a more timely and transparent way. I want to see the Structure Plans finished for our activity centres. This is the only way we can engage with the community, take their feedback on-board, design the limits for our centres and have them approved by the Minister. Change is going to happen whether people want it or not. At least with the structure plans, we can guide how that change happens and provide surety for the community about the future of their centres.

Greens councillors will make ecologically sustainable development a vital objective of the planning system, with a focus on meeting the challenges of climate change both in what we build and what we protect

In Glen Eira, development should focus on areas that have excellent access to public transport, parks, goods, services and education. These are the reasons we love living in Glen Eira, and we need to be willing to share our area with those that want to live these qualities The state planning scheme needs to tackle environmental sustainability and not leave it to CASBE (<https://www.casbe.org.au/>) and the BESS (<https://bess.net.au/>) to pick up the slack. This is something worth tackling if elected - I know there is interest from a lot of other Councils in this space, particularly those signed up to CASBE.



Meet the Candidates Forums (on zoom):

Camden Oct 6th

Rosstown Oct 7th

Tucker Oct 8th

Registration details to follow