



## 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: Markus Oswald
2. Glen Eira Ward: Rosstown
3. Why did you decide to run for Council?

My focus to become a Councillor is: Our Community, Our Choices. I have been disappointed in the lack of genuine community consultation and community involvement in the decisions made by Council. This has led to Council decisions which do not reflect the community's wishes, leaving people feeling disenfranchised with the consultation process and the solutions being implemented. As a Councillor I would like to promote a Council which makes decisions in an open and transparent manner, decisions which reflect the community's view. It's Our Community, Our Choices.

4. What local activities are you involved in?

I am a founding committee member of Save Glen Eira, speakers at various Save Glen Eira forums and host of the Save Glen Eira Open Space Forum, involved in the Glen Eira Residents Association, involved in the Make Murrumbeena Mine community planning days and clean-up day. Previously I was a member of the inaugural Glen Eira Council Transport Advisory Committee.

Professionally, my role includes working with another Melbourne councils to promote business activity within the council areas.



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

I have a genuine desire to get other people involved in Council's decision and decision-making processes. My skill set is to actively seek wide community opinions, respectfully listen to the messages of all and then critically and independently evaluate proposals based on the information I gathered.

I am knowledgeable about the issues facing Glen Eira having actively participated in Council's community consultation on various issues around Glen Eira and am involved in community groups which discuss the issues facing our suburbs.

My financial, business and negotiation skills allow me to manage, facilitate and achieve outcomes on behalf of our community. I am a Fellow of the Governance Institute and Member of the Institute Association for Public Participation.

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

No, I have never been a member of a political party

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

My vision is to build a community which will be inclusive and foster's the community's view in a respectful and open manner. I would like the community's voice to be strong when considering:

- Creating a better community together – ensuring our suburbs look the way we want them to by respecting the heritage and character of our area and developing transparent framework about how our suburbs look. I am also passionate about how we move around Glen Eira, generating sustainable and connected communities, and the way our communities feel by promoting local business and community projects.



- More open space – focus on increasing our tree canopy, protecting areas of importance and strategic use of the Open Space Levy
- Caring for our environment and promoting local sustainability to ensure our Council operates and promotes sustainable initiatives
- Having better conversations between Council and the community
- Ensuring high quality council services and facilities
- Ensuring value for money and responsible governance.

I want the community to be excited about participating in Council decisions and to believe their values are reflected around Glen Eira.

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

By ensuring the Council's processes are robust and genuine in engaging, gathering and analysis of residents' and community's views. I have willingness and desire to validate the views and opinions myself, including doorknocking (when it was possible to do so) on topical issues. My duty would be to represent residents and the community.

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

Yes, I am supportive of greater community and greater public participation, so therefore citizen committees and other similar initiatives.

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

Yes



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. ...Medium.....
- Heritage conservation .....High.....
- Housing affordability and social justice. ...Medium.....
- Medium rise infill in low rise streets abutting low rise residences. ....High.....
- Protecting communities, small local businesses & shopping strips. ....High.....
- Sustainable initiatives .....High.....
- Protecting fauna corridors and biodiversity .....High.....
- High-rise development in Activity Centres. ....High.....
- Increasing the tree canopy .....High.....
- Support for council initiative cultural events ...Medium....
- Inclusion of affordable/social housing in new developments. ...Medium...
- 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. Council must work on achieving better affordable social housing outcomes. Once agreed, these outcomes must be binding and happen.



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

Unhappy.

I believe the community is overwhelmed by the extent and speed of overdevelopment and the resulting constraints and underinvestment in community infrastructure. The ad hoc nature of current development is frustrating and sometimes bewildering. A solid, community endorsed framework needs to be developed, proactively managed to provide clarity to residents, builders and VCAT.

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?

No. Residents should have appeal rights and the genuine opportunity to influence and express their opinion through the planning approval process, including at the final phase when actual details of the development are available.

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

Greater clarity should be provided to reduce expectation differences for all. Clarity must be provided on how we want these areas to look, feel and function. I would support greater controls to protect residents and closer reflect community expectations.

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

One of my main two area of focus will be greater and improved genuine engagement, consultation and public participation.

I want to see the Council taking real, tangible and measurable steps to achieve their plans and strategies.



For example, I am supportive of Council's Open Space Strategy but want to see a more ambitious Urban Forest Strategy (tree canopy). I also want to see more active and tangible steps taken across the whole of Glen Eira to promote active transport.

Council should also take more tangible steps to develop timely strategic plans for all our suburbs. Robust and clear planning for our shopping strips and surrounding activity centres is essential to ensuring that we create the Glen Eira of the future rather than development in an ad hoc manner. For example, I would promote community supported mandatory height limits throughout Glen Eira to provide clarity to residents, builders and VCAT.

***Meet the Candidates*** Forums (on zoom):

**Camden** Oct 6<sup>th</sup>

**Rosstown** Oct 7<sup>th</sup>

**Tucker** Oct 8<sup>th</sup>

Registration details to follow