



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: Sue Pennicuik

2. Glen Eira Ward: Rosstown

3. Why did you decide to run for Council?

I have lived in Glen Eira most of the last 30 years and have family connections going back more than 120 years. Glen Eira has so many advantages and is a great place to live. I care about where I live and I have a lot to offer our community.

4. What local activities are you involved in?

As a former state MP for the Southern Metro region, I worked with all the Councils in Southern Metro and a variety of community groups across the region on issues such as protecting open space, public housing, education, beach erosion, storm water, cycling infrastructure and in Glen Eira – issues such as opening up Caulfield Racecourse and Recreation Reserve to the public and the future of the heritage ABC studios in Gordon Street.

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

I am hard working and conscientious. I have a long history of working with people and local groups and all levels of government on many issues. I have strong policy and legislative skills. I care about where I live and our environment and beyond - our city, our state, our country and our planet - and we have so much to do in the next ten years.

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

The Australian Greens, Victoria.

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

My priorities, as a candidate, reflect what I see as the important issues for Glen Eira. They are: to ensure council is inclusive and transparent in its decision making, to improve our environmental performance, waste reduction and recycling and achieve carbon emissions reduction targets, to preserve our neighbourhoods and heritage places and create more accessible public open space and tree coverage, to make it easier and safer to cycle or walk to our local shopping strips,

parks and playground and to continue to provide high quality services for people of all ages, needs and abilities.

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

See answer to Q9.

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

People can have many different views on local issues which is why genuine community involvement in council activities is critical. Councils have a number of statutory and other consultative processes, which people may have varying levels of satisfaction with. I am open to increasing and improving community consultation about a range of council responsibilities, but I would have concerns about a 'mandatory formal oversight' committee – or what that actually means and how that would sit with the legal responsibilities of councils and councilors.

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

I have campaigned for many years to remove political donations, not only from developers, but also from all corporations and/or entities that are regulated by any level of government, and/or who use those donations to buy political influence.

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.

Very high

- Medium rise infill in low rise streets abutting low rise residences.

Low

- Protecting communities, small local businesses & shopping strips.

High

- Sustainable initiatives

Very High

- Protecting fauna corridors and biodiversity

Very High

- High-rise development in Activity Centres

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

High

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

We have all been horrified to see growing numbers of homeless people in our city, suburbs and regional centres. This is due to a severe lack of public housing – a state and federal government responsibility that has been neglected for decades and something I have campaigned on in state parliament. More affordable housing also needs to be provided, located close to amenities and integrated into the community. Attempts to introduce affordable housing provisions into the planning scheme and development proposals have been watered down, opposed or defeated in the past. Developers should be required to provide social dividends to benefit the community.

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

I think this depends on where people live. I know that many people are not very happy and consider that much of the new developments that are occurring - particularly in activity centres, are too high, too alienating or ugly and are leading to a loss of neighbourhood character and heritage. I agree with a lot of these concerns, but many other people that I speak to are very happy and love living in Glen Eira. I'd like to see more integrated, complementary and much more sustainable developments in Glen Eira. I also think that residents who are unhappy with the current level of development should also look at the state-wide planning system – overseen by the state government, which all councils must adhere to - and which

is nowhere near strong enough in terms of requiring more sustainable and appropriate development in the face of a climate emergency and has been letting communities down since the Kennett era.

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?

New developments should be located in existing areas that are already well served by community facilities and infrastructure and that encourage people to walk and cycle and are well served by public transport and employment opportunities. This shouldn't mean inappropriate or over development. As a general principle, I would always support fair appeal rights so that legitimate concerns can be aired. The practice note for ACZs allows for very limited appeal rights based on the idea that community consultation has occurred in the development of the ACZ and associated structure plan/s. As stated in answer to question 13, I think that the state planning system has flaws that have existed since the 1990s and which need to be reviewed in light of community dissatisfaction and the urgent need to prioritise more sustainable development and to address the climate emergency.

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

In talking to people, there is some level of dissatisfaction in transitioning from mixed uses to low density residential character. There are also many benefits to people who live in and near mixed use zones such as being able to walk and cycle to the shops, close to public transport etc., and that makes it attractive to residents and others who would like to live in or close them. I think looking at better ways to address these issues should always be considered by the council and the state planning system.

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

We need to respond - at all levels of government, to the climate emergency we are facing and much more urgently than is currently the case, and this should be included in the continued work of structure plans.

Council Process – I am very open to reviewing council processes, ensuring best practice is being followed and that all sections of the community are included and looking at good ideas that are being implemented in other councils.

Planning – as stated above – more action on climate change, more room for canopy trees and public open space, safer walking and cycling, including more focus on solar rights to protect solar installations on adjoining or affected properties and the right to natural light in all dwellings and working with adjoining councils and the state government to address transport links and flood prevention.