

A Strong Local Community: Diverse, vibrant & welcoming.

Moreland Greens Policies
Updated July, 2020



Strong local communities are the backbone of a safe and vibrant society. The Greens are committed to supporting vital community infrastructure and services including health, disability and childcare services, sports and recreation, and arts and culture. As a community we want to minimise the harm of poker machines.

The Greens acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the lands governed by the Moreland Council. We support Moreland Council engaging in a treaty process. The Greens will also work to ensure Aboriginal cultural heritage is factored into all relevant Council decisions.

Moreland is a wonderful place to live and work. Our diverse multicultural community is an asset to the city and worth protecting and enhancing. The Greens are committed to ensuring Moreland continues to support a strong ethos of community spirit and engagement. We will bring to Council an ambition to further facilitate social cohesion and an inclusive community. Local government is the closest level of representative government to people's lives and so bringing Council and the community together is essential to ensure the best outcomes for everyone.

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic will have ongoing ramifications for years to come. There is capacity for Council to provide additional support for

the people that are hardest hit, particularly including our young people and those from lower-socio economic backgrounds. We will ensure that Council is committed to relief and recovery efforts, aiming to alleviate pressures that arise out of COVID-19.

The Greens acknowledge the demise of community newspapers over many years and the recent closure of the last surviving masthead in our city, The Leader, will be significant. The impacts of this on people receiving local news is difficult to quantify. While we share concerns about the loss of quality over time, the actual loss of this service will be felt for years to come.

Moreland already has numerous vibrant and engaged community groups. Our libraries, public parks, recreation centres and neighbourhood houses all play a part in sustaining our community. Council has a responsibility to continue supporting these, as well as fostering new community groups and providing adequately updated facilities throughout the city.



Caring for our Community

Local council has an important role in delivering programs and policies for people in the community, particularly those at risk of social isolation. Below are just some of the key areas that Council is responsible for.

Sports and Recreation

Sporting clubs and facilities provide important community infrastructure and places to gather. Through our support of sporting clubs, we are encouraging Morelanders to stay fit and active with all the physical and mental health benefits.

We will:

- Support clubs' efforts to be inclusive, through measures that encourage the participation of women, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, non-professional adults and older Morelanders;
- Provide funding and support to sporting and rec clubs with an emphasis on grassroots sporting and rec club initiatives that increase the participation of young people experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage;
- Ensure that targets for equal female representation and participation in sporting clubs are achieved;
- Maintain affordable fees for Council's sports and rec facilities to enable wide access.

The Arts

Moreland is home to a wide variety of creatives across all mediums. Continuing the strength, prevalence and viability of our arts community throughout the municipality is an ongoing commitment, demonstrating that this sector enriches each of our lives.

We will:

- Continue support for the Arts Infrastructure Plan;
- Provide funding and support to arts clubs with an emphasis on grassroots initiatives that increase the participation of young people experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage;
- Encourage local artwork in each of the public parks and public spaces that are updated or developed across Moreland;
- Continue municipal-wide dialogue between Council and the various artists that call Moreland home.

Children and Young People in Moreland

The Greens recognise the importance of the perspectives, opinions and knowledge of Moreland's young people. It is through genuine engagement with our youth that we can lay the foundations for greater connection between Council and our residents for years to come.

We will:

- Continue to support the work of the Oxygen Youth Centre in Coburg and relevant young people's programs; commit to supporting implementation of Full Potential;
- A strategy for Moreland's young people, and its five key outcome areas: Improving our Service System; Enhancing Voice and Participation; Increasing Skills and Jobs; Supporting Health and Resilience; and, Youth Friendly Spaces and Places;
- Seek to remunerate young people for their hours worked as part of the Oxygen committee;
- Commit to further educational engagement between Council and primary and secondary schools; continue to promote high quality children's services; enhance access to public play areas, including nature play, across Moreland;
- Prioritise the provision of public toilets, shade cover and water fountains in all existing and proposed Council facilities and playgrounds.

Our Community Hubs

Neighbourhood houses and other community centres, such as libraries, local halls and senior citizen centres, provide important spaces that facilitate meetings, socialising and the development of local initiatives. Having strong community hubs creates welcoming spaces where programs and ideas can flourish.

We will:

- Continue to support the Neighbourhood House program to maintain adequate and continued funding and support from State and Local Governments. This is to ensure that community needs are met, whilst remaining financially viable;
- Continue support for the Social Cohesion project and similar programs, particularly in the North of Moreland; continue to support the community grants program and ensure an ongoing grants funding category for groups that are unable to secure other external funding for operational purposes;
- Maintain affordable fees for community meeting spaces;
- Support the redevelopment of Siteworks, Saxon St, Brunswick.

Morelanders Living with a Disability

Council provides important services to people with disabilities and their carers. We need everyone in our community to be able to enjoy life and reach their full potential through being adequately supported by all levels of government.

The Greens will:

- Commit to maintaining the Disability Action Plan to reflect current needs;
- Improving Moreland's Good Access is Good Business guidelines;
- Work to support businesses to make their venues fully accessible to people living with diverse physical, mental and neurological abilities;

advocate trialling employment opportunities that support people living with a disability in our community to be able to enter meaningful work;

- Continue to support the Disability Working Group;
- Continue to work with care providers, including the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Wider Moreland

Council is responsible for ensuring services and access to facilities in so many areas of everyday life. All of these separate facets combine to provide us with a city that we can all be proud of.

We will:

- Advocate for accessible Council communication services, including the Council website, Facebook and other communication channels;
- Support sustainable festivals and events throughout Moreland;
- Support community gardens and residents' networks;
- Continue to support adequate funding and resources for Moreland's libraries and their future needs.





Reducing Harmful Gambling

In Moreland there are 641 poker machines, costing Morelanders \$174,095 each day and just over \$63.5 million each year, for the 2018-19 period. These huge numbers are actually a reduction from the two to three year period prior. Despite this, the cost of gambling harm is still falling onto the community.

Pokies are devastating for individuals, families and the community, and hurt the most disadvantaged people. Pokies are designed for addiction and lead to financial disaster, bankruptcy and loss of assets, along with harmful impacts on children, family violence, mental and physical ill health, crime, drug and alcohol abuse and self-harm. This has been well documented throughout the years.

Moreland City has shown strong leadership in taking steps to use planning provisions to limit the impacts of gambling harm. In 2019, after Supreme Court and VCAT actions, Moreland City was found to be on solid ground by amending the planning scheme to ensure that impacts on social and -economic impacts that could disadvantage gamblers in Glenroy and adjacent suburbs should be taken into account when assessing additional gaming machine licences for venues. This led to the Glenroy RSL having to remove 10 of their 50 gaming machines.

We will:

- Support an update to the Gambling Strategy to reflect current needs;
- Continue to stand steadfast in our opposition to harmful poker machines, reducing opening hours and removing the 'losses disguised as wins' feature;
- Support stricter regulation of existing poker machine licences;
- Continue to support the Alliance for Gambling Reform package, including the \$25,000 annual contribution;

- Work towards implementing \$1 bets, \$20 load limits and a new maximum cash withdrawal in one day of \$200;
- Endeavour to work with venues to maintain dialogue between Council and these pokie-hosting venues;
- Advocate for stricter regulation of online gambling;
- And support and promote those sporting clubs that decide not to access and rely upon gambling industry funding.

Celebrating Our Diverse Community

The Greens believe all people are entitled to the same opportunities and respect. This is regardless of age, ethnic and cultural background, religion, sexual orientation and gender identification. These values have and will continue to guide our work on Council. Any form of racism in our community is unacceptable. Moreland is a welcoming place for people from diverse backgrounds.

Moreland Council already has a strong suite of policies to ensure the work of Council respects human rights and is orientated towards creating a safe and equitable community.

The Greens are committed to making sure Moreland remains a strong and diverse community that embraces mutual respect and harmony.

We are a community that welcomes people seeking asylum and will support Council to provide more assistance to refugees and newly arrived migrants when settling into our community.

The Greens are committed to a program of Council grants for multicultural organisations. We appreciate that such groups may need assistance with building maintenance and running programs.

The Greens believe that community members of all ages have valuable contributions to make to the work of Council and, as such, will aim to increase participation through empowering engagement, particularly on issues that directly affect them.



A Safe Community

A strong, cohesive community is a safe one, with Council playing a key role in keeping us safe.



Ensuring good, energy efficient lighting on our streets is an important element of public safety. However, there is also the need for public spaces to be designed in ways that encourage visibility and safety, enabling Morelanders to feel comfortable to be out in their local area. The Wheatsheaf Hub and Glenroy and Upfield level crossing removals are prime examples where this can take place. Additionally, people should have access to frequent and safe public transport.

Local Government also has a powerful role to play in the prevention of family violence. The Greens believe that all people have the right to live in a safe family environment. Much progress has been made through the implementation of the Preventing Family Violence in Moreland Strategy and the Social Cohesion projects. There is always more that can be done though. One person experiencing family violence is too many.

We will:

- Work towards reducing the number of unsafe black spots in public traffic areas;
- Ensure that all currently installed street lights are working and repaired in a timely manner;
- Ensure good lighting along walking and riding routes and designated areas in our parks, whilst balancing the needs of native animals;
- Commit to engaging with the wider community to facilitate the inclusive creation of public spaces;
- Implement trials across our city in which Moreland's planners and designers work directly with people identifying as women, to co-design places from the beginning of a design process;
- Continue to advocate for increased frequency of public transport services;
- Commit to updating the Preventing Family Violence in Moreland Strategy to reflect current needs, particularly with respect to Children, Young people, Older people and people with a disability, people of diverse gender, Women and girls, Men, and Diverse cultural communities;
- Support the expansion of the Social Cohesion projects;
- Continue grants to fund family violence prevention projects by at least \$50,000 per year;
- Advocate for free and affordable self defence training for all, while prioritising people who identify as women.

To find out how you can get involved in with your local greens community, or to read our other policies, please visit:

 greens.org.au
 [@MorelandGreens](https://www.facebook.com/MorelandGreens)