

# Care for the Earth: A healthy, natural environment is essential.

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Moreland Greens Policies  
Updated July, 2020



**The Greens value natural environments, health and wellbeing. We will take bold and ambitious action to set the foundations for our communities to be resilient, healthy and thriving. Moreland can be a leader in renewable energy, addressing the Climate Emergency, protecting and enhancing our natural environment, and ensuring clean green transport for all.**

The Greens believe that it is possible for Moreland to be among the most sustainable councils in Australia. The 2019/20 national bushfire catastrophe along with the COVID 19 pandemic are grounds for more urgency to act locally and collaborate globally. By addressing key issues related to sustainability we can develop resilience in our communities and also redirect savings into the provision of other community services while we support local economies and create jobs.

**In the next Council term and beyond, the Greens will allocate resources to ensure Moreland is:**

- A leader in local, renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- A city of natural beauty and biodiversity; a water sensitive city;
- A city with a zero waste culture.

The Greens also have a vision for Moreland to achieve transformational change in how people move efficiently around and through our city. The City of Moreland will

be a partner in helping to coordinate and mobilise the broader Moreland community to campaign and achieve major transport infrastructure upgrades and investment by the State and Commonwealth governments.

**We want to make sure that access to sustainable transport options are easy, connected and safe for everyone across the municipality regardless of location or abilities.**



## A Leader in Local, Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

**The Greens have the ambition to reduce carbon emissions across Moreland by 100%. Council's own operations achieved zero emissions in 2012 and is now working to get the whole community's emissions to zero by 2040. The Zero Carbon Moreland – 2040 Framework sets out Council's vision for what a zero carbon Moreland by 2040 might look like:**

- Efficient and 100% renewably powered energy
- Active and zero emissions transport
- Circular economy with zero waste.

The Council's strategy is to reduce community carbon emissions by 22% by 2020 (Council will learn the outcome in early 2021). Now is the time to be even more ambitious. Investing in and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency is key to achieving a zero

carbon future. Council needs to be avoiding emissions rather than seeking to off-set them.

We will seek to ensure that strong social and environmental requirements are on all procurement contracts.

**The Greens on Council supported the development of the Zero Carbon Moreland Climate Emergency Action Plan with these 2025 targets.**

- Mobilising and campaigning to ensure the goals are being met.
- Energy transition goals taking the community and Council towards efficient and 100% renewably powered energy;
- Sustainable transport: towards active or zero emissions transport;
- Waste and consumption: towards a circular economy with zero waste.
- Monitoring and reporting (to Council in June annually) will demonstrate progress or otherwise.
- Effective advocacy to the federal and the Victorian governments will be essential to achieve the 2025 targets and the 2040 goals.

**Council's Energy Transition Community 2025 goals - include:**

- Doubling the amount of solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity across Moreland from 22MW (2019) up to 44MW;
- Responding to our community advocacy, the national Renewable Energy Target (RET) will be reset so that at least 80 per cent of Australia's electricity generation is happening by 2030;
- Responding to advocacy, by 2025 the Energy Efficiency provisions in the National Construction Code (NCC) will be updated to set an 8-Star Standard (from 6-Star) for thermal performance of a home;
- Average residential energy use in Moreland to be less than 4kWh per person per day, from current 4.8kWh/pp/day;

**Council 2025 targets – we will strive to deliver:**

- 11MW of solar PV installed through Council-supported initiatives and services since 2014 (in 2019 it was at 3.1MW);
- 15,000 'lifetime tonnes' of GHG emissions reduction (from 8,305 at early 2019) through Council-supported energy efficiency initiatives;
- With the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), has played a leading role in Victorian local government efforts towards zero carbon buildings via Planning Scheme standards, enforcement and advocacy;
- Pending external co-funding, our 'Cooling Communities'



initiative will have resulted in home upgrades (for thermal comfort and/or solar PV) for around 500 social housing or low-income households across Moreland, reducing exposure to energy poverty and extreme weather events;

- Continuing certification as 'Carbon Neutral' for its operations and buy all its electricity from Crowlands Windfarm a Melbourne Renewable Energy Project, a large scale renewable energy plant, established in 2018 with joint partners.

The ambitious community carbon emissions reduction target means the Greens will work to ensure adequate funding is provided in annual Council budgets. We will also ensure that adequate funding is provided to maintain carbon neutrality for Council's own operations with an emphasis on funding more renewable energy, while avoiding any reliance on off-sets.

**Community Renewable Energy Generation will be key to Moreland moving towards a zero carbon emissions future. We will work to continue to source all power from renewable sources, such as the Crowlands Wind Farm. We will work to phase out gas infrastructure as businesses and residents take up renewable options and advocate for piloting of 'all electric' homes and businesses.**

We will continue to support free electric charging stations for electric vehicles (EV), more charging hubs and to increase the number of EV's as part of the Council car fleet. The Greens will work towards 100% EV (or renewable fuel) vehicles within 5 to 10 years for Council vehicle fleet;

We also advocate in all new residential developments (houses and multi-units) the installation of electrical conduit to facilitate future installation of EV charging stations and, in so doing, avoid expensive retrofitting.

## Natural Landscapes and Biodiversity

**Moreland has many precious natural landscapes and parks. Along with providing important flora and fauna biodiversity, enhancing our natural environment will help make Moreland a greener, healthier place in which to live. Greens recognize the importance of natural environments for physical and mental health. Council's new Nature Plan has been developed to ensure all policies are aligned and to address any gaps.**

### **On Council the Greens will work to:**

- Institute measures to minimise the urban heat island effect;
- Fully implement the Urban Forest Strategy to ensure 5000 new tree plantings and their maintenance, in public each year, resulting in improved canopy cover, shading for footpaths and key pedestrian areas such as public transport terminals;
- Educate households to redress the increasing loss of tree canopy on private land;
- Ensure the tree canopy cover target of 29% by 2050 is reached, up from 14% in 2019;
- Improve the health of our waterways adjacent parks and riparian corridors to support biodiversity and recreation across Moreland;
- Improve indigenous flora and fauna and biodiversity across Moreland;
- Fund more new parks, prioritising geographic areas with the least access to open space;
- Create and nurture opportunities for urban agriculture in the city, including food forests and community garden spaces;
- Invest more resources in maintaining our street scape, nature strips and on street "cut outs";
- Encourage large green, garden walls including medium and high density buildings.





## Water Sensitive City

**One of the great challenges facing Australia in the climate emergency is our precious water supply. The Greens want Moreland to lead the way on developing a water sensitive city. Rainwater tanks and better treatment of storm water can help alleviate water concerns in our harsh summers.**

In our 2016-20 Council term the Greens sought a goal of 50% of Moreland households having an installed rainwater tank by 2020. However by 2017 it was evident that 37% of households had installed a rainwater tank and just 6% had installed a rain garden treatment. (Data on these two measures has not been gathered since).

Moreland's Achievements Watermap 2020 – Progress Review November 2019 noted that since the Moreland Planning Scheme Environmentally Sustainable Development provisions were adopted that 96% of development proposals have complied with the integrated water management requirements. This has resulted in the installation of 8.1 ML of rainwater tank volume across

Moreland, displacing 3 Olympic size swimming pool of drinking water per year.

### **Greens on Council will work towards:**

- Implementation of the Moonee Ponds Chain of Ponds plan and collaborating further with neighbouring councils in our water catchment management;
- Reducing the potable water used by Moreland households to 155 litres per day through collaborative projects and increased private water tank usage;
- Increased water sensitive urban design in medium and high density buildings;
- Ensuring more than 20% site permeability is adhered to in private developments as required under ResCode;
- Improved monitoring and reporting of the uptake by

Moreland households of water sensitive urban design treatments including on-lot storm water treatment, rain gardens and so on;

- Increasing urban tree resilience supported by active and passive irrigation systems;
- Reducing Council's mains water use through retrofits and upgrading irrigation systems;
- Building more wetlands, which will help contain natural water, reduce pollutants entering our waterways and provide environments for wildlife;
- A review of Victorian EPA performance and transparency in managing contaminants, monitoring, reporting, enforcement and community engagement;
- Establishing targets in catchment areas for the number of tree pits, rain gardens, wetlands, swales etc., to be installed across the municipality;
- Reduce erosion potential on-site during building works, by promoting sediment traps and diverting 'clean' stormwater around the disturbed site.

We will achieve this by ensuring that the implementation of the newly developed Integrated Water Strategy 2040 continues to support community actions to manage water resources responsibly and implement Water Sensitive Urban Design.

## A Zero Waste Culture

**All people have a right to a clean environment. How we deal with waste impacts on our environment and our standard of living. The Greens support the concept of a circular waste economy as distinct from a linear waste system, which leads to landfill. We want to collaborate with other councils to reduce, re-use, recycle and repair by utilising the best solutions to waste, recycling and sustainability.**



The Greens on Council will aim for 100% recycling by 2030 with a target of 80% by 2026. Not only do we need to reduce waste going to landfill and create awareness about reducing household waste going to landfill, which is 26 times more dangerous than CO2 emissions, we need to better manage landfills to reduce negative impacts on the environment and on local communities.

The Greens on Council will work to have the fourth (purple lid) bin for glass recycling introduced and plan for the introduction of a Container Deposit system in Victoria, as soon as practicable, with community input and household education.

Greens will also work to see improved communications at Council which promote and educate community members on actions taken to reduce, re-use, repair and recycle at it's venues and services.

**On Council the Greens will continue to push for stronger targets that significantly:**

- Increase composting rates across the municipality and providing every household with access to a weekly organics collection service;
- Increase resource recovery rates while reducing the overall per capita volume of waste and recycling collected; reduce illegal dumping;
- Protect our waterways with more litter traps and stormwater awareness programs;
- Reduce consumption of single use plastics through the implementation of the Plastic Wise Policy (adopted 2019);
- Provide more council services such as shared green waste bins in multi-unit developments and facilitate Body Corporate's and others to better manage the waste in these dwellings.
- Ensure actions in Moreland's Waste and Litter strategy are implemented in a timely way to meet the target of zero waste to landfill by 2030.
- Oppose the creation of fuels and/or incineration or pyrolysis of: municipal solid waste, hazardous, medical and any other mixed waste stream.

We will also work to trial a repair cafe. And trial a reusable nappy program and promote sustainable sanitary products for women.

**Council's Community 2025 goals include:**

- Increasing the proportion of Moreland households composting or worm farming (against 2020 levels);
- Increasing community-based 'share economy' groups/ initiatives (eg. tool libraries, food swaps, repair cafes, etc) Council 2025 targets:
- Council's food and garden organics waste service is

delivering 'best in class' outcomes in Victorian context

- Moreland businesses and commercial generators of food waste will have access to the required information and technologies and/or service options to responsibly manage their food and organic waste.
- Design and roll-out a municipal-wide food and garden organics kerbside service;
- Design and deliver extensive community education and behaviour change initiatives to maximise diversion of food and other organics from landfill;
- Foster tailored solutions for recycling of organic waste from medium and high-density residential developments;
- Facilitate solutions for food waste avoidance and organics recycling from food businesses (cafes/ restaurants, fresh food markets, food manufacturers etc) and other medium-scale organic waste generators;
- Promote future proofing in multi-unit dwellings to provide waste chutes for landfill, recycling, food waste/ organics and glass;
- Promote and foster waste minimisation and 'circular economy' principles within communities, businesses and schools; and
- Act to reduce Council's operational waste and the ecological footprint of Council's facilities and services.



## Better Public Transport, Cycling & Walking

**A good network of walking, cycling and public transport routes is essential for a connected and healthy city. Moreland is experiencing more and more traffic congestion as more people choose to live and visit here. Better public transport, cycling and safer walking infrastructure will help reduce congestion, pollution and make Moreland more liveable.**





## Walking is an Easy and Safe Transport Option

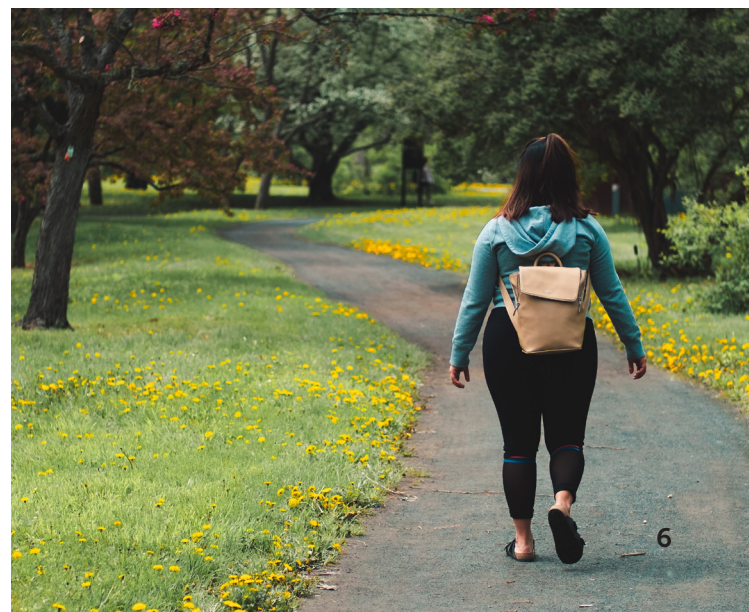
Walking is a very important mode of transport economically, socially and environmentally. Walking is a healthy alternative to driving, while pedestrians contribute significantly to supporting local businesses.

The Greens are committed to implementing the Ten Year Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects plan (2019) as part of the Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy (MITS) and continuing to increase its annual funding, at least by CPI.

### We will work to:

- Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists at intersections and on transport routes when Council makes decisions on road space redevelopment;
- Provide wider footpaths in high use areas, including Activity Centres;
- Establish Shared Zones (where pedestrians, cyclists and motorised traffic share the same road space);
- Make walking more enjoyable with improved shading, and surface types;
- Give priority to improving walking paths to meet disability compliance standards;
- provide adequate supporting infrastructure such as seating, shade and drinking fountains.
- Promote measures to make walking routes safer, improve comfort levels and maintain usage, which has increased significantly during the COVID 19 epidemic.
- Trial CO2 absorbing "green" cement and other products for footpaths where it is safe to do so.

The Greens will continue to advocate and support the revitalization of Sydney Road to make it more enjoyable and safer for cyclists and pedestrians, prioritise public transport and create a thriving shopping and dining precinct that is a place of destination rather than a thoroughfare for the community.



## Safer & Better Connected Cycling

**Cycling is a great way to get around. Moreland has a very active cycling culture, which the COVID 19 epidemic has starkly shown, and Council has a responsibility to ensure cycling is as safe and accessible as possible.**

The Greens have supported the increase in funding for cycleways to \$10/head annually. This will enable Council to implement the Ten Year Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects plan (2019) as part of the Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy (MITS) including:

- A Safe Bike Network with key bikeways into the city centre, and across Moreland, with separated bikes lanes, including Sydney Road;
- Establishing a bike 'superhighway', as proposed by the Victorian Greens, from St Kilda to Coburg linking with key east-west routes;
- Completing the upgrade and lighting of the Upfield bike path;
- Completing the new bike and pedestrian bridges across the Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek; filling in gaps on the Merri Creek trail;
- Improving bicycle parking across the city and at train stations;
- Continuing to ensure developers integrate adequate bicycle facilities into new dwellings.
- Getting the Craigieburn rail shared path and the Upfield Shared path missing links completed and delivered.

# Urban Agriculture and Food Production

**The Greens believe that we need to create a local, resilient and culturally appropriate food system across Moreland that supports access to affordable and nutritious food for everyone. We recognise too, the benefits for gardeners interacting in the natural world through growing and working with nature.**

Easy access to healthy food choices where people live, work and play is important to achieving and maintaining health and wellbeing, while increasing the sustainability of Moreland. We need policies and plans that articulate the importance of creating and maintaining a resilient and sustainable food system which address the growing issue of food insecurity for many families and households.

**The Greens on Council will champion the implementation of The Food Systems Strategy (Sept 2017) to promote social cohesion and that will:**

- Increase local economic development and employment opportunities through food focused businesses initiatives across Moreland including social enterprises;
- Increase access to affordable local or community produced food;
- Increase opportunities for people to participate in, learn about and care for the natural environment through local food growing activities, including urban agriculture.

# Sustainable, Integrated Transportation

**The Greens support transport planning decisions that favour public transport, and believe that public transport funding should be prioritised above road funding. All public transport should be accessible to enable all residents to live full active and independent lives.**

Public Transport is primarily a state government responsibility and they have been slow to invest in much needed extra services and improvements, such as accessible tram stops. However, Council has an

important role in advocating for better public transport services and facilities and can use some levers to effect change, including planning provisions and parking measures. The decisions that Council makes regarding sustainable, integrated transport work best, when coupled with investment in public transport by the state government. A collaborative effort will deliver better outcomes for everyone.

**The Greens will continue to advocate strongly for:**

- A safe, fast, frequent (24/7) and well connected public transport system;
- The duplication of the Upfield rail line beyond Gowrie, to facilitate service expansion;
- Appropriate measures to promote public safety during COVID 19 and a return to public transport;
- Trial high visibility digital speed signs like the "happy green face" for speed limit (or under) and "red unhappy face" for over speed limit (eg, Chapel Street, St Kilda, outside schools).
- Increased quantities of speed and red light cameras across high traffic intersections to improve the safety of all road users.
- Accessible tram stops along all routes for a fair and equitable service and to slow vehicle traffic; new tram stops to be sited to best serve users not car users;
- The extension of tram route 58 to Boundary Rd, Pascoe Vale and tram route 19 beyond Bakers Rd, Coburg North;
- Bus routes to be fully accessible;
- Improved services and service levels in the north of the city, with bus frequencies of 15 minutes (maximum) in the peak period and 30 minutes (maximum) in the off peak period;
- A Night Aight bus services Routes 530, 531 (Fawkner) and on Routes 542 (Roxburgh Park - Pascoe Vale) and 561 (Pascoe Vale - Macleod);
- Adequate seating, signs and lighting at all bus stops; more frequent bus services, that actually connect with train services and dedicated bus lanes, especially in the northern areas;
- Making public transport more accessible and free to all passengers up to 18 years of age.

As part of our advocacy we will ensure the Council continues it's active involvement in the Metropolitan Transport Forum, and will allocate resources to enable

The Greens on Council will work to provide support to community-based sustainable transport advocacy groups including the Moreland BUG, Walk on Moreland,



MCAT, etc, including free use of facilities for meeting purposes, assistance with printing and distribution of information and funding. We value community engagement and advocacy in achieving better transport options throughout the city.

Moreland's population has been growing at a fast rate. Parking and traffic congestion are significant concerns in parts of Moreland. Limited parking places can also cause problems for residents and businesses.

In order to support the transition towards a more sustainable transport plan for both Moreland and Melbourne, The Greens will work to put in place a number of key initiatives in consultation with the local community.

Parking restrictions, paid parking, car sharing, bike paths and frequent public transport can reduce car-usage and congestion. The Greens will also evaluate all road network expansion proposals for social and environmental benefits and costs against those of alternative public transport solutions.

We will also continue to support the development of local area traffic management plans that reduce traffic speeds and 'rat running' (the use of residential streets to avoid major roads) and aim to give right of way or priority to pedestrians and cyclists.

As we transition to reducing our reliance on cars, we will promote increased public transport usage, cycling and walking and advocate for infrastructure enhancements which support sustainable transport.



We will continue to encourage all significant development proposals to prepare green and sustainable transport plans as part of their application.

The Greens will also encourage reduced parking, including car-free options, in medium and high density developments, where residents choose not to own a car and where incentives and plans are provided to facilitate sustainable transport.



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

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