

# Making the Best Decision for Moreland.

Integrity, Transparency  
& Community  
Decision Making



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Moreland Greens Policies  
Updated July, 2020

**An independent and transparent local government, free of the influence, of vested interests and invested in consultative decision-making will make the best decisions for the Moreland community.**

**Local council has the power of affecting people's lives more personally than any other level of government. From delivering essential services like maternal and child health, street cleaning and waste collection, to creating environmentally-conscious neighbourhood spaces with safe walking and cycling paths, to celebrating the diversity of its constituents by ensuring equal opportunities for all - local government is essential in maintaining and improving the quality of life for its residents.**

Local government works best when the community is engaged and involved in decisions being made. The Greens support enabling the Moreland community to express their views, and the Council should facilitate inclusive and accessible opportunities for the community to directly participate in decisions on the social, economic and environmental future of Moreland.

The Greens believe civics education needs to feature more fully in everyone's life, beginning with young people in the education system. With the vision of creating more equal opportunities for civic engagement, the Greens believe in lowering the voting age from 18 to 16 years and ensuring people of all backgrounds are heard.

The Greens believe that the Council serves its residents best when it's decisions are representative of the diverse community that it serves.

Greens on Council strongly support proportional representation via multi member wards (ie, not single member wards) across all Councils to ensure that all members of the community have fairer access to the electoral process, especially marginalised groups including women and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

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.



# Increasing Community Involvement in Moreland Council.

**By creating and developing initiatives to allow for increased community involvement, local government can ensure it is meeting the needs of its community.**

**We will work towards increased involvement by:**

- Promoting the Moreland Initiative, whereby issues gathering the required support in an online environment must be debated by the council;
- Introducing the use of interactive platforms easily accessible to all constituents, to increase diverse engagement and enhance public participation in the setting of annual council budgets, target setting for new infrastructure projects and revenue raising measures;
- Improving pathways for community members to communicate with their Councillors;
- Mandating a period of public consultation for all new Council strategies;
- Promoting project-based working groups to help inform key Council strategic directions.

It is also important that all members of the community have the opportunity to be involved in Council. The Greens will advocate for more permanent residents and protection visa holders to be able to vote in council elections. We will also support a simplified online enrolment process for participating in local government elections. We will advocate for the voting age for local government elections to be reduced to 16 years of age to give young people more opportunity for their views and voices to be heard.



## Property & Planning

**Greens on Council will ensure planning decisions are transparent, access is given to plans, that residents voices are heard and all residents have the ability to contribute to better planning decisions through the Planning process (eg, in the planning and information discussion sessions). Greens on Council will seek to continually improve the planning scheme to improve livability outcomes for all members of the community.**

The Victorian Planning system is a complex and complicated process for many members of the community, especially for those that have not had experience in it. The Greens on Council are available to discuss and explain the system and how Moreland's Planning Scheme and associated documents (rules) apply in the different planning zones and overlays.





## Integrity

**Integrity is critical to well functioning government, at all levels. Democracy requires trust that representatives can stand up to corporate interests that conflict with the interests of the community – people must have faith in those that represent them.**

Ensuring social, environmental and fair neighbourhoods means the Greens will stand up to vested interest from property developers and corporations that carry a potential negative impact on the Moreland community.

The Greens do not take political donations or other forms of support from property developers and the gambling industry – and believe that this standard should apply to all councillors. All donations to the Greens over \$1000 are subject to ethical review and are publicly available. We will continue to advocate for political donation reform.

The Greens also believe that all voters should know the party affiliation of candidates and that this be listed on ballot papers.

## Transparency

**A key pillar of democracy is the free flow of information between the community and government, including at the local level.**

Greens on the Moreland Council will always advocate for strong freedom of association policies and action. We will seek to ensure the Council administration releases information to the community in an easily accessible location and format that can easily be understood by all members of the community.

We are committed to developing the online presence of the Moreland council, and ensuring that transparency is guaranteed through making Council agendas and meeting minutes publicly available.

# Data, Security & Representation

**As we embark on the technology age, people's data and rights to personal information integrity is increasingly at risk from government intervention.**

In preserving integrity and transparency, the Greens believe that people's private information and data should not be accessible to government scrutiny without prior consent for the use of data mining, sale, or superfluous analytical purposes. The Greens also call for universal access to the internet for residents - including making computers with online access available at libraries.

The Greens also believe that security of our community, particularly in public spaces, is incredibly important. Though security cameras have been installed throughout Moreland, it is not a preventative measure. The Greens believe in developing effective preventive initiatives that can keep Moreland safe, particularly at night.

The Greens believe in an accurate and fair online representation of communities, individuals and groups. Misleading, derogatory or discriminatory representation of people, particularly those that are historically marginalized will not be tolerated. The Greens carry this belief into their own social media presence, and encourage other political parties and participants to do the same.

## Councillor's Responsibilities

**The Greens candidates for Moreland Council are committed to representing the views of their constituents and fulfilling their responsibilities on Council with the utmost diligence and ethics.**



Prior to 2016, Moreland Council meetings recorded a low rate of attendance. The Greens will aim to attend all meetings and briefings, making sure to present the community's opinions and views. The Greens will also take part in committee and working groups on council as part of our responsibilities in the role of councillor and ensure the transparent online reporting of attendance of all Councillors at these meetings.

The Planning and Related Matters Committee (PARM) is currently formed to include all Councillors as members of this committee. Prior to the 2016-20 Council it was made up of just a handful of Councillors. This ensures that all Councillors share in the outcomes of their decisions.



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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:**

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