

The Greens' position on Kensington Banks

Greens on Council have followed the State Government response to the October 2022 Maribyrnong River flood closely, and considered the role of the City of Melbourne carefully. This culminated in [a motion to Council on 13 August 2024](#), which was supported unanimously by all councillors. This position of Council aligns with the interests of Kensington Banks residents, and residents in the broader Maribyrnong river catchment, by taking a catchment-wide approach to flood mitigation and any required changes to planning schemes, and by giving the Council a freer hand to scrutinise, rather than only defend, the flood modelling and mapping that has been prepared by Melbourne Water.

We are angered by the inefficiency and expense involved in requiring individual home owners to each procure their own advice on how to translate Melbourne Water's flood modelling to property-specific levels. We are concerned about the fragmented governance of flood planning and mitigation infrastructure and will advocate strongly for Melbourne Water to be fully resourced to acquit all of its functions. We are dismayed by the inability of Government to provide clear and accessible explanations for the effect of the Racecourse flood wall on flooding upstream and downstream. And we are embarrassed by the lack of focus by candidates in this council election campaign on planning for a climate resilient future, especially given the population of the City of Melbourne is expected to double within 25 years.

Council has increased its open space acquisition and upgrade program in recent years but must continue to do more. The Greens have led the way in procuring land in Kensington for new open space, and prepared for more, with [a vote expected by March 2025](#) to bring forward the purchase and upgrade of land abutting the Moonee Ponds Creek, currently held by VicTrack. We have [brought together community groups to improve advocacy to the State](#) for implementing flood-resilient public open space in urban renewal areas, and we have budgeted and planned for new flood-mitigating open space inside Council's own urban renewal areas. We will continue to advocate strongly to the state and federal governments to fund appropriate and adequate flood mitigation works for the Moonee Ponds and Maribyrnong catchments

The Greens will not be distracted by short term operational expenditure on new and unaffordable events and programs of the type being promised by other candidates in this election. We know that floodwaters do not respect municipal boundaries, and that the City lies at the mouths of three significant water catchments, each of which will continue to experience increased runoff from upstream urbanisation. In terms of preservation of human life and health, flood mitigation and planning is the most important work that the City undertakes. And for that reason, we will continue to expand Council's capital works program to maintain and renew local drainage, pump stations and open space, and build new flood-mitigating public open space at scale, preparing our city for climate-resilience.

Roxane Ingleton

Lord Mayor Candidate for The Greens

Fri, 18 October 2024



VOTE 1

ROXANE INGLETON

**FOR LORD MAYOR
MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL**

I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Country on which the City of Melbourne electorate is located, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People of the Kulin nation.

Authorised by M. Shield, L1/50 Queen Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

THE GREENS