



## The Greens' response to Melbourne South Yarra Group questionnaire

4 October 2020

Dear Melbourne-side South Yarra residents,

On behalf of the entire Greens team, made up of 8 candidates who all live in the City of Melbourne, I am delighted to answer your questions.

You asked:

*Have you, or will you, accept donations for the coming election from:*  
*(a) property developers or their representatives,*  
*(b) those involved in a liquor or gaming business?*

We have never accepted donations from property developers or their representatives, from those involved in liquor or gaming businesses, and we never will.

We believe that donations to councillors and council candidates from all persons with an interest in property development, liquor and gaming should be banned outright.

One only needs to look at the Casey City Council experience, or the inability of the City of Melbourne to adopt a planning scheme amendment to update the City of Melbourne's local gaming policy, to show the toxic influence of developer and gambling donations on public policy.

You asked:

*No later than 16th October will you publish details of all donations received by or promised to you in Dockland News/CBD News/Southbank News using their email address – [admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au](mailto:admin@hyperlocalnews.com.au).*

We have been updating our donations on our own website every four days since we launched our campaign. We also instantly provide these updates to *Hyperlocal News*. We appear to be the only team to be self-publishing our campaign donations and disclosing our total campaign revenue, including donations below the disclosure threshold.

Our disclosures are at <https://melbournecitygreens.com/campaignfinance/>

We will continue to advocate for donations reform including the requirement for dynamic pre-election donations disclosure on all candidates running for election.

You asked:

*What will you do to keep residents better informed and their interests protected?*

We are proud of our track record of improving resident access and influence on Council decisions, particularly in planning and heritage.

Cr Rohan Leppert commissioned the South Yarra Heritage Review, which is currently underway, and he ensured that the Melbourne South Yarra Group had early access to understand and influence the scope of the project and the consultant's work.

When Heritage Victoria refused Council's plans for refurbished sports facilities and a new Pasley Street North entrance to Fawkner Park, we accepted the umpire's decision and went further: Cr Rohan Leppert commissioned a full review of the way Council manages parks that have been added to the State heritage register within the last decade. Clearly Council can do better, and draw on the expertise and knowledge of local residents.

We will continue to seek to improve engagement with residents: major policy decisions can't be put on the Council agenda with only five days' notice; they require a serious community consultation plan. We also need a Lord Mayor and Councillors who are prepared to have difficult conversations with the State Government and its agencies to ensure that community interests are respected: we can do better on Metro Tunnel disruption, Domain Road shopping strip support, and notice for on-street infrastructure works.

But most of all we encourage South Yarra residents to ask: who lives in the City of Melbourne, and who will work hard for residents? All of our Greens candidates are residents of the City of Melbourne. No other team running both a Leadership and Councillor ticket can say that.

A vote for The Greens means a vote for hard-working, honest, accountable local residents. We will fight every day for the interests of residents. Together we can plan and secure a better future – for the people who live here.

You can see our full plan for South Yarra and the City of Melbourne, and contact me and our local resident candidates, at [www.melbournecitygreens.com](http://www.melbournecitygreens.com).

Best wishes,



Apsara Sabaratnam  
Lord Mayor candidate  
The Greens