



The Greens' response to Parkville residents' questions on Royal Park

12 October 2020

Dear Parkville residents,

Thank you for the opportunity to set out our position on Royal Park and the East West Link. I am responding on behalf of all eight Greens candidates.

Our track record

It was The Greens on Council that shifted Council's position on the East West Link in 2013 despite the Doyle and non-resident majority on Council. We achieved a slim 1 vote majority and, while we could not compel any change in Lord Mayor's individual advocacy position, we ensured that the City of Melbourne's position was in opposition to the East West Link as then proposed.¹

This was critical in ensuring that Council committed resources to exposing the flaws of the project, and the destruction of Royal Park, during the Comprehensive Impact Statement process.

Before and after this time The Greens have been the strongest defenders of Royal Park, and are relentless campaigners for the protection of our prized public open space.



"Rohan has made protecting Royal Park a high priority on Council. More than any other councillor he has continued to protect and enhance our parklands and open spaces."

Kaye Oddie
Secretary, Friends of Royal Park, Parkville

¹ <https://melbournecitygreens.com/2013/08/27/greens-shift-city-of-melbourne-stance-on-east-west-link/>

As chair of the Environment Committee, Cr Cathy Oke has launched the new wildflower meadows project, the new 150,000 plants program, various citizen science programs in Royal Park, and has championed protection for our significant trees.

As chair of the Heritage Committee, I have supported Royal Park's inclusion on the State Heritage Register, instigated a review into the City of Melbourne's management of land on the register to improve management practices and outcomes, commissioned corrections to zoning errors on the periphery of the park to better reflect and protect the land use (including ensuring that the old Children's Hospital site is rezoned to Public Park and Recreation Zone), and assisted the Royal Park Protection Group and Friends of Royal Park on a broad range of issues and concerns.

You will not find stronger champions for Royal Park than your Greens councillors.

Our plan

You may have received a letter from us, including "our plan for Parkville". It includes a link through to our website with more detailed information. The direct link is:

<https://melbournecitygreens.com/parkville/>

Just as we have always promised, and just as we will always promise, our plan includes this commitment:

We will fight off any future East West Link just like we have done as part of a multi-faceted community campaign in the past.

It also includes this pledge:

We will protect Royal Park. We will ensure that the new Royal Park Masterplan is an honest and transparent process, based on community consultation, citizen science, established benefits (remnant native vegetation retention, 'dark park' principles for biodiversity and heritage values) and expert input.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or your Greens candidates to discuss Royal Park or the issues facing Parkville at any time.

Best wishes,



Cr Rohan Leppert
Lead Greens Councillor candidate
Rohan.Leppert@vic.greens.org.au