

social justice, ecological wisdom, grassroots democracy, peace and disarmament

The Greens and Moreland City Council 2008-2012

POLICY STATEMENT



Rescue the future...

Moreland Greens

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Introduction

The Greens have been represented on Moreland City Council since 2002 when Fraser Brindley was elected to Lygon Ward. The Council moved to proportional representation and 3 multi-member wards for the 2004 elections. The Greens successfully stood two candidates: Jo Connellan in the South Ward and Andrea Sharam in the North East Ward. During this six and half year period the Greens Councillors have brought knowledge and skill to Council in the areas of land use planning and transport, economic development, social policy, housing, public administration and environment. For the 2008-2012 Council term, six candidates are contesting the election – two in each ward. For the first time all Moreland residents can vote Green.

Context¹

The policies of the Greens in Moreland reflect and are consistent with the policies adopted at the Federal (<http://greens.org.au/>) and State (<http://www.vic.greens.org.au/>) levels of government. Within Victoria, all Greens candidates have adopted a common policy that is applicable to all Councils. Each branch or region has taken that common policy, added to it to reflect the particular aspirations of their municipality, and adopted it as the Policy Statement for their Council. This Policy Statement was developed and adopted by the Moreland Greens in October 2008.

Greens Values and the challenges ahead for the City of Moreland

The Greens believe in a society where equity, equality and diversity are essential qualities. Local government is a significant investor in social and physical capital. The Greens will work to ensure that Councils' works, programs and services are efficient, effective and accessible to all.

Like most local government around Australia, Moreland has a very significant backlog of infrastructure needs. Many of our assets - pools, maternal health centres, libraries, sporting facilities, parks, storm water drainage systems – are aging and now need to be renewed

Population decline in Moreland has reversed, with an additional 8,000 people resident since 2001. Moreland has a high very aged population (85+) and a recent baby boom. This means there is high demand on services and facilities.

Economic restructuring has left Moreland without many of its traditional industries and highly dependent of households for rates. Because the State and Federal government have continually 'cost-shifted' onto local government, there is increasing pressure on the rate base to provide the services that are needed. As rates are a highly inequitable method of generating revenue, it is critical that Moreland grows its commercial and retail base. This is essential in order to relieve the rate burden on households and to provide local jobs; and that cost-shifting from other levels of government is reversed and Council receive a fair share of the national taxation income.

The Greens are committed to inter-generational equity and accordingly support manageable levels of borrowing to provide for long-lived capital works. The Greens do not support 'Public Private Partnerships' as a means of financing infrastructure projects. The Greens will use differential rates and Special Rates Schemes where appropriate to achieve enhanced economic, social and environmental outcomes.

¹ All current Council policies, strategies and action plans cited in this document are listed in italics (eg *Climate Action Plan 2007-2012*) and can be found at http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/about-council/news-and-media/publications/home_policies-and-strategies.html

POLICIES

Care for the Earth

Policy Statement

The Greens, in partnership with the community, will work to make Moreland an ecologically sustainable municipality.

For the term of the next Council (2008-2012), an ecologically sustainable municipality is only possible if urgent attention is given to addressing the implications of climate change and peak oil, and our main focus will be on implementing appropriate actions and strategies at the local level to achieve this.

The Greens will also continue to work towards ensuring appropriate policies and actions are implemented on water and energy conservation, landscaping and open space management, waste reduction and sustainable transport.

Principles

The Greens believe that:

- ❑ climate change is real, urgent and the greatest threat facing the global environment at the beginning of the 21st century;
- ❑ the precautionary principle must be adopted in order to secure the continued availability of the resources of the planet for present and future generations; and
- ❑ human society depends upon the ecological resources of the planet, and we therefore must protect and maintain the integrity of its ecosystems.

Actions

Climate Change

The Greens base all Climate Change action on constraining global warming to less than 2 degrees².

The Greens on Council will:

- Revise the current *Climate Action Plan 2007–2101* to ensure:
 - ❑ Council is carbon neutral by 2012; and
 - ❑ Moreland is carbon neutral by 2020.
- Continue support of the International Cities for Climate Protection Initiative (ICLEI) program.

Peak Oil

The impacts of peak oil will require significant planning to avoid social and economic disruption. Oil is an important ingredient in many of the things we use daily - asphalt, service pipes, computers, plastics and, of course, transport.

The Greens on Council will:

- Support the development of a Moreland Peak Oil Strategy aimed at:
 - ❑ addressing the implications of peak oil for Council operations; and

² 2 degrees above pre industrial levels.

- providing recommendations on reducing Council's oil dependence by June 2009.
- Continue to support and be actively engaged on the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) peak oil-working group.
- Provide information and advice to residents on the issue.
- Review the *Road Asset Management Plan* to reflect the need to prioritise roads according to their importance in meeting public transport (bus) needs, sustainable transport (cycling) needs and essential freight routes, and adjust the depreciation schedules and budget allocations accordingly.
- Develop a policy on the purchase or construction of new publicly-owned car parks that reflect the need to be encouraging the long term modal shift to public transport.

Sustainable Transport

Sustainable transport, which means giving priority to walking, cycling and public transport, is critical in adapting to both a carbon and oil constrained future. Access to these options should be available equally across the city, which is not currently the case.

The Greens on Council will:

Bicycles

- Revise and update the *Moreland Bicycle Plan* to include:
 - continuation of the creation of safe bicycle lanes on roads including the realignment and separation of lanes where applicable;
 - enlarging the bicycle network, including the provision of more effective east west links in both the north and south of the municipality;
 - separate cyclists and pedestrians to improve safety on the busiest cycle

- lanes including the use of rumble strips and green painted lanes;
- provide on road facilities on major north south routes;
- providing multiple bicycle parking at high use areas such as schools, shopping centres, sports grounds and facilities and medium density housing developments;
- advocating for long stay secure parking lockers at all railway stations and major public transport stops;
- continuing to ensure developers integrate bicycle facilities into new developments;
- completion of the Upfield and Merri Creek paths to the Western ring road;
- upgrading of all off road paths; and
- implementation of the outstanding Principle Bicycle Network actions.

Walking

- Develop and implement a Moreland Pedestrian Strategy to include:
 - walking as a viable option across the city, with priority to improving footpaths to key activity places such as schools, sports facilities and retail areas;
 - making all cross-overs pram and wheel chair accessible;
 - adequate supporting infrastructure such as seats and drinking fountains; and
 - right of way for pedestrians where possible and appropriate.

Roads and reduction of car use

- Oppose any plans for new freeways including the proposed east west tunnel, or expanding the capacity of existing freeways.
- Increase the level of car sharing available, particularly in the northern section of the city.

- Encourage developers to consider car sharing within new developments, particularly mixed-use developments, to reduce the need for car parking provision.
- Develop and implement a planning scheme amendment by 2010 that will incorporate the Councils Parking Strategy into the planning scheme.
- Implement the installation of parking meters across the major retail centres by 2012.
- Introduce parking fees across all Council carparks by 2012.
- Require all significant development proposals to prepare a green travel plan as part of their application, which will demonstrate measures that will reduce car usage.
- Continue to support the development of local area traffic management plans that reduce traffic speeds and 'rat running'³, and give right of way or priority to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Complete all the current approved local area traffic management schemes by June 2010.
- Adjust traffic signal phases on all roads Council owns to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists, and advocate for a similar adjustment on roads managed by Vicroads.
- Support home delivery services, including assisting trader associations to establish retail centre based schemes that will enable more people to avoid car use for shopping trips.

- Abolish the Mayoral car, with the Mayor accessing a pool car if alternatives (eg public transport) are not feasible.

Public Transport

- Support by advocacy, and implementation where recommendations are within Council's responsibilities, the recommendations of ***The People Plan*** (details www.thepeopleplan.org.au).
- Advocate for a safe, fast, frequent (24/7) and well connected public transport system, with major investment in the next 2-5 years.
- Advocate in particular for improved services and service levels in the north of the city.
- Advocate for 'at grade'⁴ tram stops to increase accessibility and to slow traffic.
- Advocate for new tram stops to be sited to best serve users not cars.
- Ensure adequate seating, signs and lighting at all bus stops.
- Support dedicated bus lanes.

Council practices

- Encourage Council salary packages that give preference to non-polluting and low-polluting transport modes.
- Encourage staff to use bicycles and public transport, both for council purposes and for private use, for example through bulk purchases by Council of bicycles and annual public transport tickets supported by 12-month discounted payback scheme.
- Reduce vehicle use by Council.

³ Rat running – the use of local streets by commuters to avoid congestion on major roads.

⁴ At grade- the tram stop and tram floor are at the same level ie no steps, so better suited to elderly and less able.

- Introduce parking fees for parking around Council offices.
- Train Council staff to drive so that fuel efficiency is maximised.
- Undertake a staged conversion of Council's fleet to low pollution/no pollution technology and fuel types.

Advocacy and Community support

- Continue active involvement in the Metropolitan Transport Forum, including allocation of a portion of officer time to enable the active involvement to be maintained.
- Provide support to any community-based sustainable transport advocacy group including free use of facilities for meeting purposes, assistance with printing and distribution of information and funding.

Water Conservation and Management

The reduced rainfall in the last decade or so is predicted to become the normal rainfall pattern of the future. Water use must include the most efficient use of all water, including stormwater and recycled water. The widespread use of water tanks on both residential and other buildings is an efficient, low energy approach to harvesting water with the added benefit of helping to reduce storm surges and flooding.

The Greens on Council will:

- Revise the current *Watershed Strategy* to:
 - ❑ plan for the whole water cycle, including stormwater management;
 - ❑ include waste water recycling and the use of stormwater for open space watering⁵;
 - ❑ continue to advocate for the widespread use of rainwater tanks;

- ❑ include an increase in the percentage of Councils own water use that is not sourced from the mains, while reducing the total amount of water used from all sources;
- ❑ complete the conversion of all sports fields to warm seasons grasses by 2012; and
- ❑ include installation of 2 wetlands, at major creek discharge points, as natural filtration systems for stormwater discharge by 2012.

- Revise the *Street Landscaping Strategy 2004-2009* to ensure indigenous plants, not native or exotic species, are used in all new plantings.
- Trial a community development approach to flood management in a sub catchment area by Dec 2009, and develop a strategy for implementing that approach across the remainder of the municipality by 2012.

Energy Conservation

Reducing energy use is one of the most effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and it also reduces Councils operating expenses.

The Greens on Council will:

- Complete the replacement of all electric hot water systems in Council buildings with solar hot water systems by 2010.
- Implement an energy demand management plan, using real time communications that are capable of interval metering to reduce energy consumption in Council buildings and to shift demand from times of peak pricing.
- Replace all Council owned lights with solar lights.

⁵ Stormwater capture needs to be limited to that which is excess to environmental needs.

- Install skylights where possible in Council buildings to increase the amount of natural lighting, and reduce lighting energy use.
- Support the conversion of non-Council owned street lighting to the most energy efficient option available at each changeover of globes.
- Continue to support the purchase of 100% Greenpower for all Council operations.
- Require all new developments to be connected to reticulated gas.
- Continue to promote the use of solar hot water systems.

Reducing Waste and Consumption

Many waste and pollution issues are the result, directly or indirectly, of over consumption and/or the consumption of single use items. Waste to landfill also generates greenhouse gas emissions. Waste reduction results in reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, more efficient use of resources and cost savings for both households and Council.

The Greens on Council will:

- Implement conservation measures aimed at reducing resource usage including:
 - ❑ creating a sustainability advisory service for residents, businesses and developers;
 - ❑ reviewing Council's purchasing policy to reflect enhanced resource conservation outcomes;
 - ❑ reusing or recycling existing buildings where possible, and where not possible, recycling the materials during the demolition process; and
 - ❑ supporting the existing policy of multiuse buildings that reduce

the total number of buildings to be constructed and maintained, while increasing the use of all facilities.

- Support the goal of zero waste to landfill.
- Advocate for Extended Product Responsibility to shift waste costs to producers and consumers.
- Improve recycling services to medium and higher density developments.
- Install recycling bins next to waste bins in all retail centres.
- Establish deposit points (and regular collection, if financially viable) for household hazardous wastes (i.e. batteries paints etc).
- Work with retailers to remove single-use plastic bags with the aim of being plastic bag free by 2012.
- Establish regional/municipal re-use centres.
- Advocate for container deposit legislation⁶ as used in South Australia.
- Construct one new litter trap per year.

Built environment – Urban Planning and Building

The Greens support the broad objectives of Melbourne 2030 (M2030) including increased density in major activity centres to address the issue of population pressure and urban sprawl, and to maximise the use of existing underutilised physical and social infrastructure. However the Greens are critical of the lack of adequate State Government statutory planning provisions to give effect to quality, sustainable

⁶ See further, <http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/cdl.html>

development, and to the lack of new public transport infrastructure and service upgrades needed to support increased densities. These State Government deficiencies seriously impacts upon the ability of M2030 to deliver real benefits.

The Greens on Council will:

- Continue to support M2030 and the current Moreland Planning Scheme while seeking to ensure it is implemented in a way that:
 - ❑ improves, or at least has minimal impact on, neighborhood amenity and character;
 - ❑ produces developments that are of the highest possible standard in terms of environmental sustainability;
 - ❑ respects the solar access of neighbouring properties;
 - ❑ respects the built and natural heritage;
 - ❑ increases the provision of open space; and
 - ❑ ensures a high standard of permeability.
- Continue to actively support the Coburg Initiative including completion of the planning scheme amendment by the end of 2010.
- Develop an implementation plan for the Glenroy Structure Plan, giving priority to undergrounding the rail line which will enable the centre to develop its full potential, including completion of the planning scheme amendment by the end of 2010.
- Develop an implementation plan for the Brunswick Structure Plan, including a priority list of actions with associated timeframes, including completion of the planning scheme amendment by the end of 2012.
- Review the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) by Dec 2009 that will include
 - ❑ higher Environmentally Sustainability Development (ESD) provision;
 - ❑ social and affordable housing investment targets;
 - ❑ provision of high quality open space; and
 - ❑ universal disability access.
- Undertake a study into the development of the airspace in carparks within Brunswick, including developing a priority list for development and a commitment to maximising public and affordable housing outcomes, by June 2009.
- Commence implementation of airspace development by 2010, with revenue raised to be directed to Councils capital works program, including the implementation of the Aquatic Strategy.
- Develop and maintain a register of accessible buildings.
- Seek to have all carparks constructed within multiunit dwellings, at ground level or above, to be constructed to a height that will enable their later conversion to habitable rooms.
- Strengthen the planning controls to maintain industrial and commercial areas by undertaking the planning scheme amendment work necessary to put the Moreland Industrial Land Use Strategy (MILUS) into the planning scheme by 2012.
- Undertake additional heritage studies for the area north of Bell Street to complete the research necessary to commence the preparation of a planning scheme amendment by 2010.
- Prepare a planning scheme amendment to ensure adequate heritage protection is

contained in the Moreland Planning Scheme by 2012.

- Prepare a planning scheme amendment that will provide limits to on street parking by December 2009.
- Encourage car free developments after the necessary planning scheme amendment is complete.
- Incorporate the remnant vegetation study into the planning scheme

Built environment – Asset management

Council built assets include:

- ❑ **Services** - roads, footpaths, stormwater drains;
- ❑ **Buildings** - pavilions, civic buildings, maternal and child health centres and neighbourhood houses;
- ❑ **Street furniture** – street lights, seats, signage, parking meters; and
- ❑ **Facilities** – aquatic centres, art galleries.

Maintaining, upgrading and renewing built assets is one of the most significant challenges that all local government faces, and particularly an older municipality like Moreland where many of its assets are at or near the end of their useful life.

The Greens on Council will:

- Develop and adopt clear guidelines for maximising the extent of permeable surfaces in all road reconstruction works, including narrowing road pavements, increasing the width of nature strips and planting trees in the road.
- Prioritise expenditure on footpaths and bike paths.
- Ensure that capital works expenditure keeps pace with depreciation, as a minimum.

- Continue to support the approach of multipurpose facilities rather than single use facilities for all building replacement works.

Natural Environment/Landscape

The natural environment is essential for health and well-being, as well as sustainability. In highly urbanised areas like Moreland, the natural environment, both public and private, is limited in scope and under constant pressure. Greening and better use of all public spaces, not just parks, will be necessary to meet the current and future needs of residents for access to and enjoyment of quality open spaces.

The Greens on Council will:

- Complete the Open Space Planning Scheme Amendment by June 2009.
- Maintain the existing open space and support the purchase of additional areas for open space when opportunities arise.
- Provide more supporting facilities such as bar-b-ques, seats and toilets to encourage greater use of all parks.
- Revise the *Moreland Open Space Strategy* to include:
 - ❑ the open space requirements identified in the Coburg, Brunswick and Glenroy structure planning processes, including high quality urban design;
 - ❑ an ongoing commitment to the provision and maintenance of a minimum level of public open per person based on proximity and population density;
 - ❑ a more active promotion and encouragement of the health benefits of open space;
 - ❑ enhancement of the existing green links along all the creeks, and the creation of green links along some

- of the main east west links and the Upfield railway line; and
 - ❑ reflection of the permanently reduced rainfall scenario.
- Establish a voluntary significant tree registry.
- Preserve existing natural assets, including all street trees.
- Promote training that will ensure all parks staff are skilled in indigenous plant identification, care and maintenance.
- Ensure greener and more permeable streetscapes, including reducing road pavements and planting trees within the roadway in streets with narrow footpaths.
- Establish standards for permeability in the design of all road reconstruction works.
- Review the *Herbicide Use Policy* to include:
 - ❑ consideration of alternatives to broad – spectrum herbicides and pesticides in parks, gardens and streetscapes; and
 - ❑ trialing the use of goats in the steep open space areas of the municipality, and in laneways.
- Support community planting days, and existing friends groups.
- Review the *Street Landscape Strategy*, including a review of current planting practices.
- Develop a wildlife policy.
- Support the vegetation controls in the Planning Scheme.
- Continue to support organisations who undertake the protection and restoration of the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks and local tributaries.

- Support the protection and restoration of the Merlynston and Edgars Creeks and local tributaries.
- Advocate for all the Edgars Creek parkland to be gifted to the Council.
- Increase the annual investment in open space maintenance and capital works, including the completion of the following within the term of the Council:
 - ❑ Masterplan for the Brunswick Central Parklands complete including implementation of all works at Gillon Oval and precincts as a minimum;
 - ❑ Complete the redevelopment of Harmony Park; and
 - ❑ CB Smith Reserve.

Animal Management

Companion animals provide many benefits to residents including well-documented health benefits. Most residents are responsible pet owners, but the management of lost and feral animals requires ongoing action if the problem is to be resolved.

The Greens on Council will:

- Continue to support the subsidy in registration fees for desexed animals.
- Promote the adoption of unclaimed animals from pounds.
- Support the development of adequately funded programs of 'no-kill' shelters.

Care for People

Policy Statement

The Greens believe in equity, equality and diversity, and will work to ensure that Council services are efficient, effective and accessible to all.

Principles

The Greens believe that:

- ❑ a socially just, democratic and sustainable society rests on the provision of a guaranteed adequate income for all its citizens;
- ❑ everyone has the right to access adequate resources to allow them to fully participate in society;
- ❑ everyone should have access to social services when they need them;
- ❑ every Australian has the right to access good quality health care, housing and income support; and
- ❑ community not-for-profit organisations fulfil an important role in the provision of social services and must be supported and funded accordingly.

Actions

Community

Strong, cohesive and safe communities are based on recognition of the rights of all, and respect for diversity. The diversity of Australians' cultural backgrounds greatly enriches our society and is to be celebrated. All residents, regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion, language or place of birth, have equal rights economically, socially and culturally.

The Greens on Council will:

- Continue to support practices and policies that seek to maintain a cohesive, respectful and accepting community.
- Continue to support the dissemination of information on Council services in various languages.
- Support Neighbourhood Houses, including prioritising the redevelopment of the Brunswick and Sussex Street Houses to enable a more efficient and far reaching service.

The First Australians

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a right to self-determination and political representation, and must be partners in the development and implementation of public policies, programs and services that affect them. They should have the same life expectancy and living standards as other Australians.

The Greens on Council will:

- Support the policy of acknowledgement of traditional owners at all public gatherings.
- Implement the *Reconciliation Policy and Action Plan*
- Support community based groups that aim to promote awareness of, and address, indigenous issues.

Children

All children should have access to the resources and opportunities necessary for a

full and healthy life including the right to access appropriate services regardless of location. Children have the right to a loving and nurturing environment free of physical, emotional and sexual abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination.

The Greens on Council will:

- Work to remove barriers that restrict access to affordable childcare services.
- Work to secure sites for childcare facilities.
- Support community managed children's services.
- Encourage nurses into maternal health to address staff shortages for example by offering cadetships.
- Work with local businesses to establish childcare places to help overcome labour shortages.

Young People

All young people should have access to the resources and opportunities necessary for a full and healthy life including the right to access appropriated services regardless of location. Young people must have greater opportunities to participate in decision-making affecting their lives.

The Greens on Council will:

- Establish a Youth Council, made up of members between 12 and 18, to lead the review of the Youth Strategy.
- Develop a young leaders program.
- Continue Council's membership of Apprenticeship Plus.
- Continue and expand Council's employment of apprentices across the organisation.

- Advocate for quality local public secondary education.

Older People

Older people have the right to live with dignity, to participate in the social, economic and political aspects of life, to maintain their independence to whatever degree they feel able and to have access to high quality appropriate health and aged care services regardless of income. The skills and life experiences of older people are a benefit for the whole community.

The Greens on Council will:

- Advocate for 100% state and federal funding of Home and Community Care (HACC) services⁷ (such as meals-on-wheels and home care) including a change to the funding formula to ensure the 'very old' (over 85yo) services receive funding that is appropriate to their increasing needs.
- Advocate to ensure a range of affordable and secure accommodation options for older people, including public housing, is available.
- Improve and extend access to the Community Transport Services⁸, including access for resident shopping.
- Prepare a pedestrian strategy that improves the amenity and safety of walking routes to key destinations.
- Prepare an information brochure detailing the costs and benefits of deferred payment of rates by pensioners to enable the burden of rates to be borne by the children of pensioners who will be the main beneficiaries of the asset.

⁷ Home and Community Care packages.

⁸ Eg special council run bus services

- Install free electric vehicle (gopher) re-charge points at major retail centers powered by renewable energy sources.

Women

Women have the right to equal respect, responsibility and rewards in society, including participation in decision –making processes in all areas of political, social, intellectual and economic endeavor. Women have the right to freedom from violence, to have their unpaid caring responsibilities acknowledged and properly valued, and to make informed and supported choices in all aspects of their lives.

The Greens on Council will:

- Continue to support and implement the *Addressing Family Violence in Moreland 2006-2009* Policy.
- Support initiatives aimed at gender equity in political representation, employment and management within local government.
- Actively support the participation of all women in sport and recreation.
- Honour the commitments made as a signatory of the Women's Health in the North Commitment Statement.

Sport and Recreation

Sport and physical recreation are essential elements of the culture of many Australians, and are necessary for the maintenance of good mental and physical health.

Participation in sport plays an important role in the development of social, organisational and community building skills. Community - based sporting clubs and associations are an integral part of our society. Passive and unstructured activities are equally important for general health and wellbeing.

The Greens on Council will:

- Promote recreational activities, both active and passive, to all sections of the community.
- Continue to support shared funding and responsibility for sporting facilities based within school grounds, and availability for community use outside school hours.
- Provide improved facilities for women involved in community-based sports clubs.
- Provide an additional 6 netball courts within Moreland by 2012.
- Ensure that sporting facilities cater equally to males and females.
- Support discounting fees and/or charges where clubs meet Council's social inclusion policies.
- Invest in facilities to address historical imbalances in the provision of male-dominated sports and women's sports, e.g. netballs courts.
- Support access to swimming pools through Equal Opportunity exemptions where there is demand for service.
- Support clubs that retrofit facilities for drought conditions and longer-term environmental sustainability.
- Ensure minimum provision of passive open space, and actively promoting the physical and mental health benefits of passive or unstructured recreation.
- Continue to actively support the implementation of the *Moreland Aquatics Strategy* to ensure it is completed as planned by 2017.
- Provide a second skate park by 2012.

- Provide learn to swim classes for disadvantaged groups.
- Provide learnt to cycle classes for all.
- Consult with clubs regularly on fees/charges and the allocation of facilities
- Provide off-season storage for clubs sharing facilities.
- Advocate for increased investment in sport and recreation facilities by state and federal governments as well as national sporting bodies such as the AFL, Cricket Australia and Football Federation Australia.
- Continue to support the Liquor Licensing Accord between local venues and Victoria Police to control noise and patron behaviour.
- Support and where possible implement universal disability access provisions in the public and private realm.
- Support detoxification and needle exchange programs within the municipality.
- Oppose Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) use by:
 - ❑ having Councils purchasing policy exclude GMO food and products;
 - ❑ advocating for clear labeling to enable consumer choice; and
 - ❑ declaring Moreland GMO free.

Health

Access to quality health care is a basic human right. Moreland residents generally have poorer health outcomes than the metropolitan average. Preventive approaches, measures to alleviate social disadvantage and provide universal access to an effective health care system are necessary to address inequities in health outcomes.

The Greens on Council will:

- Negotiate our Primary Care Partnership⁹ to reflect strategies that address social inequities, family violence, climate change, food security and mobility.
- Support preventative illness activities and community health programs such as the walking school bus.
- Advocate for more bulk-billing GPs, and for incentives that will increase the number of GP's in the northern suburbs.
- Continue to seek the reduction of electronic gaming (gambling) machines.

Housing

Affordable and secure housing is a human right. The housing needs of lower income residents should be met through the provision of a mix of options including community housing, public housing, social housing and private rental. The Greens recognise the benefits of a socially diverse community.

The Greens on Council will:

- Advocate for the provision of more diverse housing stock to cater for the growing number of smaller households and non-traditional households.
- Advocate for affordable housing across the municipality.
- Advocate for increased public and social housing stock, particularly in activity centres and other well serviced areas.
- Seek the introduction of inclusionary zoning to facilitate social housing.

⁹ See further, <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pcps/>

- Support the long-term lease of Council properties, such as airspace, for social housing.
- Ensure adequate resources are provided to properly enforce rooming house regulations.

Arts and Culture

- Develop a strategy to increase the ability of all residents to access IT and internet services including:
 - ❑ Expanding internet facilities within Council libraries and neighbourhood houses; and
 - ❑ Supporting teaching programs.
- Encourage buskers and performers in the major activity centres.
- Continue to support the Moreland Arts Board, including expanding the program of community festivals.
- Continue to support the Reconciliation Policy.
- Celebrate the City's streets and public spaces as galleries of art.
- Recognise 'graffiti art' as a cultural form not subject to local laws.
- Commit to library book purchasing keeping pace with CPI as a minimum.

Democracy

Policy Statement

All citizens have the right and responsibility to participate in the processes of government. Democratic structures should be such that they help to build an ecologically sustainable and equitable society, with a global consciousness and an intergenerational perspective.

The Greens support local government as enabling full and active participation of the community in governance of issues at the local level

Principles

The Greens believe that the integrity of local Councils as an independent level of government is dependent on open, informed and consultative decision-making, and the provision of clear and transparent reporting of Council activities.

Actions

The Greens on Council will:

- Advocate the enfranchisement of non-citizens such as permanent residents and Temporary Protection Visa holders to enable them to vote in Council elections.
 - Advocate for constitutional recognition of the powers and responsibilities of local government.
 - Advocate for amendments to the Local Government Act that.
 - ❑ will remove the right of the State Government to dismiss a Council; and
 - ❑ provide for all Councillors to be paid a living wage to enable greater representation and accountability.
 - Mandate all council committees – internal, external and community – to present minutes of the committee and a covering report to the Council, and hence
- the public record, annually or more frequently.
 - Restructure existing community committees to allow more direct decision-making.
 - Continue to support the policy of providing childcare for all council meetings and major functions, and to the provision of translators on request.
 - Introduce a new system for the selection of the Mayor and Portfolio Councillors to ensure those appointments are based on merit, including holding a public forum where all aspirants will be required to detail what they will be seeking to achieve in the role within the coming 12 months.

¹⁰ This policy is common policy across branches, as it is in the AGV policy for Local Government.

Economics

Policy Statement

The Greens support employment that is safe, economically useful, environmentally benign and adequately paid for those who seek it, recognise and value the actions of those who contribute in a non-paid capacity, aim to strengthen local democratic processes, encourage regional sustainable development initiative and planning, and enhance capabilities within local communities.

Principles

The Greens will develop the city on the basis of its natural advantages, and by acting cooperatively with neighbouring councils and regional partners.

Actions

Revenue

Rates are an inequitable form of taxation as they are based on assets not income. Many people in Moreland are asset rich and income poor, and so are particularly vulnerable to the impact of rate increases.

The Greens believe that local government should receive a significantly higher proportion of the national taxation revenue and that the services that are provided by local government on behalf of the Federal and State Governments should be fully funded by those governments.

The Greens on Councils will:

- Advocate for the current Federal Government taxation review to include a guaranteed significantly greater share of taxation revenue be directed to local government.
- Continue to support borrowing as an equitable method of financing major assets and infrastructure renewal.
- Develop a new five-year financial plan, to commence in July 2010, based on extensive consultation with residents on expenditure priorities for the next twenty years.

- Continue support for the public consultation process on the annual budget, with the addition of public information sessions to enable residents to better understand the decision making behind the proposed budget.
- Introduce triple bottom line reporting.
- Continue to advocate for an end to cost shifting¹¹, and a restoration of appropriate funding levels for programs delivered in partnership with the State and Federal Governments.

Leadership in Employment

As a major employer in its own right, Council can demonstrate leadership in economic development and socially useful employment. Across the local government sector including Moreland, skill shortages in key services areas present a challenge that will require innovative approaches to training and recruitment.

The Greens on Council will:

¹¹ Cost shifting occurs when joint programs or services are established, with an agreed funding formula, but over time the Federal or State Government do not continue to maintain their share. Consequently, Councils provide an ever increasing proportion of the funding.

- Seek to make Moreland Council an employer of choice.
- Review current employment policies to include:
 - ❑ the provision of adequate childcare;
 - ❑ flexible working conditions to enable staff to balance work and carer responsibilities;
 - ❑ a comprehensive professional development program for all staff that maximise the use of internal secondments; and
 - ❑ devote a percentage of the human resources budget to a training scheme aimed at eliminating barriers to disadvantaged persons seeking employment with Council.
- Promote ethical investment superannuation schemes to staff.
- Use the opportunities presented by the Coburg Initiative to enhance professional development, skill exchange and staff retention rates.
- Implement the Climate Refugee Migration Plan.
- Continue to support Council's involvement in regional economic development initiatives such as Northlink/Neitel.
- Continue active support for the Brunswick Business Incubator including the expansion of those services to the north of the city.
- Provide support for home-based businesses.
- Continue to actively support retail traders associations.
- Review the *Local Economic Development Strategy* in 2010.
- Support home delivery services, including assisting trader associations to establish retail centre based schemes that will enable more people to avoid car use for shopping trips.

Economic Development

The Greens on Council will:

- Capitalise on Moreland's proximity to the central business district and major transport services.
- Preserve existing commercial and industrial planning zoned areas as wholly or predominantly employment zones to ensure adequate employment opportunities into the future.
- Advocate for improved investment and maintenance within the city of services such as telephone/broadband.



Rescue the future...
Moreland Greens