



2008 - 2012

© October 2008

Moreland Campaign and Policy Committee

Written by members of the Moreland Policy and Campaign Committee.
Formally adopted by the members of the Australian Labor Party resident in
the City of Moreland.

To be advocated for and used by supported Australian Labor Party
candidates for the forthcoming Moreland City Council elections for
councillors and as a policy platform for action by successful candidates and
their ALP supporters.

Labor in Moreland 2008 – 2012, Building Community in Moreland

Labor's vision for the City of Moreland will see it grow economically, have improved social conditions for its residents, the built and natural environment will be improved and we will do this with open, responsive and consultative governance.

Labor has the team and experience to provide the necessary leadership to the City of Moreland. Our significant past achievements will be built on through our ambitious 2008 – 2012 policy agenda.

This vision is presented in four themes to take account of the diverse role of local government.

- Building Community & reducing social disadvantage,
- Transport, planning and the Environment,
- Local Economic Conditions, and
- Open, responsive and consultative governance.

This policy was developed by the Labor Party members living in the Moreland area and builds upon the years of work already done by the Labor party in Moreland.

This document represents the platform that Labor candidates will take to the citizens at the November 2008 elections. Labor's candidates will be judged on the commitments made in this document along with their performance over the past 3 years.

The Labor candidates for the elections are;

North East Ward

Cr. Joe Caputo
Cr. Anthony Helou
Stella Kariofyllidis
Cr. Mark O'Brien
Hashem Ouaida
Marlene Raffoul
Robert Tawil
Michael Teti

North West Ward

Anthony Cianflone
Cr. Milad El-Halabi
Enver Erdogan
Joe Ficarra
Cr. Mark Higginbotham
Cr. Kathleen Matthews Ward
Ilia Vertul
Oscar Yildiz

South Ward

Christopher Anderson
Cr. Alice Pryor
Lambros Tapinos
Raghida Saliba

Key Initiatives

A Labor Council will:

Support **senior citizens** by upgrading senior citizen centres and kitchens, campaigning for a better deal for pensioners on the rate rebate, and seek better funding of needed HACC services

Support **families** by implementing a centralised preschool and childcare enrolment system for Moreland and build new children's centres, including a Gowanbrae Children's Centre.

Ensure our **libraries** are sustainable by continuing to increase funds for new books by at least CPI

Redevelop the **Brunswick Baths**, renew the **Oak Park Aquatics Centre** and keep **outdoor pools open**.

Increase the involvement of women and girls in sport

Continue to **upgrade sports infrastructure**, by investing in facilities at Mutton Reserve, Cook Reserve, Holbrook Reserve, Hosken Reserve, Oak Park Central, Gillion Oval and Fawkner Secondary College.

Seek to establish **youth centres**

Support a junior **high school in Coburg**

Improve the **Arts** by supporting Performing Arts Moreland and investigating ways to increase public art across Moreland

Enhance Moreland's festivals, in particular those in Brunswick, Pascoe Vale, Glenroy and Fawkner and look at ways to re-establish a Coburg festival.

Advocate for numerous important **public transport improvements** in the areas of greatest need.

Build a **Coburg Transport Interchange** and **oppose** unilateral imposition of extended **clearway times**.

Support **40km/h zones for strip shopping centres** and advocate for grade separation at Glenroy

Deliver **Parking Action Plans** for Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy activity centres

Upgrade cycling by completing the Upfield Bike Path, look at some east-west separated bike routes, advocate for a new bike path along the Craigieburn railway line and improve bike parking in retail centres

Administer a planning system to help create a **liveable and sustainable city**

Support Melbourne 2030 and ensure that structure **plans for Coburg (The Coburg Initiative), Brunswick and Glenroy are properly implemented** by the state government.

Promote housing diversity, **respect neighbourhood character** and sponsor better consultation on planning

Oppose privatization of public open space, especially the Edgar and Merri Creek parklands in North Coburg

Upgrade playgrounds, improve public open space and introduce a park heritage program

Improve streetscapes, protect significant trees and work to continue revitalizing our creeks and waterways.

Implement the **Climate Action Plan**, the Coburg Solar City project and reduce council water consumption

Advocate for **individual water allocations** – so residents can better manage watering their veggie patch

Fund at least two **public toilet upgrades** per year.

Support the local economy by promoting Moreland business and encouraging the creation of new business' through **expanding the Business incubation program**

Improve **amenity and cleanliness of shopping strips** and support traders groups such as the new Lygon Street traders group

Work to **remove inappropriate graffiti** and fund Christmas decorations in the main retail centres

Encourage **government departments to relocate to Moreland** and encourage Moreland residents to apply for jobs at council

Argue for **local government taxation reform** and continue to manage the budget prudently

Campaign for local government to be recognised in the constitution and maintain **high standards of governance**

Ensure **council meetings remain open** to the public and accountable, and maintain the half hour question time

Improve community consultation, and **enhance customer service**

Encourage employees to **join a union** and support the maintenance of a fair award system

BUILDING COMMUNITY & REDUCING SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE

Community Health and Wellbeing

Labor in Moreland believes that the health, safety and well-being of the Moreland community is council's first priority.

Local Government has a key role to play in the provision of some health services and a critical role in the identification of needs.

Labor in Moreland believes that the maintenance of quality, independent community health services is essential in promoting the health, safety and well-being of the Moreland community.

A Labor council will:

- update the municipal public health plan in consultation with the community and implement its recommendations
- support the development of a new major community health facility in Coburg and local outreach services
- support efforts to increase State and Federal funds to reduce the waiting lists at the Moreland Community Health Centre for services such as physiotherapy, podiatry and dental care
- Continue community strengthening programs in Fawkner and Glenroy
- Investigate and support creation of "mens sheds"

Supporting Senior Citizens

Labor in Moreland will promote healthy and active ageing so that senior Victorians continue to play a full role in the community.

Labor in Moreland has stood up for, and achieved, more aged care facilities in the municipality, and has campaigned for, and achieved, better home and community care services, and a reduction in waiting lists. Labor in Moreland has also successfully demanded a better deal on concessions for pensioners.

A Labor council will:

- continue to promote the needs of senior citizens
- campaign for further increases of the rate rebate so that it reaches a sustainable level as well as other concession reforms

- seek better funding from the Federal Government for Home and Community Care Services such as home help and meals on wheels
- ensure that services remain accessible and culturally appropriate for our multicultural community
- conduct a rolling program of upgrades to senior citizen centres and kitchens

Children's and family services

Labor in Moreland will support families to provide an environment where children can develop to their fullest potential.

A Labor Council will play a key role in early childhood education in Moreland by:

- ensuring Council's services keep up with increasing demand and advocating for more funding to do so from other levels of Government
- advocating for more child care in Moreland
- supporting Council's Family Day Care Service
- implementing a centralised preschool and childcare enrolment system for Moreland
- upgrading early childhood facilities in partnership with government and other agencies
- advocating for improved services for children with additional needs
- encouraging greater linkages between early childhood and health services
- improving access for all families with young children to the support systems they need
- ensure that services are responsive to children and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- build a new Gowanbrae Community and Children's Centre. As well as a community house the building will accommodate kindergarten, childcare, playgroup, maternal and child health services, early intervention, allied health and family support service

Disability

Labor in Moreland Labor will work to ensure that people with a disability are easily able to live, learn, work and engage with their families, neighbourhoods and communities without the many barriers they currently face.

A Labor council will:

- continue to improve the physical environment so it is safe, accessible and inclusive for all.
- improve access to information and community participation in decisions making for people with a disability, their carers and their community at large.
- improve access to services and to opportunities for people with a disability in all areas across Council and the community.
- Increase the opportunities for people with disabilities to gain employment at Council.

Neighborhood Houses

Labor in Moreland believes that neighbourhood houses help build stronger communities. Neighbourhood houses deliver important grass roots programs that strengthen local communities and provide support and services.

A Labor council will:

- continue to improve conditions of other neighborhood houses in partnership with the community and other levels of Government
- increase funding to neighbourhood houses in partnership with State Government

Community Building

Labor in Moreland believes that community organisations are a vital part of our municipality.

A Labor council shall:

- maintain the value of the numerous grants programs run by Council.
- continue the successful community partnerships program
- continue to support the Friends of Aileu and the Aileu-Moreland intergovernmental agreement

Library Services

Labor in Moreland is committed to maintain our libraries' independence and ability to serve the Moreland community. Libraries are a key to accessing knowledge and breaking down barriers in society.

A Labor council will:

- ensure that the funds for the purchase of new books are increased at a minimum of the CPI rate each year
- continue to improve community access to online technologies
- ensure that seven day a week operations will continue for the three largest libraries, Coburg, Brunswick and Glenroy
- continue to improve the library buildings in Moreland to ensure that they are warm, user friendly and available for study
- continue and enhance the award-winning Moreland Reading Program, including the infant reading program and expand the Rhyme time sessions

Recreation centres

Labor in Moreland believes that Council owned Recreation Centres are important community facilities that require long term planning and consistent commitment.

A Labor council will:

- implement a plan to renew all of Moreland's aquatic facilities
- support the installation of energy and water conservation infrastructure across each of the indoor aquatic centres
- redevelop the Brunswick Baths
- renew the Oak Park Aquatics Centre, including dry space for community use, gymnasium and fitness programs, and introduce new improved water play/leisure features for children
- continue to run outdoor pools as part of the contribution they make to the recreation in summer periods
- review the morning opening hours of outdoor pools to better meet the needs of young families and people who want to avoid the middle of the day sun or exercise early in the morning

Sporting groups and facilities

Labor in Moreland believes that increased participation by citizens in sporting activities builds a healthier and more active community.

A Labor Council will:

- continue to roll out a program of upgrading our many sporting pavilions on a needs and priority basis
- increase funding for sporting infrastructure and will actively seek grants funding from State and Federal Governments
- wherever possible ensure public land and public facilities are optimally utilised by encouraging multi use buildings and playing surfaces
- continue to support high level cricket, football, soccer and other sports as well as supporting grass roots clubs
- support a new year round indoor bowls and multi use facility in Glenroy
- implement the Moreland Recreation Plan to generate the best outcomes for local sporting clubs and encourage greater participation from our community. These plans will include how funds can be allocated to improve facilities, provide council assistance in club development and promotion and work to ensure that all people in Moreland know their closest sporting venues
- ensure that information about local sporting facilities is freely available
- ensure that a wide range of sports are promoted such as sport that is of interest to a broad cross section of the community; senior citizens, people with disabilities, women, different ethnic groups
- continue to support community based sport in Moreland through improved facilities, support for club development, and promotion of community sport
- encourage the development of sports specific forums to enable better sports specific dialogue with council (along the lines of the successful soccer based "football forum")
- implement the Active Women In Moreland Strategy in 2009

- investigate ways to improve participation in passive recreation such as tai chi in parks and walking groups
- commence facility upgrades at:
 - o Mutton reserve in Fawkner, to better accommodate football and cricket including an undercover viewing area
 - o Cook Reserve in Glenroy and support for a new year round indoor bowls and multi use facility
 - o Kitchen upgrade at Campbell reserve in Coburg
 - o Holbrook reserve to better support women's cricket and junior soccer
 - o Hosken Reserve to better support soccer and cricket
 - o Oak Park Central pavilion (adjoining Oak Park Pool) for football and cricket
 - o Upgrade of cricket nets at Gillon Oval to reach sub district standard
 - o Fawkner Secondary College, a synthetic pitch for soccer in partnership with the State Government

Youth

Labor in Moreland is committed to holding the biennial youth summit and working with the youth of the municipality beyond the summit to deliver, where possible, the recommendations made at the summit.

Labor in Moreland will implement the Moreland Youth Strategy including the following actions:

- investigating the feasibility of establishing youth centres which are inclusive of all young people, as well as to promote the development of public space that reflects the needs and interests of young people.
- examining the barriers to participation in sport and recreation opportunities and develop a strategy to reduce these barriers.
- implementing health promotion programs and strategies that address the health needs of young people such as mental illness and depression that

have been identified as being at higher than average levels.

- continuing the biennial Moreland Youth Summit.
- undertaking research and advocacy to address issues around youth employment and education.

Labor in Moreland will also maintain current youth activities and will work towards greater participation in such activities through greater promotion of events. Such programs and other youth initiatives provide an area of social interaction for younger people, which the council will look to enhance.

Housing Affordability

Labor in Moreland understands the cost of living pressures people have been facing whether it's due to increased mortgage costs, or rapidly rising rents. Labor in Moreland will continue to be a strong advocate for public and social and affordable housing.

A Labor council will:

- advocate for greater investment from State & Federal Governments in social and public housing
- identify opportunities for expansion & redevelopment of existing public housing stock
- identify and support opportunities for public/social housing in larger re-development projects (eg rezoned industrial sites)
- ensure affordable housing is included in structure plan implementation
- advocate for action from State and Federal Governments on housing affordability
- advocate for the release of any surplus Government land be utilized for public good, including affordable housing, open space, employment uses or sustainable transport
- advocate for rental reform in areas such as rental bidding, minimum standards for rental properties and better training for landlords
- continue to pursue community partnerships with agencies to develop and encourage affordable housing

Education

Labor believes education is the key to our children's future and our continuing prosperity. Labor wants to give every student in every school, every chance to reach their full potential. To help ensure local schools are schools of choice Labor in Moreland will:

- support a junior high school in Coburg
- advocate for funding for infrastructure upgrades at local schools
- advocate to the State Government for an increase in education investment and standards in Moreland;
- continue to support homework groups
- continue to develop active partnerships with the Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (IN LLEN) and the School Focused Youth Services (SFYS)
- Support local children attending local schools

Labor in Moreland will oppose any attempts to close any local educational facilities and will strongly oppose the selling of any educational land for residential purposes.

Cultural Diversity

Labor in Moreland will enhance multiculturalism by providing programs and activities that promote tolerance and understanding between all citizens of Moreland.

Labor in Moreland supports sister-city relationships in other countries consistent with the diverse ethnic communities within Moreland. Council will continue to support cultural exchanges between Moreland and our sister-city partners. As well as contributing to friendship and understanding between Moreland and regions in other countries, such relationships can facilitate business and employment benefits in Moreland.

Labor in Moreland will confront ignorance and prejudice with a healthy example of the positive benefits of multiculturalism. The banner "One Community Proudly Diverse" will continue to be held aloft in Moreland under Labor.

Reconciliation

Labor in Moreland shall continue to work with the local indigenous people, the Wurundjeri to promote reconciliation in the community.

Aside from the recognition of prior ownership of this land and maintenance of the Aboriginal flag next to Australian flags, Labor in Moreland shall investigate the appropriate marking of places of archeological, cultural, historical & indigenous significance in Moreland.

A Labor Council will continue to fund Moreland's indigenous internship program.

Arts & Culture

Labor in Moreland believes that the arts are integral to the life of our community. Arts and cultural activities play an important role in fostering a strong community identity. Arts events and programs in Moreland engender pride, enhance amenity and promote and contribute to economic activity.

A Labor Council will:

- Increase the community grants program
- support Performing Arts Moreland Ltd
- work on enhancing the artistic vibrancy that exists in our City and increased opportunities for community art
- investigate ways to increase the level of public art in Moreland

Festivals

Labor in Moreland shall continue to support important Community Festivals.

A Labor Council will:

- continue to support the Sydney Road Street Party, in conjunction with the acclaimed Brunswick Music Festival
- continue to support the Pascoe Vale Festival, Fawkner Festival and Glenroy Festival
- re-establish a Coburg Festival
- continue to run movies in the park and carols by candlelight
- support local neighbourhood street parties

TRANSPORT, PLANNING & THE ENVIRONMENT

Labor's Plan for improving transport for everyone

Labor in Moreland will continue to work at improving transport options for all Moreland residents. Transport is an essential component of achieving social, economic and environmental equity.

Labor in Moreland believes that all people have the right to enjoy a safe traveling environment – regardless of the mode of transport.

Labor in Moreland recognizes the challenges of increasing petrol prices and the introduction of an Emissions Trading System (ETS). These developments mean that Moreland residents need greater transport choice more than ever.

Labor in Moreland opposes the proposed East West road tunnel. Such a tollway will affect local amenity, will add to inner suburban congestion, and will not aid our attempts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Labor in Moreland will continue to maintain and improve local transport infrastructure and will advocate for increased transport funding from State and Federal Governments.

Labor in Moreland supports lower speed limits in strip shopping centres and around schools

Planning for Better Transport

Moreland Labor believes that integrated transport planning will lead to a better local transport system.

A Labor Council will:

- develop and implement a new Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy
- implement the Coburg, Glenroy and Brunswick Structure plans
- encourage more local jobs, through employment attraction and retention
- retain and enhance viability of local shopping strips
- oppose selling off of public land i.e. Vic track and Vic roads where it could be used to improve sustainable transport outcomes or where it could provide

public benefit such as local jobs, aged care, childcare etc

- advocate for better use of Victrack land

Public Transport

Labor in Moreland believes in an integrated, environmentally friendly and properly planned transport system that meets the needs of the travelling public and a modern economy.

A Labor Council will:

- continue to advocate for key public transport route improvements including:
 - o Immediate implementation of Smart Bus Routes on Bell Street (red orbital) and Dawson Street/Glenlyon Road (blue orbital)
 - o Upgrade the Upfield line to provide more peak services and only 6 carriage trains
 - o Extension of tram 19 to Fawkner
 - o Larger and bigger trams on Routes 55, 8, 19 and 96
 - o Immediate implementation of the Department of Transport Bus Review, especially the extension of route 542 to Pascoe Vale Station
 - o Immediate improvements to bus services to run 7 days a week and later at night and improved frequency
 - o Better co-ordination between public transport modes
 - o Better bus and tram stops with more real time information, more seating and more shelter.
 - o More low floor buses
 - o Free or discounted Public Transport travel out of peak hours to increase patronage and safety
 - o Immediate adjustments the zone anomalies between bus and train services in the northern parts of Moreland

- o Advocacy for the movement of Zone one to Broadmeadows
- advocate for federal government funding for public transport infrastructure
- support improvements to accessibility to ensure all members of the community including people with special needs can access train, tram, bus and taxi services
- build a Coburg Transport Interchange as a part of the implementation of the Coburg Initiative
- advocate for improvements to Sydney Road to enable trams to flow more freely. Labor in Moreland considers it important that changes are made to Sydney Road to make it function better for public transport, pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, cyclists and as a shopping environment.
- continue to oppose the unilateral imposition of extended clearway times
- investigate ways of better utilising of all forms of community transport, possibly through a database

Roads

Labor in Moreland believes in maintaining and improving our roads, paths and associated infrastructure.

A Labor Council will:

- continue to use 5 year forward looking plans to ensure adequate funding is provided for the maintenance of our road networks
- call on State and Federal Governments to provide funding to help achieve this aim, especially in relation to areas listed as accident blackspots
- support 40km/h zones for strip shopping centres
- ensure that replacement roads improve conditions for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians and introduce greater greening
- advocate for grade separation at Glenroy Road as outlined in the Glenroy Structure plan. This will not only improve congestion and the viability of the shopping centre but will link the community of Glenroy which is currently split in two by the railway line.

- continue to support the installation of traffic control measures where they are appropriate. Where traffic control measures are required at intersections, we will support the use of the toolkit developed by Bicycle Victoria to make intersections safer for all road users.
- improve safety at zebra crossings
- support State Government anti-hoon laws

Parking

Moreland Labor believes that parking management policies are effective in reducing demand on parking spaces and helping to share the cost of parking infrastructure equitably. This provides all users with safe, convenient and appropriate access to parking in Moreland whilst enabling adequate road access for pedestrians, cyclists, emergency vehicles, trams, buses and street maintenance and delivery vehicles.

A Labor Council will:

- develop and implement parking action plans for areas of Moreland which face a scarcity of car parking including our activity centres – Coburg, Brunswick and Glenroy
- ensure that adequate parking is provided with all new developments
- discourage cars from parking in bicycle lanes
- investigate ways in which parking can be better utilized to support shopping precincts, such as time limits to prevent excessive amounts of all day parking

Car Sharing

Moreland Labor supports car sharing as a way of reducing the number of cars needing parking in our local neighbourhoods, as well as reducing the number of vehicles on the road.

Labor in Moreland will work with organisations to support and promote car sharing programs.

Pedestrians

Labor in Moreland supports walking as a sustainable and healthy transport mode. Walking is easy, cheap and accessible for most people.

Labor in Moreland would like to see more people walking more often and will help make walking a transport mode of choice by improving our footpaths and providing more resting places, and better amenity through planting more trees for shade and providing appropriate lighting. Labor in Moreland will also ensure facilities remain within walking distance.

A Labor Council will:

- finalise and implement a pedestrian and walking strategy that will prioritise actions to improve walking conditions in the city
- implement innovative programs to encourage more walking trips and to increase pedestrian safety
- advocate for the installation of pedestrian crossings where a need is identified, including Boundary Road Cumberland Road, Glenroy Road and Widford Street
- support programs such as the "Walking School Bus" and the "Riding School Bus"
- ensure that new or rebuilt roads contain measures to improve pedestrian amenity and safety
- continue investing in footpath infrastructure
- invest in better amenity and streetscape of pedestrian paths, including more trees or shade, places to rest and appropriate lighting
- ensure all footpaths in shopping strips are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- advocate for DDA compliant underpasses at Train Stations
- ensure that new building developments and carpark redevelopments provide adequate pedestrian access
- produce a "Walking in Moreland" booklet to assist people identify pleasant, safe and historic walking routes and associated amenities

Cycling

Labor in Moreland supports cycling as a sustainable and healthy transport mode, which produces no direct pollution or greenhouse gas emissions.

Moreland has a high level of cycling in some parts of the municipality. Labor in Moreland would like to see the continued growth of cycling as a mode of transport across the whole of Moreland.

A Labor Council will:

- update the Moreland Bicycle Plan to improve the bicycle network in the municipality. This includes the provision of marked bicycle lanes on roads, extensions to the off road networks and improvements to existing routes
- complete the Upfield path between the Western Ring Road and Box Forest Road
- continue to improve the East-West links between the three major North-South bike paths
- investigate the feasibility of a separated east west route along South Street, Dawson Street (between Sydney Road and Grantham Street) and Blyth Street (from Sydney Road to the Merri Creek).
- advocate for bike path along Craigieburn rail line from Broadmeadows to Pascoe Vale
- continue to improve the existing Upfield Shared Path to boost safety, lighting and capacity
- ensure that new or rebuilt roads contain measures to improve the safety of cyclists
- improve signage on bike paths
- advocate for more bike parking and storage at stations
- advocate for bike racks on buses
- improve bike parking in retail centres through innovative measures
- advocate for no car parking in bike lanes
- undertake regular maintenance checks along existing off road paths including the ring road and creek trails and work with adjoining municipalities and Vicroads for improved maintenance

Planning to improve our quality of life

Labor in Moreland seeks to create an environmentally sustainable and liveable city, with an abundance of high quality employment, recreation and accommodation opportunities; a city where a car and a high income are not necessary for a rich and rewarding quality of life.

Labor in Moreland supports a planning system that encourages sustainable and appropriate development that:

- Respects neighbourhood character;
- Supports diversity in housing choice and caters for different needs of people within Moreland
- Is sensitive to the local infrastructure;
- Considers the impact on local area traffic congestion and parking requirements;
- Protects our common heritage;
- Consists of the best urban and environmental practices in design;
- Provides for suitable zoning especially to support commercial and industrial activities;
- Creates the best possible environment and quality of life for current and future residents;
- Links in with Moreland's Open Space Strategy and ensures adequate provision for all residents to access.
- Takes into account the needs of an ageing population and is designed within the principals of "universal design"

Melbourne 2030 and activity centres

Labor in Moreland endorses the general aims of Melbourne 2030. We believe that urban consolidation is necessary to protect the 'green wedges' and wider environment and to ensure that the whole of Melbourne is a sustainable and liveable city.

A Labor Council, in implementing Melbourne 2030 aims to ensure that:

- Development improves our community,
- Moreland gets no more than it's fair share of development over the same time
- Structure plans for our Major and Principal Activity Centres, Coburg, Glenroy and Brunswick are supported and implemented by state government and incorporated into the planning scheme.
- Until these plans are incorporated into the planning scheme Labor in Moreland will work to ensure that any proposed developments are consistent with the structure plans

- as much as possible new housing is built within the activity centres rather than in existing residential centres
- a higher standard of energy efficiency and accessibility shall be required in all new dwellings in activity centres

A Labor Council will also advocate for improved noise attenuation standards in mixed use precincts to protect the amenity of future residents and to protect the viability of existing business and industry, therefore ensure mixed use can work harmoniously.

Diversity in housing

Labor in Moreland will promote and make decisions that increase the diversity of our housing stock. This will ensure that new development meets the needs of the wider community. This will see decisions made that:

- Provide for aging in place,
- Provide a mix of one, two, three (and larger) bedroom dwellings,
- Provides housing with good private open space for families
- Increases the amount of affordable accommodation
- Ensures the rental stock does not diminish
- Increases the amount of housing that is suitable for people with a disability

Neighbourhood character

Labor in Moreland shall restrict development in residential areas to protect neighbourhood character. New development must respect the existing scale and built form of the neighbourhood and its preferred future character. No more than one story height difference will, in general, be allowed between neighbouring properties. Front and side setbacks must also respect the established rhythm of buildings in the street. The importance of back yards and garden outlooks will also be respected.

Universal Housing design

Labor in Moreland will continue to advocate for changes to the building code to include "universal" features that improve access to appropriate housing for people with disabilities and allow more people to "age in place" safely.

Planning Consultation

Labor in Moreland will strongly advise developers, be they home renovators or large developers, to work in consultation with affected parties before designing new or modified buildings. Decent consultation will help ensure more appropriate developments.

Labor in Moreland believes that the consultation/notification required for large developments should be greater than the statutory requirements. We will seek to increase notification for large developments to affected parties. This will be done by putting in place criteria (eg. height, cost) that once exceeded will ensure that additional consultation with the affected community is carried out. Labor in Moreland will ensure that the Council provides advice to residents on how potential developments may affect them to help them assess the impact of proposed developments.

Fees

Labor in Moreland shall put in place its own higher fees and continue to lobby the State Government for increases to scheduled fees for large developments. Currently the city subsidises the assessment of private development by around \$1.2 Million per year and this is unacceptable.

Development Contributions

Labor in Moreland shall work towards changes in the planning scheme to require financial contributions from developments to provide improved built and social infrastructure. This way new development will improve the infrastructure that we all use such as footpaths, parks and community services rather than just making a profit.

Heritage

Labor in Moreland will continue to promote the preservation of heritage areas or items and their links to our past. Where new construction is permitted to occur in a designated heritage precinct the principle of non-intrusive design rather than imitative shall prevail.

Labor in Moreland will support the incorporation into the planning scheme of further buildings of importance to the community.

Labor's Plan for Protecting and Improving Public Open Space

Labor in Moreland will treat our scarce parkland reserves as a precious community resource.

Labor in Moreland will continue to work to ensure that all residents have quality, accessible open space within safe walking distance (500m), with particular regard to higher density areas (300m).

A Labor Council will:

- involve the local community in open space decision making
- maintain and improve public open space by allocating adequate resources for maintenance and refurbishment of existing and additional open space as well as seeking additional funding from developers and outside bodies
- In park development and improvement works, Labor will provide access for people with disabilities wherever possible and ensure that the design and maintenance of open space provides a high standard of safety for users
- progressively upgrade playgrounds in Moreland and will provide shade and seating where possible
- audit of all parks and ensure any unnamed parks are given names by the community
- introduce a parks heritage program, to inform residents of the history of their local parks

Shared facilities

Labor in Moreland will protect sporting reserves and move to ensure that all public land and open space is utilised to its full potential.

A Labor Council will:

- pursue partnerships to place open space and sporting facilities at local schools, which will benefit both the local community and the schools
- investigate ways to contribute to open space improvements and will pursue opportunities through the State Government's "Shared Facilities" funding program
- develop guidelines and memoranda of understanding with schools regarding out of hours public access to grounds to ensure that liability/duty of care issues are adequately addressed
- seek after hours access arrangements to the grounds of Brunswick North Primary School, Glenroy Primary School and Glenroy West Primary

Open Space Corridors

Labor in Moreland supports the consolidation of open space corridors and the permanent rezoning of land with particular regard to State-owned properties.

Labor in Moreland does not support the privatisation of open space held in trust by any agency. In particular we oppose the sale of Vicroads land known as the Edgars and Merri Creek parklands. Labor councillors, MP's, branches and members have campaigned long and hard to stop this land falling into the hands of private developers and will not cease until the State Government transfers the land to the people of Moreland.

Labor's Plan for Greening Moreland

Labor in Moreland will continue its strong emphasis on improving and greening streetscapes and revegetation initiative.

A Labor Council will:

- increase the number of street trees and ensure they are well maintained and add amenity to the neighbourhood
- introduce local legislation to protect significant trees
- prioritise plantings in streets that are used as pedestrian routes to activity centres
- plant trees along well utilized off road shared paths such as the western ring road path
- hold community and school planting days

Creeks & Waterways

Moreland's waterways are a scarce and wonderful resource and their improvement has been instrumental in bringing back native flora and fauna to the area.

A Labor Council will:

- continue its efforts to revitalise the Moonee Ponds Creek. Labor will continue to support the principles of the Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan and the resourcing of the Moonee Ponds Creek Coordinating Committee
- Continue focus on the regeneration of the Edgar, Merlynston and Westbreen creeks
- work with the Merri Creek Management committee for improvements to the

creek environs and increased water quality of the precious Merri Creek

- devote resources to the Moonee Ponds Creek revitalisation and to attracting funding from state and federal government agencies and private companies including Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Melbourne City Link Authority and Transurban
- continue to work with the Creeks Friends groups, believing that the most effective way of improving the creeks is to involve local residents
- implement the Moreland Stormwater Management Plan
- have a "zero tolerance" approach to littering
- work with Melbourne Water and the creek committees to investigate additional wetlands in the municipality

Building a sustainable community

Labor in Moreland has led the way in putting in place programs to promote a more sustainable community and will continue to do so. On council we have developed a Moreland Climate Action Plan, which will be implemented.

A Labor Council will

- reduce Council greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2010 and community emissions by 20 percent by 2010
- in partnership, implement the Coburg Solar City project
- reduce council fleet emissions by 10 percent per annum
- retrofit Moreland's street lights with energy efficient globes
- continue to support popular programs such as CERES, Moreland Energy Foundation, Community Power, Sustainability Street and community education programs
- support new programs designed to encourage a whole of community approach to sustainability
- support food security projects and investigate the role community gardens could play in providing a more sustainable local food base. A food security taskforce will be initiated and supported.

- advocate for higher environmental standards for new dwellings
- provide information to planning applicants to assist with environmentally friendly design and to minimise environmental impacts of developments
- maintain or increase current funding levels for energy programs, initiatives and community education
- support and engage in environmental and community partnerships with CERES

Water

Labor in Moreland supports the Our Water, Our Future initiatives of the State Government to reduce water consumption.

A Labor Council will:

- reduce Council water consumption 25% by 2011 from baseline consumption in 2001.
- reduce community water consumption 20% by 2011 from baseline consumption in 2001.
- increase council water reuse
- increase the uptake of water efficient technologies by residents, including grey water and rainwater harvesting systems
- support the use of water saving techniques at our parks and gardens such as computer controlled sprinkler systems and the use of plants that require less water
- where appropriate renew playing fields with drought tolerant turf
- Retrofit council buildings with water saving measures and ensure that new buildings install a minimum of AAA fittings
- develop and implement, if needed, a community action plan for stage 4 water restrictions to inform and help our community deal with its impact
- advocate for individual water allocations, to replace watering restrictions so that residents can better manage watering their gardens

Waste

Labor in Moreland has consistently advocated for waste management policies designed to increase recycling and reduce landfill.

A Labor Council will:

- continue to provide a reliable waste collection service
- work with the community towards reducing the quantity of waste that is sent to landfill
- provide efficient and reliable recycling and green waste services
- continue to pursue improvements to the appearance and maintenance of state owned land such as Railway corridors
- work with local schools on waste education and litter reduction

Drainage

Labor in Moreland will continue to fund improvements to Moreland drainage system; we will also look for innovative ways to deal with the increasing run off from more frequent storm events.

Public Toilets

Public toilets are an important asset to the local community. There is currently a lack of accessible, clean and safe public toilets in shopping centres in the municipality.

A Labor Council will fund at a minimum two new public toilet upgrades per year. These will be funded once an assessment has been done based on priority, projected use and relative need.

LOCAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A vibrant and thriving local economy providing jobs and local access to shops and services is critical in a sustainable society. Labor in Moreland sees reducing unemployment in the municipality as one of its highest priorities and supports initiatives that create local employment and training opportunities.

Promoting Moreland Business

Labor Council in Moreland will actively generate interest in, and understanding of, local product and service offerings, to assist in the encouragement of a vibrant local economy.

A Labor Council will provide information on obtaining local products and services, including:

- Look for ways to support the creation of themed business directories.

Examples might include:

1. Building & renovation supplies guide
 2. Restaurant guide
 3. Live Entertainment guide / theatre & gigs calendar
 4. Factory outlets shopping guide
 5. Niche business guides, particularly for multicultural businesses
 6. Leisure and sporting clubs & facilities guide
 7. Historical & tourist guide
- Ensure these guides are published and maintained on the internet
 - Promote Moreland as a destination for shopping, leisure and tourism.
 - Conduct campaigns and festivals to encourage the enjoyment of what the Moreland economy has to offer.
 - Uphold and improve the amenity and appeal of local shopping centres with practical measures such as clear parking signage, appropriate levels of cleaning and rubbish facilities, provision of bike racks, seating and other beautification.

Moreland Ventures

Labor Council in Moreland will continue its broad and inventive program of initiatives to encourage and support new businesses, including:

- the Moreland Community Enterprise Centre which provides affordable office space to new businesses and organisations;
- the Moreland Business Incubator which provides affordable office and light industry space and a supportive learning environment;
- Active membership of NorthLink (the Northern Melbourne regional economic development organisation) including participation and support for projects such as the Export Readiness Program, and marketing the northern region.

A Labor Council will increase its encouragement and support of new businesses by seeking to add the following initiatives to its existing program:

- Seek funding to expand the Business Incubation program to campuses in the northern and central areas of the municipality
- Create and maintain a virtual business incubator, to cost-effectively provide business incubation services
- Investigate an outlet in Glenroy to provide local manufacturers, particularly clothing and footwear, a direct to public shop-front with low levels of rent; to encourage the purchase of locally made products at factory outlet prices.
- Advocate for large parcels of state owned land to be retained for public use or local employment creation.
- Seek opportunities to encourage active commercial/industrial use of commercial/industrial property.

Council Service to Local Business

Labor Council in Moreland will seek to develop a service culture in its ordinary dealings with local businesses which ensures that Council obtains an enhanced reputation as a business facilitator.

A Labor Council will:

- Continue to conduct and enhance the annual Business Customer Survey, which will allow Council to:
 - o Obtain a quantitative and qualitative understanding of business satisfaction with Council
 - o Obtain a better profile of Moreland's businesses
 - o Identify business which predict the possibility of expanding, downsizing, moving or closing down in the coming year and earmark them for special attention
- Maintain formal links between Council and bodies which represent and advocate for the needs of local businesses. A Labor council will continue to support local traders groups including supporting a new Lygon Street traders group
- Ensure transparency and awareness of rules and processes and use clear plain language for all communication and forms.

Retail Centres

Access to local conveniences and retail shops is important for a sustainable society.

A Labor Council will:

- improve the amenity and level of cleanliness of all shopping strips through the "Moreland City Improvement program"
- investigate annual "clean up days" in activity centres and shopping centres where council, traders and interested residents work together to "spruce up" an area. This may involve extra waste collection, high pressure cleaning of awnings, graffiti removal, general maintenance and partnerships with groups such as Victrack.
- investigate ways in which parking can be better utilized to support shopping precincts, such as time limits to prevent all day parking
- continue to work with the department of justice for the timely removal of inappropriate graffiti
- continue to fund Christmas decorations in the main retail centres

Employment Labor in Moreland believes that every adult who wants paid employment should have the opportunity to work in a job

which utilises their skills. Labor in Moreland sees reducing unemployment in the municipality as one of its highest priorities.

Labor in Moreland sees local employment as desirable for the environment (less pollution from travel) and for quality of life (less time spent traveling).

Labor Council in Moreland seeks to affect structural factors which can make inroads into the unemployment rate.

A Labor Council will:

- Advocate for State and Federal Government departments to relocate to Moreland's Activity Centres
- Establish Council as a model employer, participating as an employer in Labor market programs.
- Advocate for improvements and additions to the employment programs of better funded levels of government.
- Mobilise other organisations, including employers and educators to continually look for opportunities to increase the employment options of target groups of interest (young unskilled, migrant, mature aged, indigenous, northern)
- Advocate for education improvement, including year 12 retention rates, increase the rate of secondary education, and provision of education appropriate to local job opportunities.
- Support training and career development, by providing work experience and employment at Council.
- Encourage Moreland residents to apply for Council job vacancies and ensure that over time more council workers are local
- Increase opportunities for people with a disability to gain employment at Council.
- Encouraging Moreland businesses to bid for Council contracts.

Local Government Taxation

Labor in Moreland believes that the rates taxation system is inadequate, unfair and is not transparent. Local Government based rates benefit well off municipalities at the expense of working class areas like Moreland. We believe that local government needs a fairer, more transparent taxation system.

A Labor Council will campaign for taxation reform in local government that will replace rates with a fairer taxation mechanism.

Budgetary Policy

Labor in Moreland believes that budgetary policy must balance prudent financial management with a commitment to properly resource community services and assets, as well as the need to ensure rates justice.

Labor in Moreland recognises that financial management is not an end in itself but a tool to deliver improved services and outcomes for our community.

Labor in Moreland notes the decline in State and Commonwealth grants and the corresponding reliance on rates and user charges for Council's revenue base. Labor will ensure that any broadening of Council's revenue base is governed by the principles of equity and the community's capacity to pay.

Labor in Moreland is committed to balanced budgets and to not borrowing to fund operational budgets. Labor Council in Moreland will renew and enhance Moreland's infrastructure. Labor in Moreland will allow council to borrow specifically for targeted infrastructure improvements, which can arguably be seen to have an intergenerational benefit. Any such borrowings will be prudent and manageable within a balanced budget framework, but principled in parallel with Labor in Moreland's commitment to an equitable rates system.

A Labor Council will conduct budgetary policy according to the following principles:

- Infrastructure must be renewed - Adequate funding will be allocated to ensure that Moreland's infrastructure will continue to be renewed;
- Revenue collection must remain equitable and in accordance to the community's capacity to pay;
- Spending will also be allocated in an equitable manner – spending will be effectively targeted, sustainable and produce clear service delivery outcomes.
- User charges will only be imposed where necessary and they will be set within a range that reflects the social, cultural and economic make-up of Moreland.

Standards for Outsourcing Contracts

Labor in Moreland believes that Council has a moral obligation that goes beyond the letter of the law, in writing up and supervising contracts for external parties to provide services.

A Labor Council will:

- ensure that Council's standards and values are reflected in the wording of any contract it offers.
- ensure that any contracts offered are sensible, written clearly in plain language, and properly executed in terms of Council's rights and responsibilities.
- ensure that all contracts offered by Moreland Council should include a clause stating Council's right to monitor performance.
- monitor the adherence of contractors to the terms in their contracts, to ensure Council and community values are being met, including occupational health and safety, and the objectives of the contract.

OPEN, RESPONSIVE AND CONSULTATIVE GOVERNANCE

Democratic Governance

The first principle of local democracy is that elected councillors remain accountable to their constituents. Candidates for election will present a platform to the voters as a part of the democratic electoral process. Voters have a right to expect their elected representatives to implement this platform. Labor in Moreland will vigorously defend this fundamental principle.

Local governments provide the most important and accessible opportunity for citizens to be involved in shaping their own communities and that good governance is achieved through open leadership and sensitivity to community needs, interests and aspirations.

Labor in Moreland will continue to campaign for the constitutional recognition of Local Government by the Commonwealth.

Labor in Moreland is committed to protecting the democratic rights of all residents. Labor Council will undertake a campaign to enable all residents who are eligible to vote in Council elections to be enrolled to vote. This includes all local residents who have been granted Permanent Residency status by the Dept of Immigration, many of whom were inadvertently taken off the Council electoral role in previous State instigated electoral reform.

Political Leadership

Labor in Moreland will ensure that our local administration is accountable to the elected Council for the implementation of Council policy.

A Labor Council will:

- remain committed to a full time Mayor
- support elected representatives by ongoing provision of an Executive Officer Mayor and Councillors and by provision of appropriate technology for councillors.
- involve to the maximum possible extent any non-Labor elected councillors in direction setting and decision making.
- continue operating the Labor caucus as a strategic and organisational device and not as a means of excluding people with legitimate interests from debate on

major issues. Ongoing input from the community into major decisions will be facilitated and supported.

Portfolios and Project Responsibilities

Labor in Moreland is committed to a system of Portfolios and Project Responsibilities for the Elected Councillors which ensures that political leadership is maintained across all areas of Council activity.

A Labor Council will constantly review Councillor Portfolios and Project Responsibilities in order to provide the best possible governance model.

Electoral Systems

Moreland now has an electoral structure comprising of three wards separating the City into three zones: North East represented by four councillors, North West represented by four councillors and the South represented by three councillors.

Labor in Moreland believes that constant review of these structures, as provide in the Local Government Act, is essential to ascertain whether the community believes they achieve the desired level of representation. At the core of any review should be the principles of good governance set out in the VLGA/MAV Code of Good Governance.

Accountability

Labor will support the highest level of accountability for Moreland. Labor in Moreland will ensure that all decision making processes are open and accessible to the community.

A Labor Council will:

- be committed to the Code of Good Governance
- ensure that all inquiries and complaints are dealt with promptly and thoroughly.
- ensure that Councillors will be available to the community and will be committed to investigating any concerns or complaints brought forward by the community.
- keep the 'local' in 'local government'. This means that neighbourhoods and precincts will be listened to and recognised.

Council and Committee Meetings

Labor's commitment to maintaining a high level of accountability and openness in local government includes ensuring Council and Committee meetings work for the benefit of the community.

A Labor Council will:

- be open and transparent - an absolute minimum of items will be dealt with in closed sessions of Council.
- maximise opportunities for community observation of and input into decision making. This will include open and interactive Council and Committee Meetings
- ensure that Council meetings will be rotated throughout Moreland to facilitate maximum access by the community
- maintain a half hour question time at the commencement of each Council Meeting

Community Consultation & Engagement

Labor in Moreland is committed to community consultation. Quality consultation leads to improved decision making.

A Labor Council will:

- review and improve its community consultation policy and mechanisms
- explore new approaches with the aim of providing yet more opportunities for the community to be involved in the decision making process.
- ensure that community groups and individuals wishing to participate in decisions that affect them whether it is council or other authority have their voice heard

Communications

A Labor Council will:

- continue to use local papers, community radio, Council publications and the Internet to communicate with Moreland residents and businesses
- obtain improved coverage of Moreland items through both the English and the non-English media
- ensure that constant improvement to the Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) Community communication strategy will be a Council priority.

Moreland's main community languages will be used at least in part to communicate key messages to the community.

Information Society

Access to information and information technology is critical for a just society and Labor in Moreland will continue to expand the strategies already in place.

A Labor Council will:

- ensure that citizens' free access to information will be extended
- keep municipal information services (such as libraries) free of charge and readily accessible to the public
- Pursue an integrated approach to communication and information will be adopted. This will include broadcasting, telecommunications, libraries, and Moreland's information technology resources

Industrial Relations

Labor in Moreland believes that productivity & service quality are best achieved as a partnership between employees (council officers), Unions and the customer (the community).

A Labor Council will:

- encourage employees to become members of the appropriate union
- provide a safe workplace, with appropriate security
- provide adequate training, re-training & professional development opportunities to ensure a skilled, innovative and resourceful workforce
- implement equal opportunity and ensure fair, open and equitable selection processes
- support the maintenance of an award system that provides for equitable and relevant wages and conditions of employees

Customer Service

Labor in Moreland believes that Council should deliver the best possible customer service and that residents should only have to make a request once to one person. Labor will also ensure that communication is improved between the different departments at council and that correspondence is

acknowledged and confirmed within a timely manner

A Labor Council will:

- roll out the “tell us once” policy
- multi-skill staff so that more staff are able to directly assist residents
- cut unnecessary red tape and make it easy for citizens to do business with council
- continue to provide accessible options to do business with council including face to face, on the phone, on line and by mail and assist residents with additional needs
- anticipate evolving needs and adjust services to take account of those changing needs
- create a citizen focused corporate environment and retain the best people.

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Moreland Campaign and Policy Committee

Written by members of the Moreland Policy and Campaign Committee.
Formally adopted by the members of the Australian Labor Party resident in
the City of Moreland.

To be advocated for and used by supported Australian Labor Party
candidates for the forthcoming Moreland City Council elections for
councillors and as a policy platform for action by successful candidates and
their ALP supporters.