

ABC Questions

Why are you protesting?

1. What brings us all together is our shared concern for the concentration of political and economic power in the hands of a small minority

We believe that all people have the right to actively participate in political decision-making over issues that affect their lives

In our present system, people don't have effective channels of participation and their opinions and interests are not being considered on many important issues (same-sex marriage, brown coal energy production, etc.)

2. Occupy Melbourne stands in solidarity with the millions of people occupying public space in thousands of cities around the world

As part of this global movement, we are here to claim our right to real democracy and economic justice

What do you want to achieve?

Occupy Melbourne is not a conventional protest

By occupying public space in Melbourne we hope to give people the opportunity to share their concerns, educate themselves on a range of issues and organise for collective action

The *process* with which we make decisions and formulate our specific political goals is central to what we hope to achieve

We believe that our method must match our objective, which is for inclusive, participatory and direct democracy

We seek to engage diverse voices from the community to ensure our decisions take everybody's concerns and opinions into account

We follow a model of consensus decision-making (an extended process of deliberation to reach a decision that nearly everybody agrees upon)

Through this process, we hope Occupy Melbourne will be not only a forum for discussion, but also a platform for advocacy and direct action on a range of foreign policy, economic management, social and environmental issues

What are the movement's intentions in Melbourne?

Occupying public space is a key objective of our movement

For this reason, the most recent General Assembly decided that we would begin occupying Treasury Gardens from this Saturday onwards

We hope to expand on the work we were already doing at City Square, which aimed to *actively demonstrate* the changes we hope to see in broader society

Our camp in City Square was:

1. An active space for discussion, planning and decision-making, open to all the people of Melbourne

E.g. General Assembly, Education Working Group, Environmental Working Group, etc.

AND

2. A highly functional community that didn't organise through hierarchy, but through the principles of inclusiveness, recognition and solidarity

No leaders, everybody's voice heard and respected

E.g. Kitchen (feeding the homeless), classroom space, free store, garden, first aid, legal support

Will you protest during the Queen's visit tomorrow?

All decisions made through the General Assembly

No decisions can be endorsed by Occupy Melbourne without reaching a consensus or at minimum 90% majority approval

So far, no protest has been endorsed by the Assembly for tomorrow

We are holding an Assembly tonight at 6pm outside State Library.

If anyone wishes to organise a peaceful protest for tomorrow, they would need to propose their idea to the Assembly, which would deliberate and either reject or achieve consensus on a particular proposal for action