

## **NAME : Liberal Nationals**

### **Question 1**

Will you work with the City of Melbourne to secure new public open space in central Melbourne? Projects we seek your views on include:

- a) the linking of parks along the Flinders St to Southern Cross stations viaduct;
- b) securing significant new public open space, and establishing a meaningful open space contributions regime, in the Arden precinct ahead of development;
- c) securing a permanent park on Franklin Street between Swanston and Victoria Streets as a legacy of the Metro Rail project; and
- d) vesting the triangular site on the Victoria and Exhibition Streets with Council.

The Liberal Nationals support new open public space and, if elected on 24 November, will launch a review of public open space as part of our liveability policy. On the Arden project, we believe Labor is proceeding without establishing a proper regime for public open space, but we will work within the contract in good faith.

### **Question 2**

What are your targets and funding commitments for the 2018-22 term for climate adaptation and mitigation in greater Melbourne, including large scale renewable energy investment and stronger Environmentally Sustainable Design requirements in the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The Liberal Nationals believe in a balanced energy mix, of which renewables are an important and growing component.

With respect to large scale renewal energy investment, the Liberal Nationals remains deeply concerned at the surge in electricity and gas costs that has occurred since 2014, especially following Daniel Andrews' closure of Hazelwood. Victorian families and businesses are being smashed by Labor's high energy prices. Unlike Labor, we will utilise our safe onshore conventional gas reserves to help bring down power prices.

However, on renewables we have already announced that a Liberal Nationals Government will support the local industry by requiring major renewables projects use 75 per cent Victorian content. We will also help to provide solar panels and batteries to every Victorian public school that wants them.

The Liberal Nationals strongly support environmentally sustainable design requirements within the Victorian Planning Provisions where these are not cost prohibitive.

With respect to greater Melbourne, our policy to reverse Labor's Neighbourhood Residential Zone and General Residential Zone changes will slow the heat island effects being forced on Melbourne by Labor's program of forced densification and relentless tree destruction, including along St Kilda Road.

### **Question 3**

Will you assist the urban renewal of Fishermans Bend and inner city environmental management by transferring Committee of Management status for Westgate Park to the City of Melbourne?

The Andrews Labor Government has completely botched the Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Project, including by calling in permits within days of a VCAT hearing and failing to provide for meaningful transport connections to the precinct.

**Question 4**

Will you commit to planning and building new local solutions to the recycling crisis, including the mass diversion of recyclables to waste, and waste to landfill, working with local governments?

In light of China's import ban on certain types of recyclable goods originating from Australia, the Liberal Nationals will invest in technologies and infrastructure to support our local recycling industry.

**Question 5**

Will you commit to a canopy cover target on all State Government managed land in greater Melbourne to contribute to help create a metropolitan Urban Forest?

The Liberal Nationals will be releasing a liveability policy which includes proper measurement of Melbourne's liveability and a commitment to a review of open space, prior to 24 November.

**Question 6**

What are your plans to tackle homelessness including with housing-first models where real social and health support is wrapped around stable medium-term housing solutions?

Under Labor, the public housing waiting list has soared. Labor has been in government for 15 of the last 19 years, and has done little to address the massive demands of Victoria's enormous population growth. Increases in the cost of living have put pressure on households and businesses, with more families now requiring government support.

Under Daniel Andrews, an excess of 82,000 individuals are on the public housing wait list, and homelessness has increased by 72 per cent over the past five years. There are now 17,854 people on the priority access waiting list, up 78.2 per cent from March 2016. Thousands are also sleeping rough each night and the CBD like suburbs and towns across Victoria have seen a visible increase in homelessness.

The Liberal Nationals recognise that there are a range of contributing factors toward Victoria's housing and homelessness problems including family violence, housing unaffordability, the rising cost of living, and mental health and substance abuse issues.

We have already announced a commitment to decentralise population growth throughout the whole of the state rather than accept the current situation where over 90 per cent of new growth is in greater Melbourne, which exacerbates public and private housing shortages.

We will also fast-track the release of an additional 290,000 residential housing lots to help make housing more affordable and anticipate releasing additional policies in these areas prior to 24 November.

**Question 7**

Where will you fund and build safe bicycle commuter routes of state significance into the central city, and will you complete a bike share policy including the regulation of dockless shared bikes trading on public space, noting that Local Government lacks legal authority to regulate?

Bicycles play an important role in supplementing, supporting and alternating for other modes of transport. The Liberal Nationals will continue to fund and support the provision of additional infrastructure if elected to government.

**Question 8**

Will you seek a clear mandate to commence Metro Rail 2 on an identified route, and complete designs, planning and tenders by 2022?

The Liberal Nationals recognise that Metro Rail 2 is an important further step in expanding public transport and we will take advice from Infrastructure Victoria on the future progress and implementation of Metro Rail 2.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Nationals have announced a suite of rail policies that will make a real difference to the lives of Melburnians and Victorians at large, including a regional High Speed Rail network, train line extensions from Cranbourne to Clyde and Frankston to Baxter and track duplication between Greensborough and Eltham, which will ease the squeeze on our cities.

**Question 9**

By when will you complete and publish an integrated transport strategy for Victoria as required under the *Transport Integration Act 2010*?

The timing of an integrated transport strategy will be determined in government but a Liberal Nationals Government will always comply with the law.

**Question 10**

Will you commit to a new Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate State, Local and community strategic planning- and governance-framework setting, to ensure the efficient planning of declared urban renewal areas in the municipality?

A Liberal Nationals Government will work with local government to locate and declare appropriate urban renewal areas.

**Question 11**

Will you review Part 3 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* ('amendment of planning schemes') to improve the efficiency and coordination of amendments and reduce the increasingly litigious nature of panels, working with the City of Melbourne and stakeholders?

Planning scheme amendments play an important role in amending our planning scheme and panels have traditionally played an important role in informing decision makers, including government, of the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of amendment proposals. The Liberal Nationals are prepared to work with all stakeholders to ensure panels do not become excessively litigious.

**Question 12**

What are your concrete plans to progress State housing affordability policy, particularly with regards to using underutilised State Government land for new public housing, and in rolling out inclusionary zoning on a large scale?

Housing affordability has declined over the four years of Daniel Andrews' government, driven in part by a slew of new taxes and charges imposed on the property and development sector as well as a slow release of new land for housing. These are necessarily passed through to consumers making housing less affordable.

The Liberal Nationals believes that there is a role for State Government land to play in underpinning a variety of developments including new public housing.

**Question 13**

Will you remove the 25,000 sqm gross floor area threshold where the Minister for Planning becomes the Responsible Authority for planning applications, returning responsible authority status to the City of Melbourne, in the interests of removal of duplication between State and Local Government? Or at least increase the threshold to 50,000 sqm?

The Liberal Nationals have no intention of changing the existing 25,000 sqm gross floor area arrangements, as we believe they provide a suitable threshold. However, we will work with the City of Melbourne to increase the current, narrow time period in which public and council input through the Future Melbourne Committee is accepted, for the mutual benefit of both parties.

**Question 14**

Will you comprehensively and urgently review (with genuine City of Melbourne and public input) planning, building and owners corporation laws with a view to significantly clarifying categories of accommodation and tenancy types and ensure a fairer system for all high density residents?

Short stay accommodation is fast becoming a popular choice for consumers throughout the world.

The Liberal Nationals understand that the development of diverse short-stay accommodation options in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria will be of immense benefit to property owners, the tourism industry and the economy as a whole. However, every effective regulatory system must balance the competing rights of direct parties to a contract as well as others who may be affected by arrangements entered into.

There can be no doubt that Daniel Andrews and Labor have lost control of short stay parties and their sometimes tragic outcomes.

While the Liberal Nationals have no plans to restrict the genuine property rights of mum and dad investors who choose to rent out their homes to earn legitimate income, we believe that there need to be rules and standards.

If elected to government, and after genuine, good faith consultation with all stakeholders, we will introduce legislation that better balances the rights of residential owners to manage their property as they see fit, with the rights of neighbouring residential property owners and residents who want quiet enjoyment of their homes. The Liberal Nationals will ensure that out of control 'party houses' are dealt with swiftly, and the rights of nearby neighbours are respected and upheld.

**Question 15**

Will you announce your plans for the future use of the Melbourne Youth Justice Centre and precinct in Parkville, and will you work with the City of Melbourne to ensure a clear plan for Parkville Gardens generally, so as to reduce the incidence of ad hoc planning rule changes site by site?

Under Daniel Andrews, youth justice continues to lurch from one crisis to another. Assaults and serious incidents have been at record levels, and riots and mass escapes have added to the chaos.

Victoria's youth justice is now being described as more dangerous than an adult system.

Too many violent young offenders continue to have a negative influence on the Victorian community and too many children from state care are ending up in the youth justice system, having fallen through the cracks of a system in disarray.

Over the last four years, the Victorian community has witnessed extreme gang violence on our streets and across our suburbs. Young offenders being involved in serious crimes such as carjacking, home invasions, and innocent Victorians are being subjected to violence as they just go about their business.

Too many young offenders whilst in youth justice have not been able to get the necessary and appropriate education and rehabilitation because quite simply, the Government has lost control.

The Liberal Nationals believe that offenders need to be held to account and that victims will be central to the decision making processes.

Rehabilitation and therapeutic programs implemented will need to be targeted, more robust, and adhered to.

Victorians expect more, and that is why under a future Liberal Nationals Government, the youth justice system will be more closely aligned with the community's expectations.

#### **Question 16**

Will you set out a funding and delivery timeline for delivery of the Harbour Esplanade masterplan, fully integrated with the Stadium precinct and a renewed whole-of-Docklands Community and Place Plan?

The master planning of the Harbour Esplanade, the Stadium precinct and adjacent public land, forms an important opportunity for balanced development where community objectives, commercial and residential development are balanced to achieve an exemplary outcome.

#### **Question 17**

Will you work with the City of Melbourne and other affected Councils to introduce new student accommodation design standards, similar to the Better Apartment Design Standards?

The Liberal Nationals note the importance of education exports to Victoria and the variety of requirements of local and overseas students. The Better Apartment Design Standards were introduced in August 2017 and ought to be reviewed for effectiveness and achievement of objectives in late 2019. It would be appropriate to consider student accommodation as part of that review.