

2010 Federal Election Candidate Survey CoRBA Coalition of Residents & Business Associations Melbourne

Which electorate are you standing in?	Melbourne Ports	Melbourne
Your name	Gregory Storer	Adam Bandt
Your party (leave blank if independent)	Secular Party Of Australia	The Greens
"What are your views on the structure and operation of the City of Melbourne its effectiveness in how its represents its ratepayers and stakeholders its relationship with its electors and the State Government? To whom should it be accountable?"	Our democratic system should allow the residents and ratepayers of the City Of Melbourne the right to determine how to govern the city in the best interest of those residents and those that visit.	"City of Melbourne should give greater representation to residents. Of course business needs are important and they should have fair representation. But at the moment Council's voting base is skewed and as such there is not fair representation. I also believe that Council should have greater powers over planning and should be more directly involved in determining how Melbourne can become a sustainable city."
Do you agree that as a matter of urgency a review of council structure and electoral processes are required in the City of Melbourne?	Yes	Yes
To what extent should local government in the CoM reflect the economic agenda of the State and Federal governments even if these agendas override the democratic rights of the residents and ratepayers?	"It's important to strike a balance between the economic needs of the State and therefore all citizens of Victoria and that of the residents of Melbourne care must be take to not undermine the democratic rights of the residents and there should be a collaborative system to ensure the State does not unduly impact on that right."	"CoM should represent Melbourne residents and ratepayers first and foremost. If necessary the Act should be changed to reflect this."
What are your views on the review and reform of the electoral process and Council structure in Melbourne?	"Review and reform are an important part of our political system an honest review will enable all to make decisions in the best interest of the key stakeholders"	See above. An urgent review is required. This is the position I took to the 2008 Council election and I still hold it.
"If elected what would you do to give effect to your views?"	I'm prepared to work between the State and City to ensure that recommendations of the review are carefully enacted to ensure the best outcome for residents and ratepayers	The Federal representative for Melbourne can play an important role in coordinating and liaising between the various roles of government to ensure consistent planning and vision for the city. This would be a priority for me.
"While acknowledging that many such planning matters are State and local government responsibility do you agree that our planning frameworks do not align and that there is a demonstrable lack of cohesion in the CoM?"	Yes	Yes

"If elected how would you work to reconcile the various planning frameworks which are supposedly guiding the future of the CoM?"	"I believe that the elected representatives of the City of Melbourne are best placed to make recommendations regarding major projects they must continue to work with Government and private developers to ensure a coherent plan is in place to allow ongoing economic development while ensuring the character of Melbourne is maintained."	"As mentioned earlier I believe the Federal representative for Melbourne should play an important role in coordinating the representatives from various levels of Government including with respect to planning. The Federal government through Infrastructure Australia's 'Major Cities Unit' is increasingly taking a role in planning our capital cities. This is potentially a positive development although any power to override communities is of great concern."
"Do you agree that ad hoc State intervention or control of the Council is marginalizing the people of Melbourne in many areas of local government - planning transport infrastructure investment, etc	Yes	Yes
"If elected would you support the establishment an inter-governmental mechanism that would enable integrated decision-making between Federal and State Government Melbourne City Council (CoM) and ratepayers?"	Yes	Yes
Add any comments on your previous answer here.		
"How would you work to ensure that ordinary citizens and businesses residents and ratepayers have a consultative role in local planning?"	"Everyone has the right to determine what's best for their local area only through a proper collaborative system of consultation can we ensure that all points of view are heard and considered."	I would establish regular roundtables involving the various levels of government as well as representatives of residents and business groups to ensure there is proper consultation in local planning.
"Should the Federal Government support the construction of West Link which many consider has potentially dire consequences for Melbourne as it funnels thousands of cars per hour at peak times into inner Melbourne?"	Yes	No
Add any comment on your previous answer here.	Careful planning of roads and public transport is a must.	I oppose Labor's plans to turn our inner-city suburbs into a rat's nest of on and off ramps. We should be redirecting a portion of Federal road funds to public transport to enable cities like Melbourne to move to a world-class PT system.
Do you support the construction of Metro Rail?	Yes	Yes

Add any comment on your previous answer here.	An effective and comprehensive public transport system is required to alleviate traffic congestion and environmental impact	The answer is a qualified yes: I support the construction of a world-class public transport system in Melbourne. The Greens have released our own 'People Plan' that could be funded for less than the cost of Labor's proposed tunnels.
What is your view on whether the Garnaut East West Link should be constructed?	"Our road system should be only part of the solution we need to also review our public transport system. Moving more people public transport would then require a review of our road structure."	"It shouldn't. It's time instead to build the rail line to Doncaster to ease congestion at the eastern end of the city new inner-city PT lines as envisaged in the Greens' 'People Plan' get freight onto rail and build more bike paths."
Do you support the Federal government providing funding to State governments for such road infrastructure if its economic and environmental benefits are not proved?	No	No
Add any comment on your previous answer below	"All funding must be specific must have a clear and measurable outcome. If not then there must be a clear explanation as to why a project should be funded."	
What is your position on increased population density in our municipality?	"This again comes to an effective strategy in planning public transport and roads any additional population must be catered for with infrastructure and if that is in place careful planning of housing is required. It may be prudent to grow population outside the CBD"	"Having more people live in the inner-city is important but only if we get infrastructure and open-space issues right first."
What is your view of mandatory height limits versus discretionary decision-making?	Each project should be considered on it's own merits.	
Do you have any views about how to increase density without creating high rise?	Refer to 22	
What environmental considerations are important in determining broad planning outcomes?	"We have to move towards a sustainable city making the most of wind water and sun. Buildings must be environmentally friendly and have a small carbon footprint"	"Yes. In cities like Vancouver density is increased by having more housing at lower height limits - usually set back from single level shops - running along streets well serviced by public transport. This model should be investigated."
What environmental considerations are important in determining broad planning outcomes?	Refer to 25	"We must move to a zero-emissions economy as quickly as possible and residential and commercial buildings have a vital role to play. We must also keep and create new open spaces and parklands. Storm/rainwater capture and recycling is vital."
"How do we implement improved residential amenity into our planning and building codes especially in a context of increasing density?"	"Tight controls are required to ensure that planning and building is carried out in an appropriate manner. Planning should also allow for open spaces appropriate car parking space and there should be a clear guideline on reducing the environmental impact on any planning."	

What tangible proposals do you have in order to make Melbourne more liveable as the population grows?	Decide what is a sustainable population for the City. Restrict vehicle access to those non-residents travelling into the City. Ensure we have adequate public transport.	"Better public transport more community consultation in planning \$6m to expand community childcare centres in Melbourne repowering Melbourne with renewable energy by 2020. See more at http://greens.org.au/melbourne
Should the Federal Government continue providing infrastructure funding to the State government for increased density development along public transport routes whether or not it enjoys the support of local residents and ratepayers?	No	No
Add a comment on your previous answer here	It's important that local populations have direct input into the decision making process.	
Should Infrastructure Australia be legally required to consider the views of local councils and communities in assessing such proposals?	Yes	"Community consultation and proper input into planning processes are vital especially as our city grows."
"When State government actions threaten these national assets should the Federal government play a greater role in protecting their heritage values?"	No	Yes
Add a comment on your previous answer here.	"The State needs a tighter control and understanding of the areas it's the role of local citizens to ensure that the character of the City is maintain State and Federal governments need to respect that right."	Yes
"If elected what would you undertake deliver in the next term of the Federal government to enhance the well-being of Melbourne residents?"	"If elected I would represent a cross section of the community it's important that we are all treated with respect and dignity we all have the right and the ability to determine what is best for our local areas and I would work with various groups to ensure we reach a common understanding about how to grown and develop the city."	Establishment of a regular roundtable to involve all levels of the community and business in planning decisions. Pushing for Melbourne to become Australia's most sustainable capital city repowered by renewable energy by 2020. Advocating for greater community childcare and better public transport."