



Liberal for Albert Park
Shannon Eeles



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Dear Peter,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the questions of your members. Please find my responses below.

1. The St Kilda Triangle: What is your vision for the St Kilda Triangle?

The St Kilda Triangle is a place with incredible potential and presents a unique opportunity to create a vibrant community space that compliments the area in which it sits. I understand that community consultation has begun and there are many ideas for the space. We have a very talented community in the Albert Park District and I am excited to see the opportunities explored and ideas generated through this consultation. I would love to see the creation of a place that is loved by residents and tourist alike, and trust that the community of St Kilda and surrounds will come up with just that. I look forward to the opportunity to support the community in the creation of something very special.

2. The Palais: Do you support substantial state government funding for emergency repairs to the Palais?

Anyone who has been there knows that the Palais is a special place, not only significant to St Kilda but to Victoria- I absolutely love the place and have many wonderful memories of evenings spent under the dome ceilings. Funding is currently an active matter. As you may be aware the City of Port Phillip have an expression of interest open. It is this open and transparent process that will lead to the best possible outcome for the Palais. I will continue to advocate strongly for funding to ensure the Palais thrives for a long time to come.

The current Labor commitment hands management of the Palais back to the Citta Group of property developers, the same developers who had earlier plans to redevelop the site into 150 shops, a supermarket, cinema and several pubs and 3,000 to 4,000 patron nightclub. This completely disregards the process currently underway and effectively squashes any competitive process that may have lead to a better outcome. Obviously this concerns me greatly.

As I said, I love the Palais. I will continue to push for investment for repairs, as well as a responsible and sensitive vision for the triangle site.

3. Fitzroy St and Acland St Trams: What is your position on the proposals for a tram 'super-stop' on Fitzroy St for the 16 tram and the 96 terminus on Acland St?

I've been talking to local residents, business owners and the school community about this issue. There is great community concern about the traffic and safety impacts of narrowing Fitzroy Street to one lane in the proposed location. As our current local member failed to action this issue, I



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have brought it to the attention of Minister for Public Transport, Terry Mulder. I requested that in response to community concern Minister Mulder ask that PTV and Yarra Trams and City of Port Phillip put this project on hold to allow for further investigation as requested by the community. This has been agreed to and further investigation will be undertaken in 2015 before any further progress is made.

4. St Kilda Rd Bicycle Proposal: Do you support the proposal to build Copenhagen-style bike lanes along St Kilda Rd from Carlisle St to Southbank?

St Kilda Rd is one of our city's most stunning boulevards. The Napthine Government supports cycling and recognises St Kilda Road is a key cycling corridor.

I'm advised the Government is waiting for a detailed assessment from the Port Phillip City Council. When this assessment is received we will review the project, including how suggested improvements will impact St Kilda Road and the surrounding arterial and local road network.

5. Fishermans Bend: How should we ensure the appropriate development of Fishermans Bend? Do you support the early building of the Yarra Crossing bridge and the inclusion of sustainability standards in the Structure Plan?

The Fishermans Bend Strategic Framework Plan can be found at <http://www.mpa.vic.gov.au/fishermansbendsfp>. The strategic framework is just the first step, now we must look toward implementation of the plan. This is a 40 year project that will be guided by the MPA. I will be advocating strongly along side the community to ensure our new residents have access to vital community infrastructure and services.

The Napthine Liberals are committed to early infrastructure in Fishermans Bend. We are focussed on the delivery of high capacity rail into Fishermans Bend through the new Melbourne Rail Link station in Montague. The Montague station is just the first element of public transport that will be required in Fishermans Bend as it develops over the next 40years.

The Napthine Liberals are also committed to the new South Melbourne Primary School located in the Montague precinct. I look forward to working along side the community to ensure that Fishermans Bend is the vibrant liveable community we all want to see.

6. Schools and pre-schooling: How can we ensure that our growing population in the seat of Albert Park has adequate schools and pre-schooling?

The Napthine Government is committed to the provision and expansion of public education in the Albert Park District.

The Napthine Government is committed to the new South Melbourne Primary School on Ferrars St. This site was selected after a comprehensive feasibility study looking at a number of possible locations in the area. \$16 million has already been spent to purchase the site, commence



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planning and site preparation. The site is now owned by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the demolition of existing buildings has commenced.

Currently children from South Melbourne, Southbank and Docklands are attending Port Melbourne Primary School and Albert Park Primary School. The new South Melbourne primary school will alleviate the enrolment pressure from Port Melbourne and Albert Park Primary Schools by providing for the families of South Melbourne, Southbank and Docklands.

Labor's uncosted, unfunded, and undeliverable plan for a new school at Albert Park Lake is another cruel hoax. Labor has already demonstrated it cannot be trusted on its costings after it said it would build eight new schools for \$50 million. Labor's promise grossly underestimates the cost of delivering new schools. The Napthine Government's 2014-15 Budget is delivering 13 new schools for \$223 million as part of a public private partnership, yet Labor believes this can be done for \$6 million per school.

Labor is yet to explain how the site and building are to be purchased, retrofitted to accommodate 21st Century teaching and learning spaces, Parks Victoria offices to be relocated, Orchestra Victoria to be accommodated, and recreational space for children are to be delivered all for \$11.5 million. Again, Labor is fudging the figures.

Labor is yet to commit to supporting the construction of the new South Melbourne Primary School. Only the Napthine Coalition will deliver the South Melbourne Primary School.

The Napthine Government provided \$5.5 million in this year's budget for Albert Park College's redevelopment of the former Circus Oz site. This money is already available and will expand the capacity of College by around 200 students. The Napthine Government is also investing \$20 million for the development of the new Prahran Secondary College. Elwood College is a fabulous school with a growing population, and a re-elected Napthine Government will invest \$8.2 million to deliver stage 1 of the College's redevelopment. This is based on the school's masterplan, is fully costed and will be funded in our second term of government.

It is expected that the number of children in the area will continue to rise. The Albert Park District needs a comprehensive plan for schools and education into the future. This means not only planning for the location of new schools, but also looks at how schools can become true community hubs, how education can extend from the classroom into the real world, and how we best prepare our students for the jobs of the future. I will work with the ministers for planning, education, transport, housing, and the relevant government agencies to ensure the appropriate planning and community infrastructure is delivered for the area.

The Napthine Government has delivered new double-storey relocatable classrooms to Albert Park and Port Melbourne primary schools over the past two years to help alleviate enrolment pressures and return valuable open space to these schools.

Recently I convened a meeting with the Minister for Education, local principals and school council representatives to discuss the immediate needs of families and schools in the area.



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A re-elected Napthine Government will continue to work with the community to deliver practical solutions, like was done with Albert Park College around its innovative environmental arts hub and Year 9 campus at the former Circus Oz site.

7. Webb Dock: How can we ensure the appropriate development of Webb Dock to take into account the impact on neighbours including the new suburbs in Fishermans Bend?

The Port of Melbourne Corporation has been committed to open and transparent engagement with the local community since the project was announced in April 2012.

Community and local stakeholders will continue to have the opportunity to provide input on important matters as they have with the treatment of buffers, noise and lighting and parks and recreational spaces. If successful part of my role will be to advocate along side local residents.

The Port of Melbourne Corporation established a Project Liaison Group, containing a diverse membership of local stakeholder groups to be directly involved with and consulted on vital aspects of the Project.

The Buffer Management Plan for the entire Port precinct was approved by the Project Liaison Group and the Corporation and was made available on the Project website in March 2014.

In addition, as part of the competitive bidding process for the operation of the third container terminal, bidders were required to demonstrate a commitment to addressing a range of matters including sustainability, noise management, light spill, community amenity and traffic management as part of their bid.

This was a criterion included in the assessment of bids.

There has always been, and will continue to be, numerous opportunities for people to find out about the Project, to present ideas and make suggestions.

These include interaction with the Project Liaison Group, website information and updates, community forums and workshops, and on-line interactive website forums.

As part of the Project, new parklands will be created within the buffer zone of the port. This will include the creation of approximately 3 hectares of open space in addition to about 8 hectares which will undergo improvement and enhancement as part of the project.

Importantly, this includes the popular Perce White Reserve, and enhancements there include a public open boardwalk and new viewing platform with breathtaking views across the Bay to Melbourne and beyond.

The focus of the Port of Melbourne Corporation on the delivery of quality buffers around the port and the use of innovation as a key driver in the competitive bidding process have ensured that the redevelopment of Webb Dock will set new benchmarks in the delivery of major infrastructure and associated works, while enshrining the views and amenity of the local community.

Construction at Webb Dock is required to adhere to the Environmental Management Plan. This Plan applies a layer of protection for local residences and businesses, with specific controls and



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monitoring programs employed to address noise and ensure construction activities are undertaken in accordance with all relevant EPA Guidelines and Policy Requirements.

As part of the Project, safer and more efficient connections to existing arterial roads will take trucks off local roads, particularly by providing a link directly to and from the M1 and the Port. This will protect amenity and enhance liveability in these communities.

8. St Kilda Festival: Do you support increasing the state government's contribution from \$100,000 to \$500,000?

The Victorian Coalition Government has supported the St Kilda Festival since 2010. The Festival is a highlight on the Victorian Arts Calendar, and helps to bring the community together by showcasing a wide variety of Australian music and interactive activities. As a Local Government managed Festival, the Festival is eligible to apply for a VicArts Grant to support artists and activities under the festival program. The next VicArts Grants round will open in early 2015.

9. St Kilda Pier: Would you commit to early state funding for a replacement pier at the St Kilda harbour?

The Coalition recognises the importance of St Kilda Pier to our tourism industry, and its utilisation for fishing, leisure activities and its connection to the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron. The Naphthine Coalition Government has provided over \$40 million to over 250 projects to improve marine and boating infrastructure around the state.

The St Kilda foreshore precinct attracts more than eight million tourists each year, and the iconic St Kilda Pier and kiosk alone receive in excess of two million visitors.

Over this term, we committed \$3.4 million for vital works at St Kilda Pier. We committed to funding replacement of the ageing timber marina jetty. The jetty had come to the end of its practical life.

Our funding commitment also provided for connection works at the extended southern breakwater; as well as for critical remedial and strengthening works. Our investment has importantly extended the life of the jetty structure, and ensured the Pier remains safe and functional. This investment complemented funding contributed by the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron to replace their marina and extend the existing Breakwater, including enhanced public access.

The previous Labor government commissioned a St Kilda Harbour Concept Plan, but they failed to commit to it or provide any funding to any component of the Plan. The Plan is now over six years old. It is not current, and obviously fails to take into account the works that have been undertaken, the evolution of the precinct, and the objectives that are now priorities.

A re-elected Naphthine Government will continue to work closely with the City of Port Phillip, the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron and other stakeholders to explore funding priorities and projects for the St Kilda Pier, and the foreshore precinct.



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The Napthine Government is investing record amounts into boating and fishing infrastructure with the \$65 million Better Bay Plan, the Boating Safety and Facilities Program, and the Recreational Fishing Initiative.

10. The Grand Prix: What is your position on the Grand Prix at Albert Park? In particular, should the Grand Prix Corporation be required to accurately record attendance numbers?

I understand this is an important issue for many local residents. I live in the area also and understand the concerns of my neighbours. My focus is on working with the community and government to ensure the impact of the event on our local community is minimised.

Each year the Australian Grand Prix Corporation's Annual Report lists the sales, sponsorship and commercial revenue, as well as the estimated attendance. This system was in place for the 11 years of the previous Labor Government.

11. Public Transport: Do you have a realistic plan for Melbourne's public transport and, in particular, what are the respective merits of Melbourne Metro versus Melbourne Rail Link?

The Napthine Government is providing for Victoria's future transport needs with a record \$27 billion infrastructure pipeline. Only the Napthine Government will build the Melbourne Rail Link, with a rail line to the airport. Under a re-elected Napthine Government, early construction works will commence in 2016 on the \$8.5 billion to \$11 billion Melbourne Rail Link.

Only the Napthine Liberals Melbourne Rail Link will service Albert Park District and provide critical early infrastructure for Fishermens Bend, creating Montague and Domain Station.

The Napthine Government will also deliver the Cranbourne-Pakenham line upgrade and will invest \$3.9 billion to purchase 170 new trains and trams in the biggest rail order in 30 years.

The Napthine Government is also making public transport more affordable. Consumers will soon be able to travel in zone 1 and 2 for the price of a zone 1 fare. The Napthine Liberals will also offer free tram travel in the CBD and Docklands.

12. Port Phillip Bay: What can be done about pollution of the bay and the threat of rising sea levels in the seat of Albert Park?

The Victorian coalition has invested over \$1 billion through A Cleaner Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay: A Plan of Action, to reduce pollution threats through better storm water management and litter prevention activities.

A re-elected coalition is also investing a further \$65 million through the Better Bays initiative that includes a range of litter control measures. This includes \$45,000 for Beach patrol to expand their network of beach cleaning groups and \$200,000 of recycling infrastructure for the foreshore.



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In 2012 the coalition also updated planning controls to raise floor levels for developments to improve management of the risks associated with sea level rise and flooding.

13. CCTV and Public Safety: What is your position on Closed Circuit TV and public safety in Albert Park generally and Fitzroy St in particular?

The Napthine Government has a strong law and order agenda. CCTV has shown to be effecting in reducing crime. There are two ways to change behaviour, you either change what happens before or you change what happens after. CCTV changes both, acting as a deterrent and assisting in then identification of those engaging in illegal activity. I also strongly support other crime prevention measures such as environmental design and community based programs designed to reduce illegal behaviour.

The Victorian Coalition Government has also delivered on its \$602 million election commitment to deliver 1,700 frontline police by November. This includes an extra 218 police in our Southern Metro Region.

14. Neighbourhood Zones and Affordable Housing: Do you support the new neighbourhood zoning system as it has been applied in Albert Park?

Here in Albert Park District it is important that we take active steps to retain the character and charm of our neighbourhoods and the village atmosphere that results. I support efforts to protect our neighbourhood streets and ensure that development is sensitive to existing areas. I believe that stable housing is a critical factor in ones life. Those who need our support should be able to access it and those supports should be focussed on increasing independence and empowering the individual.

15. Apartment Design Standards: Do you support mandatory design standards for new apartments in Melbourne?

Victorians' shift towards high destiny housing and the increase in supply of such dwellings has necessitated an overhaul of Victoria's apartment design standard. Currently there are no regulations in Victoria specifically targeting apartment design outside of the National Building Code. There has been support from local government and stakeholders to address the quality and amenity of apartments and for basic standards regarding natural light, ventilation, thermal comfort, acoustic performance, dwelling space, balconies and storage. Draft apartment guidelines have been created.

16. Melbourne Metropolitan Strategy: Do you support the new metropolitan planning strategy and the new Metropolitan Planning Authority?

Plan Melbourne was introduced by the Napthine Coalition Government in May 2014. Plan Melbourne provides an integrated approach to planning and development which includes land use, transport, and social and community infrastructure.



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The previous Labor Government's metropolitan planning strategy, Melbourne 2030, failed to adequately provide for Melbourne's rapid growth or deliver the necessary infrastructure for a city of Melbourne's size. In contrast, Plan Melbourne is a clear vision for the future that encourages investment and economic growth while maintaining Melbourne's heritage and environment.

For the first time there is a dedicated authority, the Metropolitan Planning Authority, to implement the government's urban planning strategy.

To implement the strategy, the Metropolitan Planning Authority will be given Planning Authority powers for metropolitan Melbourne, and will use these powers in precincts and locations identified in Plan Melbourne, including urban renewal precincts, national employment clusters, metropolitan activity centres, and health and education precincts.

The Metropolitan Planning Authority will work closely with local councils as well as government departments, local residents and other interested parties.

Urban renewal in key areas such as Fishermans Bend, E-Gate, Arden-Macaulay and along rail corridors are a major part of the strategy. The Metropolitan Planning Authority has already been instrumental in the Coalition Government's delivery of the Fishermans Bend Strategic Framework Plan in July 2014 (please see Fishermans Bend question response for more detail around plan).

Victoria is the first state in Australia to have introduced a dedicated authority charged with unlocking the economic potential of its capital city and its regions, and ensuring that our communities are well served by the infrastructure they need as we grow.

16. Other Important Issues: Many unChain supporters will be interested in wider issues such as fracking on agricultural land, methods of funding infrastructure, aged care, men's health etc. Are there any such issues that you are particularly interested in?

I have spent the last 10 years working in health, disability and education. Education is the key to a brighter future and an issue that I am particularly interested in. It is essential that our education system is flexible, respects individual differences and allows students to excel in their areas passion.

I am committed to positive outcomes for those who face additional challenges. I advocate strongly for evidence-based practice in all areas and increasing this evidence base where it doesn't already exist.

I believe the world is changed by examples not opinions, so my focus is on creating these examples. Whether it be autism, homelessness, education, planning, aged care, social enterprises or youth services - sometimes people need to see examples of what is possible before they will believe it. When faced with challenges I want to see specialist in the field leading



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solutions. I am very interested in creating greater collaboration between those with solutions, and government decision makers.

We have a talented community here in Albert Park District and a wonderful opportunity to create many examples of how well things can be done. If successful I look forward to working with the community to achieve this.

Best regards,

Shannon Eeles
Liberal Candidate for Albert Park