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(Liberal)

Questionnaire for candidates in Prahran in the 2014 Victorian Election

1. Schools and pre-schooling: *How can we ensure that our growing population in the seat of Prahran had adequate schools and pre-schooling?*

The Napthine Government is providing unprecedented investment in new schools in the Prahran area. In April 2014 we announced \$20 million will be provided to build a new secondary school in Prahran. A short list of potential sites for the school has been considered and a preferred site will be announced soon.

The Coalition Government has also invested \$16 million over the last two Budgets to purchase land and prepare the site for a new primary school at Ferrars Street at South Melbourne. Demolition of existing buildings at the Ferrars St site is being carried out ahead of further developments to support this local project.

Funding has also been provided to a number of local early childhood facilities to improve facilities and deliver new or upgraded IT equipment. Facilities which have benefited in recent times include the Swinburne Prahran Community Children's Centre, the Alfred Child Care Centre, Brookville Kindergarten and Try Youth South Yarra.

Quality and professional education is also a key factor in ensuring positive early childhood development, which is why the Napthine Government earlier this year announced that early childhood teachers will be registered along the lines of their primary and secondary teaching colleagues.

The Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) Registration will require early childhood teachers to undertake professional development activities to help them remain up-to-date with research and best practice. It also requires teachers to report any concerns about child abuse and neglect. By raising the bar of professionalism, early childhood teachers are being recognised for the important work they do, while also encouraging even higher standards of teaching.

2. 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 making the biggest investment in public transport of any State Government since the 1970s.

Under a re-elected Napthine Government, early construction works will commence in 2016 on the \$8.5 billion to \$11 billion Melbourne Rail Link. By contrast, the Labor Party is pushing the Melbourne Metro, but can't find enough money to provide a start date for the project – Labor's approach is a headline with no deadline.

The Melbourne Rail Link's route is better than the Metro's, particularly for the inner south eastern suburbs. The Melbourne Rail Link provides a new station at Domain and Fishermans Bend and new underground platforms at South Yarra Station.

By contrast, Labor's Metro would bypass South Yarra, meaning fewer trains would service that station. Nor does the Metro provide a station at Fishermans Bend.

Under the Melbourne Rail Link proposal, our rail network will be able to handle as many as 35,000 extra passengers an hour. Labor's proposal only allows an extra 20,000 to be carried.

The Melbourne Rail Link also includes a train line to the airport. Labor's Metro does not.

The Coalition's Melbourne Rail Link will see direct Frankston line trains stopping at Toorak, Hawksburn, South Yarra, new stations at Domain (St Kilda Road) and Fishermans Bend, Southern Cross, Flagstaff, Melbourne Central, Parliament and Richmond before heading to Belgrave, Lilydale or Alamein. The line will also operate in reverse.

There won't be any more confusing change of direction for City Loop trains at one o'clock on a weekday.

Three times as many passengers use Southern Cross and the three City Loop stations as use Flinders Street, so the new arrangements will meet the needs of the majority of commuters. Cranbourne, Pakenham and Sandringham line trains will still run direct to and from Flinders Street so, just like today, a maximum of one change of trains will apply to some passengers.

Residents' holidays will start at South Yarra, Windsor, Prahran, Hawksburn or Toorak stations when they board a train and, with a maximum of one change, arrive at Melbourne Airport. Paying through the nose for short or long term car parking, or waiting for a Melbourne Airport shuttle bus between the car parks and the terminals will become a thing of the past.

We have been able to fund the train line to the airport by not building a new train station at Parkville, an area which is already very well serviced by public transport and where we are investing in tram upgrades.

The new airport trains will operate at 10 minute intervals during the day.

Locally, there are 688 more weekly Metro train trips in total on the Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham and Sandringham lines than when the Victorian Coalition Government was elected in late 2010.

Statewide, we've introduced more than 10,000 extra weekly train, tram or bus trips in the Coalition's first term in office.

3. 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 Road is one of the city's greatest boulevards. The Napthine Government is keen to preserve and enhance the amenity of the precinct.

The Government is yet to receive a detailed assessment of possible improvements to the bike lanes on St Kilda Road from Carlisle Street to Southbank. 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.

We will consult extensively with the community ahead of any introduction of Copenhagen-style bike lanes between Carlisle St and Southbank.

Personally I have been working with the City of Melbourne urban designers for some time on design options for these proposed bike lanes.

4. 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?*

The Grand Prix is an important part of Victoria's calendar of major events. Collectively, these events deliver a combined economic impact to the State of approximately \$1.8 billion each year. Over the years, both sides of the political spectrum have supported Victoria's calendar of major events, including the Grand Prix.

The Coalition Government has recently renewed the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix for a further five years, from 2016 to 2020.

The Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix provides significant benefits for Victoria including the economic gains of attracting interstate and international visitors to the event, as well as encouraging future tourism and business investment by raising the profile of Melbourne and the state of Victoria.

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

5. Neighbourhood Zones and affordable housing: *Do you support the new neighbourhood zoning system as it has been applied to Prahran?*

The new Neighbourhood Residential Zones aim to encourage responsible development while maintaining the integrity and character of suburbs. The Napthine Coalition Government worked closely with local government on the development of these zones and much of the inner Melbourne precincts will now be protected from development over two storeys.

In the state seat of Prahran only a small amount of land was earmarked under Residential Growth Zone. This land was primarily situated along arterial roads, close to public transport and other essential services. The majority of Prahran was zoned as General Residential and Neighbourhood Residential. These zones limit the amount of development and place restrictions on the height of buildings. This is an excellent result for Prahran, enabling the

neighbourhood characteristics to be maintained. These zones not only offer clear guidelines as to where land can be redeveloped, but ensure against inappropriate development in the future.

6. Apartment Design Standards: *Do you support mandatory design standards for new apartments in Melbourne generally and for Prahran in particular?*

Victorians' shift towards high density 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.

The Minister for Planning has recently announced that new apartments near live music venues will be required to implement appropriate sound proofing so that new residents will not be affected by noise. This is very important in ensuring the ongoing viability of live music venues.

7. The St Kilda Triangle: *What is your vision for the St Kilda Triangle? Do you support substantial state government funding for emergency repairs for the Palais?*

While the future of the St Kilda Triangle is primarily the responsibility of the local council, the Victorian Government has appointed an independent consultant to review the status and future of the Palais Theatre and to advise on the best way to restore this iconic venue for the benefit of all Victorians.

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

The Victorian Coalition Government already supports the St Kilda Festival. The nine-day celebration of music, arts and Australia's biggest single-day free music festival is popular with locals and visitors alike, drawing in crowds upwards of 350,000.

As well as boosting the local economy, the St Kilda Festival brings the community together with a wide range of activities for everybody to enjoy. This is an inclusive event that everyone can participate in.

This is a significant event on the Melbourne calendar and the Victorian Coalition Government supports its long-term success. Increases in funding will be a matter for the incoming government to determine.

9. 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?*

In July 2014, the Victorian Coalition Government finalised the Fishermans Bend Strategic Framework Plan. This was the result of careful consideration by both state and local government, departments, agencies and the business community. The plan includes clear guidelines to help shape the future direction of Fishermans Bend and is an incorporated document in the Melbourne and Port Phillip Planning scheme. This ensures that appropriate development guidelines are adhered to and the vision for Fishermans Bend is respected. Sustainability standards have informed its development.

It is only the Liberal Coalition that has committed to a new underground railway station in this precinct. There has been no announcement to date regarding a Yarra Crossing Bridge.

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

Plan Melbourne was introduced by the Naphine 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.

The previous Labor Government's metropolitan planning strategy, Melbourne 2030, was a half-baked proposal that 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.

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.

11. CCTV and Public Safety: *What is your position on Closed Circuit TV and public safety in Prahran?*

The Napthine Government has a strong law and order agenda. In October 2014, the Napthine Government provided Stonnington Council with \$330,000 to install ten new CCTVs along Chapel Street. The locations were chosen to deter alcohol-fuelled violence and other anti-social behaviour. This funding is part of the Napthine Government's \$35 million Community Safety Program.

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.

12. Are there any other issues you are particularly interested in?

As a supporter of same-sex marriage, I believe it is important to advocate for GLBTI equality. I am proud to have instigated the introduction of legislation to expunge the criminal records of men convicted of homosexual acts when it was still illegal before 1981.

I believe that small and local businesses are crucial to our economy. As well as providing employment, small businesses also add to the character of our iconic shopping strips.

I am also a strong supporter of improving bike infrastructure to ensure our increasing number of cyclists always feel safe on the roads. It is important that we continuously improve our cycling infrastructure so that riders can travel between the city, St Kilda and Prahran with ease.

If re-elected I look forward to delivering, along with Shannon Eeles, a new world class secondary school for the Prahran and Albert Park communities.