

## Port Phillip Council candidate questionnaire

Candidate name	Serge Thomann
Candidate for which ward	Lake
Contact and social media details	<a href="mailto:sergethomann@bigpond.com">sergethomann@bigpond.com</a> Facebook: sergethomann4lake
Which political party are you a member	I am not member of any party
What are your qualifications	Marketing executive, Run my own business for over 20 years, Councillor for 8 years and Deputy Mayor for 3 years
What is your current employment	More or less a full time Councillor/Deputy Mayor
How long have you lived in Port Phillip	Since 1983 when I arrived from France, 33 years
Which ward do you live in	Lake, my ward – I would never stand in a ward where I am not living!
What is your expertise that you bring to Council	Having been a very engaged Councillor for 8 years. I have an excellent knowledge of local issues and people. My experience working with all.
What are your personal policy priorities	Celebrate the beauty of our City, sustainable development, get the Triangle right (find the right cultural institution), Acland St and Fitzroy St sustainability.
What inspired you to stand for Council	The approval of the previous Triangle, CITTA proposal and the lack of proper governance in the CoPP.
What is your policy on council issues relating to	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council governance</li> </ul>	It has to be irreproachable, transparent, engaged with the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council finances</li> </ul>	I know some residents are suggesting a cut in rates but this would mean a cut in services. Savings should be found, rates increase is capped. Reduce staff members? If needed, we can review all our services, but people should be aware that some services may have to be cut...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council rates</li> </ul>	The rate increase is capped. With no property re-evaluation year next year, it will be an easy year..
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social housing</li> </ul>	The previous City of St Kilda and now the City of Port Phillip is a leader in its field and should remain this. At the moment, there are about 8% of dwellings that are affordable in Port Phillip, this figure should increase to 9 or 10% in the next ten years, taking advantage of the development of Fisherman's Bend.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Development</li> </ul>	Finish the residential zones and adopt the Amendment C122 for St Kilda South precinct. Get our planning department to be more responsive with less red tape. Get the right outcome on the Novotel site - looking at the most prominent development in St Kilda for years to come. Fight with VCAT if the outcome is not correct.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triangle project</li> </ul>	The CoPP has developed a Master Plan that for me is only a guide for a future development on the site. I am proud of the Cultural Charter that was developed in consultation with many members of the community that should guarantee a good outcome, being a cultural centre (the cultural

	<p>institution will be the major contributor with a hotel and a few other activities. In the meantime, I am suggesting that we paint all the car spaces to make it an art precinct and remind people of what it could be. We should also appoint a high powered group that will help find or develop a great cultural institution / outcome.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisherman's Bend planning</li> </ul>	<p>Council's role is advocacy and it seems that the State Government has taken some notice of Council's wishes. Mind you, it is not surprising as half of the staff at the Fisherman's Bend Hub are ex CoPP employees. One of the most critical questions that has not been answered is the detailed plan of Public Transport - where is the tram going to be, will it cross the Yarra? What about the Metro Rail? Affordable housing needs to be a big part of this.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arts &amp; entertainment</li> </ul>	<p>Council plays a significant part in Arts and Entertainment not just in organising activities but also helping other groups to thrive. Council needs to allow recurrent funding for our major arts organisations. I am also suggesting we create a Port Phillip Cultural Fund to allow people to donate some money so more money is available for arts organisations, not just Council money. See my website.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport &amp; recreation</li> </ul>	<p>Have great facilities, like the new St Kilda Life Saving Club, the refurbishment of the Peanut Farm that will allow better female participation. Have great parks and gardens. A good summer management program as it worked well over the past 2 years.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community services</li> </ul>	<p>Council's current satisfaction rate is very high on this subject. Libraries are well visited. Looking after people less able is significantly important.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aged care services</li> </ul>	<p>Council has to look after the older residents living in our City and provide good services, like meals on wheels, aged services, etc. Council has got to help in the building of new aged care facilities -like the one planned for the Sacred Heart Mission.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child care services</li> </ul>	<p>I believe that Council should keep looking after childcare centres. The waiting list needs to go down by all working together. The last 2 childcare centres that the CoPP built are very successful. And more or less full...</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLBTIQ</li> </ul>	<p>The CoPP has to do all it can to bring the Pride Centre to St Kilda, where it belongs. Council needs to keep sponsoring the Pride March and make sure it stays in St Kilda. It should always be a place of acceptance, inclusiveness and equality for all.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Kilda festival</li> </ul>	<p>I love the St Kilda Festival and it has got to stay. But I believe that the State Government needs to contribute to the costs as it is a major event in Melbourne each year. Sponsors have got to be found (maybe having a more upfront type of approach...) -</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roads</li> </ul>	<p>Need to be maintained adequately. This is one of Council's more important job.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubbish</li> </ul>	<p>Currently, the company picking up all the rubbish is a bit arrogant. They should do a better job. The hard rubbish management is an issue too but it is all over the City. And graffiti!</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council website and use of technology for communication</li> </ul>	<p>The website has gone through a few changes and things have improved. There is so much information on the website that it is sometimes hard to find what one is looking for. I believe we should build a few databases so the searchers can give them a try. It is much easier to contact people by email than by rail or trail. I also think that Council should develop a bigger database to be able to engage with many residents at little cost.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council response and finalisation of complaints</li> </ul>	<p>Requests are being treated a lot faster nowadays but it can always improve, especially in the planning department - officers should ask through the Community First approach.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing community</li> </ul>	<p>Developers are a key part of our community. For elections, candidates should not accept developers' contributions to avoid any conflicts of interests. I have never.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	<p>This questionnaire has been very complete. You can peruse my 60 points priorities for the next 4 years on my website <a href="http://sergeyourvoice.com">sergeyourvoice.com</a>. Celebrating our foreshore is a big part of my programme, we are the only ones to have such a beautiful asset.</p>