

Kurilpa Candidate Forum – Sunday 12 November 2017

Response from Karagh-Mae Kelly

1. Transport and Mobility within and to and from the Kurilpa Peninsula

- *A major issue that we need a solution for is reducing the number of cars on our roads to reduce congestion and environmental impacts. Part of this solution is to ensure a reliable and affordable transport system. With more developments planned we are looking at a massive increase in population. I am concerned that we do not have the infrastructure to cope.*
- *The Animal Justice Party does not have a policy for this however one of our four key principles is “rationality” so we would examine the evidence and speak with locals about their needs and priorities. I am open to being educated and informed on this important topic and would make a decision based on the evidence provided.*

2. Affordable Housing

- One of the set questions we were given was would we support establishing a State Government standard of service for a proportion of affordable housing within inner city new developments. I couldn't agree with this more.
- The Animal Justice Party has a key principle of “equality” and we believe that everyone should have access to affordable housing and infrastructure. Inner city living shouldn't be a luxury.
- The current infrastructure and town planning and development in peri-urban regions is pushing people further out into the suburbs and having them commute hours a day. This does not promote a healthy city, healthy families or good mental health.
- To me the idea that affordable housing needs to be part of new developments is completely obvious. We also need to stop discrimination against tenants with animals to stop the number of animals being abandoned in shelters. The increase in renters means people deserve not the only right to keep their animals but legislation to protect them.
- We have massive developers making a fortune on apartment buildings and the Government has a duty of care to their community to give people options. I would absolutely support a scheme that has compulsory affordable housing within the future planning of developments.

3. Community Engagement

- Community engagement at all levels of government is the fabric of democracy. The Animal Justice Party has emerged directly out of community engagement to provide a voice for the voiceless and to promote the messages that are not always easy to hear, but that we need to acknowledge and act on together, to protect our environment as well as the rights of humans and animals.

- This is not about Left and Right wing politics – this is about doing the right thing to create a better life for all, not just for the most influential or financially secure constituents, but for all.
- Specifically, I am running in this election because I believe South Brisbane is frustrated with politicians not listening to what the community wants. Whether this has resulted from a lack of community engagement or ignorance, I am not sure but it's time to step-up community engagement and takes the action that our constituents tell us they want.
- As a local Member, I would actively engage with the marginalised groups who are frequently silenced by the mainstream media as fairly as I would with all other constituents. Given my professional experience as an Investigator in human services as well as animal welfare, I have seen first-hand that we need to hear the voice of marginalised groups, such as victims of DV, who are also silenced, and animals who are too readily exploited in our agricultural, pharmaceutical and entertainment sectors.
- I would identify and work with other community groups who are marginalised to share their stories and promote their words, to empower them to make the change they want.

4. Park and Open Spaces

- Presently the planning laws requiring developers to provide adequate green space are not strict enough.
- We are cramming apartments into inner city suburbs but forgetting that humans, as animals, need to be outside in the wider environment and we should be encouraged and feel safe to leave our apartments.
- More green space is needed for community safety, mental health and general wellbeing, both from a community safety perspective but also from a mental health perspective. I would protect our current green spaces and aim to claw-back more. South Brisbane does not need more apartments, now in over-supply, we need more green space.
- More tiny vertical apartments means more companion animals are kept inside without proper care or social interaction. If we applied this behaviour to another person it would be called abuse. Our cities are not people or animal friendly. Animal-friendly green spaces where people can take their companions, enjoy some air and connect with the neighbours should be mandatory in planning. Happy cities, with low crime rates, are cities where green spaces are not only encouraged but part of future plans.
- Current inner city planning schemes cause havoc on our limited native wildlife. We need to promote the use of native plants so that we are encouraging wildlife back into the urban environment. I am so sick of the same grass shrub outside every development here in South Brisbane. It is a cheap and nasty cop out to what a beautiful part of the world it is here, and we need to demand a better standard for not only the residents but the wildlife that we have displaced due to human development.
- Green spaces are much more than laneways or cafes with chairs on a street. We can make our cities safe, healthy and welcoming to humans, their companions and

wildlife. The definition needs to be strict and robust. I would seek the help of planning and conservation experts, some of which are here tonight when interpreting and commenting on state wide development legislation and proposals.

5. **Overdevelopment**

- The Animal Justice Party has just launched a land clearing policy which calls for conservation as a core and consistent principle in all planning legislation. This means no loop-holes on conservation requirements, whether it's plans for a small metropolitan block of trees that provides homes and food for wildlife, or the clearing of hundreds of acres of dense forest. No exceptions.
- We need to reverse deforestation in Queensland. Our State is on the world's top 10 list of deforestation zones. Our koalas are near extinction. Our reef is dying. It is time to stop the overdevelopment of Queensland.
- Personally, and as a concerned resident, I want to go even further and promote the importance of having robust legislation around developments and banning developer contributions to government. I don't believe transparent and fair decisions can be made when there are clear conflicts of interest. It does not build trust within the community. I recently witnessed development gone wrong at UQ when their bulldozers arrived to tear down a large plot of land for a new building. This was in the middle of nesting season for many animals including kookaburras who we filmed crashing down with the trees. Students and the wider public were outraged, the RSPCA condemned the decision, and yet public officials were powerless to do anything. The legislation is toothless and only benefits those who are monetarily invested.
- The Animal Justice Party will end "tick and flick" boxes when it comes to wildlife and the environment with no real substance, enforcement or penalties. Requiring a couple of wildlife spotters present to "observe" is not good enough, the community wants more. We will also introduce and enforce a strict duty of care for all animals sitting on a property going through a change in use of the land. This will promote considered development and stop the wanton destruction of habitat for the sake of new homes and estate. This needs to stop; the community watches this all the time and are never listened to - we cannot clear any more habitat.
- In the city, we need more urban green spaces to the benefit of all, as I mentioned before.