

Kurilpa Futures Candidate Forum

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Questions

1. **What do you consider are the main concerns of the people of South Brisbane? How have these changed since the last state election?**

Having had thousands of conversations with people over the year, the key issues that residents are concerned about are rampant overdevelopment, a chronic investment in public infrastructure, climate change and a lack of faith in politics and politicians. Residents were talking about very similar issues in 2017, and these challenges have only become more pressing over the last three years.

Overdevelopment & Public Infrastructure: Under existing state planning legislation, the neighbourhood has seen a rapid growth in apartment developments, and with that a huge growth in population. Both council and the state government have failed to keep pace with infrastructure, including greenspace, public transport, active transport and school infrastructure. Development is fine, but it has to be done sustainably, with good planning, investment in public infrastructure, and it has to put residents – not property developers – at the heart of decision making. Since the last election I think residents in the area have only felt more shut out of decision making in their area. It's clear we need to overhaul the Planning Act (written by Labor in a year they took \$240,000 in developer donations) to make neighbourhood plans democratic and binding. People that I've spoken to are excited about our plans for much needed local infrastructure, including new bus routes, new greenspace, infrastructure for our local schools, an Aboriginal cultural centre at Musgrave Park, and cycling infrastructure. I elaborate in more detail in questions 3, 4 and 5.

Climate change: So many people I've spoken to are concerned about climate change, and the lack of action from both Labor and the LNP. So many people have been appalled by Labor's recent decision to give Adani a special royalties deal, as well as their expansion of gas exploration. We have a plan for 100% publicly owned clean energy by 2030, creating 23,000 jobs, while delivering support for communities, households and small businesses to take up solar power and battery storage. We're also advocating for free public transport, to get those who can out of their cars, and better planning for more greenspace and sustainable design. I elaborate on this in more detail in question 2.

People's faith in politics. We've had almost 10,000 in-depth one-on-one conversations since we started campaigning in April. And one thing that has really stood out is people's growing sense that politics doesn't work for them. People are fed up with politicians putting the interests of their careers and corporate donors ahead of everyday people. Obviously we've seen integrity scandals in both major parties in recent months, but most people are smart enough to know that the problem with Queensland politics goes a lot deeper – corporate donations, close ties between parties and lobbyists, cash-for-access meetings. All this was an issue in 2017, but it has intensified over the last few years. The recent decision to give Adani a royalties holiday has been the final straw for a lot of people – showing just how much the government is willing to bend over backwards for multinational corporations. We're saying it's time to ban corporate donations, ban cash-for access meetings, stop the revolving door between politicians and lobbyists, and put everyday Queenslanders first for a change.

2. Climate change impacts are now widely felt and increasingly damaging. How would your party's policies help the Kurilpa community to adapt to these impacts?

Having just come through some of the worst bushfires last summer, so many people I've spoken to are anxious about climate change. Unfortunately, because both Labor and the LNP have taken huge donations from fossil fuel companies, action in Queensland has been slow. This year alone, Labor have approved new gas exploration, a new coal mine, and have given Adani a special, secret royalties deal. Queensland is also not on track to meet our limited renewable energy target (50% by 2030), and government initiatives like CleanCo have been little more than window dressing. On top of that, since Labor privatised electricity retail in 2006, prices have nearly doubled.

The Greens have a plan for 100% publicly-owned clean energy by 2030. We would invest \$25 billion through Energy Queensland in building 20,000MW of publicly owned wind, solar, and energy storage, including utility batteries and pumped hydro. We'd create an average of 23,000 jobs a year building publicly owned renewable energy, and invest \$6.4 billion in new transmission lines, unlocking the enormous renewable energy potential across regional Queensland. We'd also establish a \$2 billion fund to help communities establish cooperatively owned renewable energy projects to give communities direct ownership of renewables, and establish a \$1 billion household and small business battery storage rebate scheme.

The Greens would also establish a 'Protecting Queenslanders Levy' on all major coal and gas corporations operating in Queensland to fund a massive investment in the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ). This will also include \$24 million over three years to create 200 new Indigenous Ranger positions to work with the QFES and RFSQ to better support and inform hazard reduction burns and landscape management.

Locally, we'd introduce free public transport, a new West End ferry terminal, two new bus routes and make the 192 bus a turn-up-and-go service, to help get people out of their cars. We're advocating for joint council-state government funding for the West End to Toowong bridge, to get this project moving. We'd build separated bike lanes running along Vulture St from Montague Rd, West End to Christie St, South Brisbane. We'd introduce state legislation prohibiting new residential dwellings on sites which are currently identified as having a once in 20 years (or higher) risk of flooding from rivers, creeks and waterways. Such sites should only be used for public parks and nature reserves, sport and recreation, agricultural purposes, nurseries and landscaping supplies, and short-term car parking. We'd also acquire industrial land along the West End peninsula for new parkland.

We'd overhaul the planning act to ensure that minimum sustainability standards are upheld. We'd introduce binding minimum requirements for trees, green space, energy efficiency and renewable energy. We'd build sustainable, beautifully designed public housing across Queensland, ensuring that the 40,000 people currently waiting for public housing can live in sustainable, efficient dwellings.

3. The Covid pandemic has intensified the cumulative negative social, environmental, and economic impacts of rapid and high population growth and poor planning and infrastructure provision. Can you explain how your party would provide effective leadership to address these issues?

While COVID has accentuated these issues, the South Brisbane electorate was already facing issues around rapid population growth, and poor planning and infrastructure. The 'performance based' state planning act - written in the same year that Labor took \$240,000 in donations from developers - has allowed for a rapid increase in apartment blocks, and the LNP council have approved these developers within what is required in the legislation. At the same time, the state government cap on infrastructure charges has meant that councils have not been able to gather the funds they need to invest back into greenspace, and essential infrastructure. The results have been devastating.

The Greens would overhaul Labor's planning act, tightening neighbourhood plans to ensure strict and binding height limits, boundary setbacks and binding minimum requirements for trees and green space. We'd ensure that all major developments are 'impact assessable', strengthen community objection rights, and ban development on flood-prone areas.

As mentioned, we'd introduce free public transport, a new West End ferry terminal, two new bus routes and make the 192 a turn-up-and-go service, to get people out of their cars. We're

advocating for joint council-state government funding for the West End to Toowong bridge. We'd also acquire industrial land along the West End peninsula for new parkland.

While West End State School is getting a well overdue extension, many of our other local state schools are also rapidly reaching capacity. We're advocating for East Brisbane State School to be extended to the eastern side of Wellington Road. While the new Brisbane South Secondary State College (BSSSC) is a welcome addition to our neighbourhood, I also note ongoing concerns from many residents that the new school and catchment does not capture the high growth areas of West End and South Brisbane, meaning that pressure on Brisbane State High School (BSHS) will likely continue. I think there needs to be serious discussions regarding lowering the merit entry for both BSHS and BSSSC, as well as thinking long-term about the need for a K12 school in the West End peninsula.

Because the Greens don't take corporate donations, we're there to fight for the community - not for property developers, or big business, or lobby groups who want to widen roads. And we've seen how powerful it can be when communities have representatives who aren't beholden to any corporate donors - Gabba councillor Jonathan Sri's advocacy has delivered new greenspace, community facilities including exercise and sports spaces, new lighting, cycle infrastructure, trees and verge gardens, free off-peak travel for seniors, the Victoria Park golf course being converted to a park, and funding for new green bridges. In Maiwar, MP Michael Berkman's work has secured funding for a new school, new bus routes, and has stopped bad development proposals.

4. We know that Queensland has a severe shortage of social and affordable housing. What specific steps would your party take to address the public and affordable housing shortfall in South Brisbane?

The social housing waiting list has been ballooning over the last few years. There are now over 40,000 people waiting for social housing in Queensland. At the same time around 12% of people in the broad South Brisbane area are living in rental stress. Yet the Labor government's plan is to build only about 500 homes per year – which would see the social housing waiting list rise even further each year. The LNP effectively don't have a plan. This is unacceptable in a wealthy state like Queensland.

Across Queensland, the Greens have a plan to build 100,000 well-designed social homes a year for the next four years. This would not only clear the social housing waiting list and provide an affordable home for every Queenslanders who wants one – it would also provide a huge economic stimulus at a time when we desperately need it. Since the start of the year, thousands

of construction workers have lost their jobs. This plan would create 20,000 construction jobs per year, and boost our economy.

Here in South Brisbane, the Greens' plan would mean building beautiful, sustainable, medium-density public homes in appropriate sites. We would set up a Queensland Housing Trust which would work toward leveraging existing brownfield sites and public land already close to existing infrastructure and housing. An obvious example, and a great opportunity, is the new Gabba Station site. That's 5.5ha of public land that I'm campaigning, alongside Jonathan Sri, to be turned into a huge public park, with community facilities, and beautifully-designed, medium density social housing.

We've also proposed rent caps for residential and commercial leases, and real rights for renters, like unlimited leases and ending no grounds evictions, so everyone, whether renter or home-owner, has a place they can put down roots.

5. The West End community, through its award-winning green space strategy has identified over 14 hectares of under-utilised crown land and road reserve that could be converted into green space. Will you support a policy to allow road reserve, where appropriate, to become greenspace for the community and what other steps will you take to increase access to greenspace in the community?

I fully support the West End green space strategy. Despite an unprecedentedly rapid population growth in West End in recent years, the suburb hasn't seen a meaningful increase in green space in decades, and now don't have sufficient, high quality green space for the population. Alongside Councillor Sri, I'll campaign for the full implementation of the green space strategy – including converting road reserves into pocket gardens, creating active green corridors across 4101, and reclaiming industrial land for parks.

I'm particularly passionate about fighting to secure the old industrial sites in West End (eg, Parmalat site and the glass factory) for the community. It's clear to anyone who's been paying attention that it's only a matter of time before these sites are up for development into huge private apartment towers. The government needs to act now to secure these sites instead as beautiful parkland for all West End residents to enjoy. We're also advocating for the West End to Toowong bridge to land at a new park at the old ABC site, creating new parkland that West End residents would be able to access.

We're also fighting to ensure that public green space at the new Woolloongabba Station Precinct, and the Boggo Road precinct, is maintained, and improved, for the community to enjoy, rather than allowing these sites to be developed for residential towers, as existing government visualisations suggest. We are proposing a new park in Highgate Hill, by covering over the

stretch of train line near Gloucester St and Frith St in Highgate Hill. We now have the technology, the resources and the engineering skills to cover over stretches of train line that run below ground level, with precast tunnels. These can then be covered with soil to create a new park. As the train line is controlled by the state government, this would be a joint project between the Brisbane City Council and State Government.