

David Redfearn (Rucker)

1. How serious a threat are global warming and climate disruption?

Grave, the scientific consensus says a 2 degree warming but we may be facing worse as scientists are conservative in public commentary due to the need for rigour and in response to an often toxic debate. We can't comprehend the disruption caused by 2 degrees warming let alone 4. We face something diabolical unless something changes; every little bit counts but we need to know that just walking instead of driving is not the total solution. Is this something that can be managed if we act in time or are we looking at a crisis response, a critical question for policy makers at all levels. The laws of thermodynamics cannot change but our human systems need to both for adaptation and mitigation

2. Do you support the following Darebin Council initiatives? Please comment briefly on each.

a. *Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2009* including the aim of carbon neutrality for council operations by 2020?

It's a very valuable document for the community in that it clearly outlines the science, possible futures and the policy context. The council must be commended for setting a target for carbon neutrality in its own operations and needs to continue working to achieve this. The key principles are right and there are good and proper practical actions and responses in the document

A sustainability report such as that recently developed by La Trobe University could also be a possibility to help with monitoring progress, ongoing policy responses, actions and advocacy. See: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/sustainability/report/2011>

b. *Darebin Community Climate Action Change Plan 2009-2015* including the aim of carbon neutrality for Darebin municipality by 2020?

I endorse setting a carbon neutrality/zero emissions target for Darebin by 2020. Zero emissions would stabilise the situation but we may have reached a point where we must reduce emissions even further. Investment in both efficiency and renewable energy at all levels is key to this and I support local initiatives

The ground is shifting rapidly in relation to what we know about the consequences of global warming. Policy has also moved on with the carbon pricing legislation in Australia and the resultant institutional and funding mechanisms. Council must stay abreast of the opportunities provided by these and other measures.

c. *Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan 2009?*

This is a good document that correctly identifies the appropriate response areas relating to risk, technical, regulatory, institutional, avoidance, research and educational measures that are needed. It gives an impressive roadmap for direct council action both direct or where council needs to either collaborate or influence to achieve outcomes.

As indicated above, I would like this linked to a public document such as the sustainability report developed by La Trobe University and would like to see a more prominent ongoing role for the community and council decision makers perhaps through an enhancement of DERG

d. *Membership of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action?*

It is shameful to think that a foundation council could have suspended NAGA membership this year. I am totally committed to Darebin rejoining and being a key player in NAGA

3. What action have you taken to influence climate change and/or sustainability policies at the local, state or federal level?

- Through the Labor Environment Action Network (LEAN) I spoke to ALP branches on climate change and carbon pricing and set up a forum on carbon pricing for the Northcote ALP with LEAN, the ACF and ACTU. I was recently elected National Co-convenor of LEAN
- Regular posts on the Darebin Sustainability Institute Facebook page
- Membership of the ALP Conservation and Environment Policy Committee helping set climate change policy for Victoria
- Regular attendance at forums e.g. recent Royal Society of Victoria Climate Symposium re mitigation and adaptation
- Developed a Green Jobs document in conjunction with the RMIT for use by schools in the region
- Helped set up the iGreen program to train school students in home energy and water assessments for the Banyule City Council
- Involved in council officer discussions regarding Transition Towns while at Banyule
- Helped develop the Brunswick Northcote Local Conservation Strategy in the 1980s
- Member Merri Creek Management Committee, Friends of Merri Creek and Yarra Riverkeepers Association advocating for river health and biodiversity
- Chair of the Merri Creek Environment Fund
- Former member of DERG

3. What action would you take on climate change and/or sustainability policies if elected to council?

- Rejoin NAGA and ensure council plays a highly active role
- Ensure council seriously engages with community proposals for local renewable energy initiatives
- Explore funding opportunities for programs which give access to renewable energy and efficiency programs especially community based ones
- Strengthen community education
- Ensure that council is kept abreast of local/regional initiatives across the globe through networking and information sharing

- Use DERG as a serious clearing house for ideas and for community input to policy making
- Create a live council website with information and links about climate issues and actions
- Ensure council has a voice in regional, state, national or international bodies where appropriate
- Support developing industry policy in the context of skills, jobs and industry development

We are also interested in your community campaigning in areas other than climate change and sustainability. What other community groups or campaigns have you been active in and what was your role? [No need to repeat any already mentioned in question 3.]

- Anti F2 freeway campaign via Friends of Merri Creek
- Environmental flows campaign via Yarra Riverkeepers
- Through Friends of Merri Creek currently campaigning on the urban growth boundary extension to protect biodiversity and threatened species in the upper Merri
- As a Northcote councillor, I was involved in the Brunswick Richmond Powerline campaign
- ACF member
- VNPA member
 - I have supported various online campaigns through Get Up, change.org.au and others
 - I make regular commentary about climate change and other issues on Facebook and Twitter