

Boroondara Reconciliation Network Council election candidate questionnaire 2024

Please complete this by **next Friday 27th September**

Your name *

Mal Osborne-Smith

Your ward *

Junction

Will you, if elected

Foster better community recognition and acceptance of Aboriginal peoples and culture by advocating for:

Co-naming or renaming of Council and community buildings, rooms, and locations to honour First Peoples' names and languages?

Yes

No

Maybe

Comment if you wish

I love the opportunity to bring Aboriginal language and history to our lives. Significant environmental locations would be great to rename. For example I would support changing Gardiners Creek to Kooyongkoot Creek immediately. History markers around the municipality pointing our interesting stories and sites would be great. There may be some buildings of more significance to white/Anglo history which appropriately should remain as such.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags to be permanently flown in the Council chamber and on more Council buildings?

Yes

No

Maybe

Comment if you wish

More local Aboriginal history on public markers in shopping centres and otherwise?

Yes

No

Maybe

Comment if you wish

Increasing the number, scale and reach of Council-sponsored and led events concerning dates and weeks of significance to Aboriginal peoples?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Will you if elected

Foster better community understanding and education by advocating for Council to:

Lead, collaborate or partner with community groups, organisations and local businesses in a truth-telling public education process regarding Aboriginal history in Boroondara?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Implement and encourage cultural awareness public education programs and workshops and otherwise support initiatives that promote cross-cultural understanding and respect for Aboriginal culture in the Boroondara community?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

I am not aware of what programs, if any, exist at present, and would like to do further investigation in to this matter.

Co-ordinate the development and implementation of a program for engaging young people of Boroondara in learning about local Aboriginal history, culture, human rights and care for country?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

I love this idea. In my experience at our local Primary School Council we were able to to involve the kids with numerous smoking ceremonies, but there was little follow up. A rolling program for primary school kids about Aboriginal culture would be fantastic.

Review Council's standard Acknowledgement of Country to consider inclusion of acknowledgement of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people's care for country, the history and consequences of colonisation, the resilience of Aboriginal people, and support for Treaty in Victoria?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

I support most of these initiatives, and I am personally supportive of Treaty but will need to do further research on the legal implications of this for Council.

Promote events supporting the Victorian Treaty process?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

My support for this is subject to further information.

Will you, if elected

Strengthen Council's public leadership of and advocacy for reconciliation by advocating that Council:

Formally support Treaty in Victoria by a Council motion, and advocate for the negotiation and implementation of Treaty with the State government?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

I would like more information on this.

Conduct a community consultation on having Citizenship ceremonies on days other than 26 January?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Personally I have no objection to this, however it is a divisive issue in the community that would require sensitive and thoughtful public consultation and leadership by Council.

Co-ordinate and support the development of an active network of community groups and organisations which work together to advance reconciliation in their staff, volunteers, members and the broader community?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Advocate to the State government for ongoing base funding for [Indigenous Gathering Places](#), not tied to specific program outcomes?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Raise awareness about the importance of Treaty and the rights of First Peoples through internal and external communication channels?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Advocate to the State government and the Municipal Association of Victoria for policy reforms and legislative changes that promote the recognition of First Peoples' rights and facilitate the implementation of Treaty commitments?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Will you, if elected

Enhance Council's reconciliation action decision-making by advocating for Council to:

Establish a reconciliation advisory group which includes Councillors, First Nations people including Wurundjeri Woiwurrung representatives, other community members, and Aboriginal service providers?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

I would require more information on this groups terms of reference.

Make Council policies and plans clear that in matters affecting Aboriginal people, their voices have precedence over others, consistent with the [principle of self-determination?](#)

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Review the Reconciliation Action Strategy 2022-2026 commencing in 2025; and include in the review a [deliberative community consultation](#) with a leadership role for the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

This should not be just a tick box review. Full consultation , with all stakeholders, in a genuine, would be required.

Except for discussions of confidential matters, have open meetings of Council's reconciliation advisory group, with minutes published on Council's website?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

I support transparent

Actively engage the [First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria](#) in consultation on Council policies and plans relating to reconciliation, and rights of First Nations peoples?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

I need more information on this.

Will you, if elected

Enhance staff culture and Council policies to ensure support of reconciliation within Council by advocating for:

Policies, budget and processes that promote the procurement of goods and services from Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Policies, budget and processes that promote and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment, volunteering and traineeship opportunities?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Enhancement of staff development to promote and ensure a culturally safe workplace for Aboriginal employees and contractors?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Employment of an Aboriginal person in a leading role in the organisation?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

This would of course depend on the role and the candidates

Partnering with and employing Aboriginal organisations and people with experience of Aboriginal caring for Country in the development and management of Council-controlled land and water resources including advising on Council policies and practices concerning trees and biodiversity on private land?

Yes

No

Maybe

Comment if you wish

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Yes

No

Maybe

Comment if you wish

Provide training and capacity-building opportunities to increase staff understanding of First Peoples' issues and Treaty negotiations, and the cultural competency of staff-members?

Yes

No

Maybe

Comment if you wish

Great idea. There is probably genuine good will but a lack of knowledge and understanding.

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