

Boroondara Reconciliation Network Council election candidate questionnaire 2024

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

Your name *

Victor Franco

Your ward *

Gardiner

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

Where appropriate and in accordance with Council and State procedures for the naming of places and sites.

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

The Aboriginal Flag is permanently displayed in the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Victorian Parliament. It's time that Boroondara Council provides the same recognition.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Appropriate and significant sites in Boroondara of indigenous significance should be recognised along with all our heritage

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

I support reviewing and improving Council's NAIDOC and other events to ensure they are more well received.

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

As appropriate. This should be considered as part of the review of Council's Reconciliation Strategy.

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

This is consistent with Council's Reconciliation Strategy

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

Council has a role and responsibility to encourage and promote awareness of our local indigenous history, but whether there is need or value in a specific program targeted at youth would need to be evaluated and determined.

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

This should always be subject to consideration and review.

Promote events supporting the Victorian Treaty process?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Subject to these being events in Boorondara

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

This would need to be subject to consideration as part of the review of Council's Reconciliation Strategy. It is not clear whether this is a matter for local government deliberation.

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

In accordance with the guidelines established in the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code for councils.

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

Not clear whether there is any merit or need for this or whether it is a matter for Council. This can and probably should be driven by those in the community who want to do this, rather than by Council.

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

It would need to be clearly demonstrated why such funding is needed and why it is relevant for Council to call on the State Government to provide such funding. All government funding (Council or State or Federal) should be tied to delivery of outcomes and/or KPIs. If any funding is not tied to an outcome, it would need to be demonstrated how it is going to be evaluated and reviewed for value and effectiveness.

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

In accordance with Victorian State Legislation and Council's Reconciliation Strategy.

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

Subject to consideration as part of the review of Council's Reconciliation Strategy

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

This already exists and will need to be re-established following the 2024 elections in order to review Council's Reconciliation Strategy which is due in 2026

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

Council's Strategy is due for review by 2026 and deliberative engagement is conventional practice

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

In the interest of transparency and open government, this should be standard practice for all Council's advisory groups

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

They and all other relevant organisations and the wider community should be consulted as part of the review of Council's Reconciliation Strategy.

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

As per Council's Reconciliation Strategy and subject to financial responsibility and probity and value for money

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

As per Council's Reconciliation Strategy and HR practices

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

As per Council's Reconciliation Strategy and HR practices

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

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Comment if you wish

Subject to any such person being the most suitably qualified

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

Subject to appropriately suitable location and subject to financial responsibility, probity and tendering processes.

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

Subject to appropriately suitable location and subject to financial responsibility, probity and tendering processes.

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

Already occurring under Boroondara's Reconciliation Strategy

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