



# Vote 1 Merri Creek.

Are you ready to vote this Saturday 21 May? Find out how parties compare when it comes to protecting and enhancing Merri Creek.\*

**What is your party's overall policy regarding the restoration of urban waterways?**

**What specific initiatives has your party proposed to protect, expand and further restore the Merri Creek Parklands?**

**In the event of a 'hung' Parliament, will you support funding proposals that assist the Merri Creek regardless of which Party/government initiates them?**

## Animal Justice Party | Via Leah Horsfall, Candidate for Wills

Promotes the restoration and recovery of land and waterways that have been degraded by human activities with priority placed on biodiversity.

Will make habitat protection a requirement in all development planning, and support nation-wide ecosystem improvements such as those seen in Merri Creek if elected to federal parliament.

Approach is the same for all degraded landscapes across Australia – they need to be protected from further degradation, and restored as much as possible.

If elected to the federal parliament, will pass relevant legislation and dedicate funding to these endeavours.

Will consider proposals from any source based on their merits. Guided in all decision making by values of kindness, equality, rationality, and non-violence. Support proposals in line with these values that produce good outcomes for animals, people, and our environment.

## The Greens | Via Sarah Jefford, Candidate for Wills

Strong support and will push the major parties to increase their current modest funding commitments.

Will work with state colleagues to introduce detailed planning controls to limit run-off from suburban sprawl on sodic soils of Kalkallo, Beveridge and surrounds. Will oppose the quarry proposed for Spring Hill, between Beveridge and Wallan, unless unequivocal expert advice is received that this will have no impact on Merri Creek.

Yes. Will push for them to be increased, regardless of whether there is a 'balanced' parliament.

As a federal MP, responsibilities will be nationwide. Will push for increased funding for restoration of urban bushland habitats, especially around waterways, in all Australian cities. Would like to see Merri Creek used as an example project.

## Labor | Via Gad Kearney MP Member for Cooper and Peter Khalil MP Member for Wills

Will allocate \$200 million to help fix up Australia's urban and peri-urban waterways and catchments in partnership with local governments and community groups.

The Urban Rivers and Catchments Program will help to improve water quality, reduce localised flooding and restore precious habitat for the many Australian plants and animals in urban areas.

If elected will invest \$1 million across Darebin Creek and Merri Creek. Package includes \$500K for the Merri Creek Management Committee to contribute to works, protect the waterway, plant more trees, protect native vegetation and encourage more animals, such as the platypus, back to urban waterways and habitats. Will invest in First Nations' conservation of land and waters by doubling Indigenous Rangers, and boosting Indigenous Protected Areas funding by \$10 million a year.

See specific initiatives.

### **\*Your snapshot on the gaps**

In the leadup to this election, we wanted to bring you the best picture possible of how parties will protect and enhance Merri Creek. So we think it's important to give you a snapshot of where the gaps lie – those who didn't find the time to reply in this busy campaigning period or simply don't have this precious ecosystem on their radar. Friends of Merri Creek did not receive responses from any candidates in the following parties from across Melbourne, Cooper, and Wills: Fusion, Liberal, Socialist Alliance, and Victorian Socialists.

*Friends of Merri Creek respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional and ongoing custodians of the Merri Merri. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise that sovereignty has never been ceded.*