

Vote **1** Merri Creek



Are you ready to vote Saturday 26 November?

Find out how parties compare when it comes to protecting and enhancing Merri Creek. We asked candidates and parties whether they:

- Recognise the role this iconic parkland can play in the health and well-being of people and ecosystems.
- Agree on the importance of providing access to the natural world in an urban setting through linked wildlife refuges and parkland from Wallan to Dights Falls.
- Support declaration of the wallan wallan and marram baba regional parks, with boundaries as outlined in the DELWP feasibility study
- Support creating a Ministerial Advisory Committee to coordinate planning and actions along the Creek and parklands
- Support the completion of the Merri shared trail
- Support measures, with specific funding, to improve water quality for Merri Creek and downstream, as identified in the FoMC Prospectus



See how they responded...

Labor Party

Labor is committed to delivering 6,500 hectares of new parkland across Melbourne as part of a \$315 million Suburban Parks Program.

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government has committed to introducing planning controls on the Merri and Darebin Creeks which will safeguard our creeks from inappropriate development, create wildlife corridors, protect the waterways and restore the natural environment.

Labor will also establish a \$10 million Green Links Fund to support revegetation along our creeks, rivers, and waterways – so local councils and community groups can plant trees, help revegetate our waterways and protect our wildlife.

See www.kattheophanous.com.au/merri-creek for more details.

Greens Party

The Greens support all 6 questions.

We have long advocated for increasing protected areas across Victoria and support wallan wallan and marram baba being declared regional parks. Our comprehensive nature policy for the 2022 Victorian election <https://greens.org.au/vic/platform/environment> includes a \$1 billion/year Zero Extinction Fund that includes restoring urban biodiversity in cities, and a commitment to double funding for national and other parks to ensure they are well managed for issues like pests and weeds and have excellent facilities for the community. Our detailed plan for upgrading bike and pedestrian infrastructure in Melbourne and regional Victoria includes \$20 million required for completion of the Merri shared trail.

see over page for more...

Reason Party

Fiona Patten and Reason Party formally support and endorse each of the proposals as outlined in the Friends of Merri Creek prospectus.

Liberal Party

Amanda Paliouras, Liberal Candidate, Preston: Merri Creek is part of our historical and cultural heritage, not only for First Nations peoples but migrants who arrived in Australia and many Australians living in the North, and exploring our beautiful landscape, unique flora and our beautiful animals, insects etc. If elected into Preston, I would definitely want to assist further as an official MP with some leverage, to protect our environment for future generations.

Responses provided from candidates and parties are either a summary or an extract.

Animal Justice Party

The AJP supports a declaration of the wallan wallan and marram baba regional parks as part of its commitment to protecting, expanding, rewilding and enhancing all ecological systems including forests, grasslands, freshwater, and marine habitats. We also support taking proactive measures, including provision of financial incentives, to restore and preserve functional ecosystems through rewilding and ensure that adequate and secure funding is provided to government agencies in all jurisdictions to properly enforce wildlife protection laws and take proactive, effective, and prompt measures to protect threatened species and ecological communities.

Socialist Alliance Party

Sue Bolton, Candidate for Pascoe Vale. There are extra development pressures along Merri Creek. If the area along the Merri Creek is developed, it will be very hard to get it back again. The best way of preserving the area along the creek is by making it a designated regional park. Preserving a continuous length of habitat with a regional park along the length of the Merri Creek would enable wildlife to have a bigger range of food sources.



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.



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