

**QUESTIONNAIRE TO CANDIDATES OF MAJOR PARTIES- VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT ELECTION
24 NOVEMBER 2018**

Response by Andrew Bond – Liberal for Albert Park

JAAG QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

1. A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE ST. KILDA ROAD SOUTH AREA

What action have you taken in the past to deal with the ‘planning vacuum’, and, if elected, what would you do to facilitate Amendment C122 coming into force?

Response:

I have been a Councillor at the City of Port Phillip since October 2012. Once elected to Council I initiated Amendment C122 and saw it through from inception in 2013 to conclusion of Councils role in 2017.

Whilst there are many good aspects to C122 which set the basis from which planning applications in the area covered by JAAG can be assessed, I do not believe C122 provides planning protection to the full extent that it should have, not do I believe C122 provides the complete framework from which the community can have confidence that its interests and concerns have been addressed.

For example many of the height limits across the Wellington St and St Kilda Road area were changed from mandatory to discretionary by a State Government appointed planning panel, overturning the outcome of a four year consultation process between Council and the Community.

2. CONCERNS REGARDING ST.KILDA JUNCTION

Specifically, JAAG would like

- The current non DDA compliant St. Kilda Junction pedestrian underpass tram stop 30 to be closed to commuters, with the stop relocated to ground level and the unsafe pedestrian tunnels closed (which is preferable) or that, at the least, arrangements are made to ensure that the stop complies with the Disability Discrimination Act.
- Arrangements to be made to ensure that the St. Kilda Road/Fitzroy Street tram stop 131 complies with the DDA.
- A pedestrian crossing at ground level on the north side of St. Kilda Junction, crossing St. Kilda Road from east to west and mirroring the existing crossing on the south side.

What action have you taken in the past to deal with the above problems and, if elected, what would you do to address JAAG’s various concerns regarding the Junction?

Response:

I have been a strong supporter of DDA compliant tram stops in St Kilda in particular the new Acland St terminus which I was a strong advocate for whilst my political opponents hid from the public on this tram stop because it was a controversial issue, and the conversation with the community was a hard discussion to have.

If elected I would certainly be talking to PTV about relocating a number of stops on Fitzroy St to more appropriate locations which will include placement of a DDA compliant tram stop at stop 133 between

Princess St and St Kilda Road. This review of all tram stops on Fitzroy St with the intention of placing tram stops in the most appropriate locations for the full length of the street, not install tram stops in isolation as has been the case at present, would cover stop 136 at Park St, and stop 135 at Canterbury Road as well the two current stops under review.

If stop 30 is not able to be removed – and I do not see any reason why it could not be - then it should be upgraded to be DDA compliant.

3. ANTI-SOCIAL /CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE JAAG AREAS AND THE IMPACT OF EMERGENCY HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

What action have you taken in the past and, if elected, what would you do counter the apparent increase in antisocial behaviour in the JAAG areas of interest?

Response:

In 2015, as a Councillor, I was responsible for the introduction of CCTV into Fitzroy St and persuaded my fellow Councillors to support the prospect. As a candidate I have a commitment for \$500,000 for further CCTV across the Albert Park electorate much of which will be spend in St Kilda to improve safety across the suburb.

In 2017, and 2018 I also supported additional CCTV in Grey St and Little Grey St, St Kilda, as well as on the St Kilda waterfront, which was opposed by some candidates for Albert Park

CCTV is a powerful tool that assists Police in their ability to assess and allocate resources to incidents that are happening now, or to gather evidence for incidents that have happened in the past.

My commitment to CCTV is part of an overall package of actions that form part of my St Kilda Neighbourhood Safety Plan which will include improved lighting, more Police and a genuine community consultation on safety issues across St Kilda.

4. **What do you think are the other principal issues for the JAAG areas in relation to:**

- **Development**
- **Major advertising sky signs**
- **Traffic**
- **Backpacker lodges**
- **Recreation**

How would you address these issues?

Other issues in the JAAG area are overdevelopment which can be partially addressed by the adoption by C122, and antisocial behaviour which can be addressed through a St Kilda Neighbourhood Safety Plan.

One of the other main issues in the JAAG area is the impact on the neighbourhood of illegal and unregistered backpacker accommodation. State Government planning rules need to be tightened in order to give Councils the ability to register, impose management plans, and if needed, shut down these premises. We have seen too many instances where backpackers do nothing but ruin the neighbourhood amenity for the surrounding neighbours, including on Alma Road and Wellington St, and gaps in the planning scheme need to be closed in order to deal with budget accommodation providers that are exploiting these gaps.