

## **RESPONSES FROM SALLY CAPP**

### **Questions received for Meet the Lord Mayor Candidates - 1 October 2020:**

#### **Presented to Candidates**

Questions 1-6 were answered at meeting.

#### **Other Questions**

##### **Question 7**

If elected, what will you do to improve the transparency and accountability of the Queen Victoria Market Board and market management?

The State Government has plans to locate a safe injecting room 150 metres from Queen Victoria Market at CoHealth in Victoria St, under social housing apartments housing vulnerable residents. What do you think?

**I support the current structure of the QVM Board and Management and its accountability.**

**I do not support a safe injecting room being located near QVM in Victoria street.**

**Question 8** - a representative of Melbourne City U3A.

**Background** - U3A Melbourne City is the oldest [University of the Third Age](#) in Australia, established in 1984. Our 1,300 members, all of whom are 50 years or older and retired or semi-retired, attend classes and activities conducted in 13 venues around the City of Melbourne. Since March 2020 most courses have been conducted online or are suspended in view of COVID 19 restrictions.

There are 105 U3As across Victoria. Approximately 70% of these have free or discounted accommodation provided by the respective local government authority.

According to the MCC website 16% of the residents of Melbourne City are 50 years or older.

##### **Questions to Candidates**

1. What do you know about Melbourne City U3A?
2. How do you think U3A Melbourne City and the Melbourne City Council could work together?
3. If elected would you be prepared to meet with representatives of Melbourne City U3A to discuss how we could work collaboratively with the next MCC to further develop the U3A's profile and activities within the City of Melbourne?

**I have responded directly to the U3A and invited them to have a conversation with me about how they can work with council.**

##### **Question 9**

My questions/concerns are probably like other residents:

1. How will residents be considered and consulted with their policies?

2. How much do they think residents of the CBD matter in their policies and plans? How will they show and reflect this in their work?
  3. Do they see any shortcomings or issues with their policies and the interests of CBD residents? What are those shortcomings or issues?
  4. What considerations have been made for residents and ratepayers as far as what the city will look like with COVID recovery in mind?
  5. General security throughout the city with crime, homelessness and the issues that come with it. What do they have in their plans as these issues look to be on the rise and not likely to improve anytime soon given the COVID situation?
  6. COVID dining plans with restaurants/business reopening – how will their policies keep it all checked and balanced, realistically, while also keeping in mind the welfare and wellbeing of the residents in the CBD AND the environment of the CBD?
  7. Notification and working with residents around ANY construction (not just the COVID plans e.g. laneway work) works in the CBD – bike lane extension, road closures etc.
  8. What they see for the city's immediate and long-term future and how will they get there?
- Perhaps a curly one and question that might be best left out on the night, but it does get the thoughts flowing – If that candidate had to vote for another candidate that isn't themselves for the top job, who would they pick and give one reason why they would, and another for why they wouldn't.

**I have announced plans regarding future engagement with residents in the city. I invite you to view these at [www.teamcapp.com](http://www.teamcapp.com)**

#### **Question 10**

I would like to register the following questions for Sally Capp.

1. Can Sally please explain how her office and the Andrews Government arrived at the outdoor dining package without consulting business owners?
2. What formal discussions were held with the relevant businesses to develop the support that would be given to business?
3. Why are areas like Lygon Street left out of grants?
4. What is your reasoning in supporting proposed injecting rooms in the CBD?
5. It is rumoured that Daniel Andrews bullies you and your team around, so how do you plan to stand up to him this time around and do what's best for the city of Melbourne if you are voted in?

**Thanks for your questions. I am not bullied by the Premier or State Government, I am determined to get the best outcomes I can for our city including the joint \$100million city recovery fund to help kickstart our economy. I continue to advocate for indoor dining to open sooner. We have presented a 10 point plan for indoor dining to the Premier and State Government that was developed with representatives from the hospitality industry.**

**I do not support any of our precincts being left out of grants eligibility. I oppose the nominated location for the proposed safe injecting room. My key job as Lord Mayor is to be the champion for the people of the City of Melbourne and get the best outcomes possible. I have not had a 'team'**

as I was elected in a byelection after the former Lord Mayor had to stand down. I am seeking re-election, so I can get a full term and a team of people who want to work hard for the city of Melbourne to deliver a reactivated and revitalised city.

You can see my plans at [www.teamcapp.com](http://www.teamcapp.com)

#### **Question 11**

My question to the candidates is: Southbank Promenade / bicycles saturation to the area is destroying our social life!!!!!!!. What will you do about it?

**We need to get this sorted. We have put in new protected bicycle lanes along Linlithgow Avenue and Southbank Boulevard to take more of the commuter cycling traffic. The designs for the redevelopment of Southbank Promenade will be more pedestrian friendly and make it difficult for bicycles to travel at pace. We hope these measures will make a difference.**

#### **Question 12**

How will the Burra Charter be applied to determine the heritage, cultural and social value of places, and will the loss of heritage fabric, insensitive interventions and 'facadism' in our city be allowed to continue?

How will stakeholders such as residents' interests and amenity be balanced with the desire to accelerate development post-pandemic?

**I am proposing a Residents' Representative Panel so that residents can have a more direct and stronger voice into Town Hall on strategies and initiatives impacting the city. I think this will make a big difference.**

#### **Question 13**

Here are two question for the mayoral candidates:

1. Given that the Melbourne CBD is a mecca for mentally disturbed people who do not wear masks for whatever reason, and probably will never pay fines for not doing so, what is your strategy for addressing this issue and keeping the rest of us safe?
2. The food courier bikes are powered vehicles whose riders insist on using the footpaths as bike lanes putting pedestrians at risk. I know bike lanes are being added to some parts of the CBD and what else can be done to reduce this behaviour and keep the side-walk safe for pedestrians?

**As a community I think we are judged by the way we treat our most vulnerable. During COVID we were able to find accommodation for most of our rough sleepers which shows us how we can deliver good outcomes for all of the community.**

**Pedestrians and Cyclists intermingling is an ongoing challenge and cycle use is up almost 300 percent on last year. That's why this year in COVID we fast-tracked the delivery of 40 kilometres of bike lanes to enable more people to cycle safely into the city. These will be built in two stages, with the first 20 kilometres delivered in 2020-21, through a \$16 million**

**investment. There is more to do and we must continue to focus on better connections.**

**Question 14**

Can I ask the following:

- what will be your approach to bringing the CBD back to life post-COVID?
- as a candidate what is your approach to reducing road traffic in the CBD, particularly polluting road traffic, and freeing up the streets to foot traffic?
- as a candidate what is your approach to our council carbon footprint and policies to achieve carbon neutrality (or carbon negative)

**I have plans to reactivate and revitalise the city, to bring the city back to life in a COVID safe way. In the short term we need to get our workers and shoppers back, our venues open and our businesses back to life. I will do this with stimulus such as:**

**Melbourne Dollars – to get dinners back in our restaurants, bars and cafes.**

**Get shoppers back into the city with free parking Friday to Monday for 3 months, a boost for QVM. And a raft of other initiatives to boost the city economy which you can find at [www.teamcapp.com](http://www.teamcapp.com)**

**You can find our policies which address social and economic policies supported by diverse team who are committed to a vibrant and bold city of YES going forward.**

**Question 15**

I would like to ask the candidates about the Climate Emergency, the Urban Forest strategy for the city of Melbourne, and how they see the 43 hectare historic Melbourne General Cemetery being involved.

May I ask whether the ca has members interested in the greening and preservation of Melbourne General cemetery?

**I will need to learn more about this before I can answer. Thanks for raising it.**

**Question 16**

Wondering if anyone has brought up:

1. the noise disturbance from the very early rubbish collection truck, 5am I think.
2. the tram stop that used to be at Latrobe/Russell St going towards Swanston St which was removed maybe some years ago
3. When outdoor dining opens up, the birds preying on the food/bins etc, another big health concern
4. When cafes etc open up, the kitchens pots & pans, cutlery etc would have to be deep cleansed as rodents etc may have made their homes during the lockdown. Is there a hygiene grading system to inspect the cleanliness of these food prep areas? Am concerned about this when things open up

**I have announced a policy of limiting rubbish collections in the CBD to reduce noise for resident. Thanks for the points your raise which we will ensure are incorporated into our plans for outdoor dining. Please have a look at our website for more details about our policies for residents. [www.teamcapp.com](http://www.teamcapp.com)**

**Question 17**

And my question for the candidates would be regarding short-term tenancies in Melbourne's residential apartment buildings.

I live in a small building where one company has the plan to eventually turn the building into a hotel of sorts. This has made my, and my fellow owner-occupiers, living conditions very different to the lifestyle we envisaged when moving to the CBD.

The current laws in Victoria do very little to protect owner-occupiers from short term tenancies / Airbnb - is there any plan to put in place some strong laws that protect residential apartment buildings being taken over in this manner?

**There needs to be a better balance so short stay operators and guests respect the residents in buildings. Initial discussions have been had with AIRBNB and they have done a trial in Melbourne to address concerns of residents. This will be an ongoing issue which I will continue to focus on finding a workable outcome for residents, owners and visitors.**

**Question 18**

We are interested in what strategic steps they will take to get the city open and back to vibrancy following the pandemic.

**Sally Capp and her team all committed to getting the city open in a COVID safe way.**

**We will take the following actions to reactivate and revitalise the Melbourne economy;**

**A rates freeze to help ease the financial burden for residents and business -**

**Putting Melbourne Business First – a Local First procurement policy with a 30% weighting for Melbourne business. This will directly support the local economy.**

**Free parking – Free on-street parking from December to end of February, from Friday to Monday to get people coming back and working with private car park owners to help make parking more attractive to workers and visitors to the city.**

**Melbourne Dollars - A \$25 million boost for Melbourne restaurants to get people back into our hospitality venues, in partnership with Broadsheet. Diners would pay just 80 cents for every dollar and venues will get the full dollar value.**

**Night Mayor – to drive the night time economy will be appointed.**

**Greenline –The Greenline is the city’s next visionary project we need to revitalise the city, bringing jobs, greenspace, infrastructure commercial opportunities and value uplift. This project will mean shovels in the ground delivering this over the coming term**

**Melbourne Restaurant Week – Twice-yearly, week-long festival to promote Melbourne dining venues.**

**Jobs – reactivating and revitalising the city - Sally has set a target of generating 20,000 jobs per year for the next four years, a total of 80,000 jobs.**

**Question 19**

I would like to know where the candidates stand on the following issues, if possible, please?

On the environment:

Protecting the environment, undoing the damage already done, reducing our CO2 levels and quickly transitioning to renewable forms of energy are critical and urgent. Councils have a part to play.

Currently the City of Melbourne has no green waste or compost collection.

Do you intend offering green waste or compost collection? If so, how will that work?

What happens to our paper, glass and plastic recycling? How can we do better?

On heritage preservation:

Preserving our city heritage buildings and our green spaces is vital for future generations. To have a cohesive and proud society we need to anchor our sense of identity and understand and protect our past as well as provide for our future.

How do you intend protecting our heritage?

Where do you stand on protection verses development?

City Liveability:

Melbourne has been the world’s most liveable city for many years. Covid aside, we need to keep that living standard high. That means keeping the city safe and clean. It means providing safe and reliable public transport for people to get into and around the city. It means supporting our world class restaurants, theatres, entertainment and sporting events.

Where do you stand on public housing and the homeless?

What will you do to support public transport in the city?

What will you do to support the arts and entertainment in our city?

**Given the detailed nature and variety of topics I refer you to the our website at [www.teamcapp.com](http://www.teamcapp.com) for information**

**Question 20 'We Live Here'**

**Short-term letting in residential buildings when restrictions are lifted.**

During the Stage 3 and 4 lockdown residential high-rise buildings have been able to maintain a COVID Safe environment due to the absence of short-term letting of apartments. We have also rediscovered the security and amenity lost during the rampant years of the unregulated, out-of-control short-stay industry.

Our concern now is what happens when restrictions are lifted and visitors start returning to Melbourne. Social distancing and maintaining a COVID Safe environment is going to remain for a long time. This is OK in hotels. It is also possible with owners renting out a room in their apartment for short-stays, when they are also present. However, it is incompatible with the modus operandi used by commercial short-stay operators, and can't possibly be achieved unless something akin to a registration process is introduced. There needs to be a clear Road Map going forward, and we need some guidance with it; we can't do it on our own.

We welcome the thoughts of the candidates on these issues, which affect 83% of the population of Melbourne living in the CBD.

**Initial discussions have been had with AIRBNB and they have done a trial in Melbourne to address concerns of residents. This will be an ongoing issue which I will continue to focus on finding a workable outcome for residents, owners and visitors.**

**Question 21 – South Bank Residents Association**

My question is:

How many, and who, on your team lives in the municipality, and for those who don't why should residents vote for candidates who don't live in the municipality?

**There are 3 members of my team who live or have residential property in the electorate. The City of Melbourne is made up of residents and whole range of businesses, big and small, retail, hospitality and the list goes on. It's the sum of the parts which makes our city the best in the nation. Understanding all aspects of our city is what makes for good decision making and the members of the Sally Capp team come from the wide and diversified areas across the city. We need insights from all sectors and all parts of our city. The entire team is worthy of being elected based on the experience they can bring to the roles and the passion they have for the city.**

**Question 22**

If possible, I would like to hear the Candidates discuss their attitude to homelessness in the City and what they intend to stand for if elected.

I would also like to hear from them on the issues of mental health and drug addiction.

**I refer to the response provided to question 13 above:**

**As a community I think we are judged by the way we treat our most vulnerable. During COVID we were able to find accommodation for most of our rough sleepers which shows us how we can deliver good outcomes for all of the community.**

**I will continue to work hard for all citizens of Melbourne, regardless of their circumstances or issues and that is what I believe the Lord Mayor of Melbourne should be committed to doing. This includes residents feeling safe and able to enjoy the city.**

**We work closely with support agencies, Victoria Police and the State Government to address addiction and mental health issues experienced by people living in and visiting the City. This needs to be a priority given the advances made as a result of the pandemic circumstances.**

**Question 23**

My question is solely about moving the homeless people off the CBD streets and into accom - there are way more homeless people since the lockdown but these are now also more troubled, drug-addicted, scary, screaming, fighting, etc. Whichever candidate is tackling this gets my vote!

**I refer to my response to Question 21 above.**

**Question 24**

The city's recent moves to create more public and pedestrian-safe areas from on street parking have been positive steps towards benefiting residents, visitors and businesses. However, with the likely reduction in individual car use in city centres in years to come, there are further gains being made in leading cities from the reuse and eventual rezoning of car parks in the city centre - to purposes as diverse as recreation, business, art and urban agriculture. I would like to hear how candidates envision the creative reuse and repurposing of our city car parks. What are your visions and plans to incentivise and facilitate this process?

**Getting the balance right on how we access and move around our city is critical. Cycling is up more than 270% year on year during COVID and that's why we moved fast as Lord Mayor to bring forward funding projects to upgrade and improve our cycle network. Bringing people back into our city will be a key to bringing our city back to life. All ideas on changes we can make post COVID will be considered if they can deliver a better outcome for the city and I welcome suggestions on this should I be re-elected for a full term with a full team.**