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Bike group survey reveals Council candidates' positions on cycling

The Moreland Bicycle Users Group (BUG) has released the results of its candidate survey ahead of the Moreland Council elections on 29th November. The survey asked candidates a series of questions designed to gauge their support for Moreland BUG's campaign priorities and for cycling in the municipality generally.

"Those residents who are wondering how to cast their vote to get the best outcomes for cycling will find some useful pointers in the responses to the BUG survey" said Anna Strempel, Convenor of Moreland BUG.

23 candidates completed the survey, and all were unanimous in their support for completing the Upfield Shared Path to the Western Ring Rd. Candidates were also overwhelmingly in favour of increasing the annual cycling spend, constructing an east-west bike link between Coburg and Glenroy, making Sydney Road a safer cycling route, improving the links between bikes and public transport and supporting cycling initiatives in local schools.

"While most candidates expressed a strong level of support for cycling, there were some notable exceptions" Ms Strempel said.

The inaugural 'Wooden Spoke' booby prize for the least bike-friendly candidate was shared between Michael Andrews, who disagreed with increasing cycling expenditure, did not believe that Moreland should be a leader in cycling initiatives and had no suggestions for improving safety on Sydney Rd; and Anthony Cianflone, who did not appear to support improving cyclist safety on Sydney Rd and made the following comment regarding cycling expenditure:

"Given cyclists do not directly contribute to financing their own infrastructure, I will be prioritising increasing annual spending for those sectors of our community that do".

The Moreland BUG was disappointed with Mr Andrews and Mr Cianflone's responses. "While Mr Andrews gave no explanations for his lack of support, Mr Cianflone appears to suggest that cyclists don't pay rates, which will come as a surprise to the many Moreland ratepayers who get around by bike" said Ms Strempel. "We would expect a candidate for Council to have a clearer understanding of how municipal funds are collected".

The survey also asked candidates about their own pedalling habits – Anita Carcour, Toby Archer and Jo Connellan cycled daily; Lenka Thompson rode most days and Anthony Helou, Ilia Vurtel, Christopher Anderson, Anthony Cianflone and Lambros Tapinos rode about once a week.

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***Photo opportunities available**