Interface Councils Candidate Pledge

Interface Councils plays an important role in the success of Victoria's economy. Home to over 1.6 million residents, the Interface Councils Region (ICR) comprises the ten councils that form an urban ring around Melbourne. As the fastest growing region in Victoria, Interface Councils is expected to grow by another 765,000 people by the end of 2031. During the past decade alone, the ICR has outpaced the rest of Melbourne in population growth. The region now accounts for 26% of Melbourne's population and 49% of Melbourne's growth during this period.

Growth has put incredible pressures on existing services and infrastructure in the region, which simply means supply is not meeting demand. Research consistently indicates that the Interface Councils lag behind the rest of Melbourne in terms of liveability, and that residents struggle to access what they need day to day.

The unique positioning of Interface Councils means that many issues that occur in the region have a direct impact on other Local Government Areas (LGAs) on their border or within close proximity. These issues include access to local jobs, housing, the provision of essential services and pressure on local infrastructure such as roads and public transport.

It is important following the Victorian Election that all parliamentarians make a concentrated effort to ensure key investments for infrastructure and services that will improve the quality of people's lives and ensure that Melbourne's outer communities do not fall further behind.

As a candidate for office in the 2018 Victorian Election you are invited to provide responses to the below questions by checking the boxes and signing your name. Responses to the pledge will be published on the Interface Councils website.

- [x] YES, I support and endorse the Interface Councils Liveability Policy that will help to build better spaces and places, create housing that works, deliver essential services, expand public transport, build roads and create good local jobs

- [x] YES, I support long-term funding of the Growing Suburbs Fund, which helps to build essential community infrastructure across the ICR

- [x] YES, I support an immediate investment to bridge the services gaps outlined in the Interface Councils Human Services Gap Analysis to make sure ICR residents finally have access to basic health and support services

- [x] YES, I support the expansion of affordable housing by requiring ten per cent of all new dwellings to be social housing

- [x] YES, I support the renewal of funding for family violence housing

- [x] YES, I support traffic management improvements and enhancements of existing roads that can alleviate congestion across the ICR

- [x] YES, I support making key investments in public transport that will expand accessible bus and train services throughout the ICR

- [x] YES, I support the development of innovative service delivery models that will encompass a whole-of-government approach to providing better outcomes for ICR residents

- [x] YES, I support economic development initiatives that include harnessing the ICR's agricultural roots to develop good local jobs and to create more accessible employment opportunities by improving skill matching for youth and experienced workers, who are transitioning careers or re-entering the workforce

- [x] YES, I support closing the IRC infrastructure deficit, as outlined in the 2018 One Melbourne or Two? report, by making key investments in schools, libraries, hospitals and public transport to meet current and future demand

Candidate Name

Catherine Cumming

Political Party

Justice Party

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