BOROONDARA COMMUNITY GROUP – CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Boroondara Community Group (BCG) is a grassroots politically independent resident advocacy group established in response to the planning changes affecting housing and development in Boroondara that have occurred since the Housing Statement was released in September 2023.

BCG supports housing growth in Boroondara including a greater diversity of homes, homes that are affordable, homes that are well planned, climate resilient, retain the amenity, tree canopy, local character, heritage and liveability that define our neighbourhoods, and are matched by necessary infrastructure upgrades.

BCG is inviting all candidates in the electorates of Ashwood, Hawthorn and Kew to respond to the attached questions.

BCG intends to use the responses to prepare candidate scorecards to help residents understand and compare candidates' positions.

IF ELECTED, WILL YOU VOTE IN A PARTY ROOM (IF RELEVANT) AND IN PARLIAMENT:

1. To repeal the Activity Centre Program including Amendment VC257?

Yes. We oppose state-imposed Activity Centre plans and support genuine community-led planning, where residents have real input into heights, density and infrastructure rather than consultation on predetermined outcomes. We support more homes near public transport, but development should serve the community and be driven by social need, not developer greed.

2. To repeal the three (3) fast-track Development Facilitation Programs, which bypass councils & communities.

Yes. We oppose fast-track pathways that bypass councils and communities and weaken planning standards. We support efficient planning processes, but not at the expense of housing quality, sustainability, safety or democratic accountability.

3. To repeal the Town House & Low Rise (VC267) and Mid-Rise (VC300) codes and reinstate ResCode, pending a review of applicable building standards.

Yes. We support repealing and replacing these codes following a comprehensive review involving communities, councils, planners, architects, sustainability experts, housing advocates and residents. Labor has weakened planning controls and reduced community input while claiming any opposition amounts to blocking housing. Any reform should strengthen, not weaken, standards for housing quality, sustainability and energy efficiency, accessibility, tree canopy and open space, family-friendly housing, and access to public transport and community infrastructure. We also support mandatory thermal efficiency upgrades to rental properties at the expense of landlords, not renters.

4. To restore democratic planning with the right to seek independent review of planning applications at VCAT.

Authorised by J Oldham, Suite 329 / 98-100 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, 3000

Yes. We support transparent, accountable planning decisions made in the public interest. Public housing should be publicly owned and managed, and we oppose review rights being used to block it. The answer to the housing crisis is a massive expansion of public housing, not the replacement of public housing with market-based models that weaken tenant protections.

5. To restart with Council-led planning for the provision of housing growth and diversity.

Yes. We support genuine community-led planning, with councils and communities having a real say over how neighbourhoods develop. Public land is a public asset and should stay in public hands to expand public housing, parks and community infrastructure, not be handed to private developers through mixed-tenure redevelopment. Housing growth should be driven by social need, not developer profit.

Thanks for the questions, and apologies for the late reply. Victorian Socialists support more homes, but the answer to the housing crisis is a massive public housing build (at least 150,000 new public homes, delivered by a publicly owned construction company) alongside a redistribution of empty and under-utilised property, not leaving supply to private developers and the market.

Please return by 12pm, Monday 19 October 2026
Email: borocogroup@gmail.com

We appreciate your participation and look forward to receiving your responses.