

Appendix B – Background election statements

Darebin Energy Foundation

There are so many things Council should be doing to address climate change at the local level, from reducing the impact of heatwaves through to supporting our community to generate renewable energy.

We will establish a Darebin Energy Foundation to accelerate sustained and meaningful action with the community (residents and businesses) to reduce Darebin's emissions.

The Darebin Energy Foundation will have an independent board with a mandate to reach Council's current target of zero net emissions by 2020 for Council operations and the municipality. It will facilitate community-owned renewable energy projects and the expansion of the Solar Savers program to increase local renewable energy generation and retrofit households and businesses to increase their energy efficiency.

Nature trust

Darebin's green spaces are currently under threat and the projected increase in Darebin's population will create even more pressure. With more people living in apartments and surrounded by concrete, there will be greater demand for engagement with our natural environment.

We will establish a Darebin Nature Trust. The Trust will have a fund of \$10 million and will be managed by an independent board, comprised of representatives from various creek and park committees and friends' groups in Darebin, as well as experts in biodiversity and natural heritage protection.

The Trust will be charged with the responsibility for investing in projects that protect and enhance our natural places and open spaces. This may include strategic land acquisition to increase Darebin's open space provision and protect remnant bushland.