Clayton Doueihi, Victorian Socialists
Response to unasked question. Prahran forum 8 November

Drill Hall Sale

Yes, this site should be acquired by the state government and converted into public and green space to be used by the surrounding community.

Commitment to Treaty

The Australian government continues to put the interests of big corporations ahead of Indigenous people, systematically denying them the right to self-determination in the economic, political and cultural spheres. The social gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is widening across health, education, housing, employment and so on. The socialists are for expanding the powers of statewide and local treaties and support the demand for increased First Nations control over First Nations affairs, and we stand firmly against the racist culture wars whipped up by the political right, the media and the business class.

Ending the GP at Albert Park

Yes, the Grand Prix is a disgusting exercise in international grandstanding and is a total waste of public money. In a worsening climate crisis, a key priority for the government should be protecting and strengthening our vital green spaces, not handing them over to profit-hungry companies. The Grand Prix should be moved out of Albert Park permanently and Albert Park Lake deserves a serious injection of funding to improve wildlife habitat and recreational use.

Stronger laws to protect victims?

Victorians deserve better infrastructure and the overspend on the big build is not unique. Petty crime and other anti-social behaviour is the result of poverty, and poverty is the result of profiteering by big corporations such as Coles, AGL, Rio Tinto, property developers and the big banks. We should introducing or strengthen criminal penalties for corporations and wealthy individuals whose business activities have caused harm to individuals, to society or to the environment. The carceral system does not resolve crime, it brutally punishes the most downtrodden in society. We're for reversing all funding increases to Victoria Police over the last decade and redirecting those funds into social welfare spending.

What high-cost project would you cut?

The country's ten richest people each hold on average $20 billion in wealth. We'll apply a 10 percent wealth tax per year on billionaires living in Victoria, and a 10 percent tax on assets in Victoria owned by billionaires. We're also for a flat 35 percent royalty tax on all coal, gas, oil, base and precious metals and minerals, currently only taxed at 2.75-10

percent. This would raise tens of billions of dollars overnight. Gambling is a widespread and socially destructive project, in 2025 Victorians lost more than $3 billion on poker machines. We're going to phase out all pokies within five years, ban greyhound racing and ban all gambling advertisements.

DDA compliant stations

The Victorian Socialists fully commit to making all of our public transport DDA compliant, including the Windsor, Hawksburn and South Yarra train stations. This cannot wait, it is a health and safety issue which needs to be funded and initiated now.

Help us feel safe

Melbourne consistently ranks as one of the safest and most liveable cities on the planet. The petty crime which you're referring to is a result of poverty and should be addressed with crisis support services and well funded public services in general, we should especially be upgrading existing public housing with connected services for elderly residents to improve their quality of life. Incarceration and greater police powers don't work. We also completely reject the fearmongering and demonisation of the peaceful pro-Palestine movement which has been righteous in its efforts to fight Israel's wholesale slaughter of the Palestinians.