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King says facts matter

TWiSK went into this interview expecting a slew of cutbacks, corruption claims and challenging accusations from candidate King. What emerged was a focus on facts, community benefit and a conviction that he knows a better way to govern.

Here is what Adrian King had to say…

A local resident of Middle Park for 15 years, King describes himself as a specialist who "fixes badly broken organisations". With a background in finance and management consultancy, he has spent his career stepping in as an interim CEO to rescue failing companies and government agencies. Now, he is turning his analytical eye and problem-solving drive towards state politics, running as an independent candidate for the seat of Albert Park.

For King, the decision to run is deeply personal. "I choose Middle Park because I know that grass is not greener on the other side," he says, describing the area as "heaven on Earth". However, over the last few years, his fierce protectiveness of his community has drawn him into systemic local issues that he believes can only be resolved at the state level.

From Local Battles to State Solutions

King's entry point into community advocacy began with the Middle Park Hotel planning dispute. He helped to spearheaded a campaign alongside 2,000 local residents to oppose a proposed open-air rooftop nightclub that was expected to operate until 1.00 am in the heart of the village.

Going head-to-eye against the world's largest private equity firm—which owned the venue and would normally be his corporate client—King and the resident association successfully negotiated a 10-page deed of settlement. King and the resident association successfully challenged the roof top issue.

“I hold those who are responsible to account,” King says of his forthright style. “Where I see inappropriate conduct and they’re not representing the community, I will hold those to account”.

This battle exposed what King views as a broader, systemic failure in how local authorities interact with residents. He advocates for a collaborative model in which the community has a genuine say, pointing to the successful revitalisation of a restaurant on Armstrong Street as a prime example of locals working constructively with a sympathetic landlord to achieve a “roaring success”.

Reclaiming Albert Park Reserve

A central pillar of King’s platform is reforming the governance of the Albert Park Reserve. Currently, management of the local sporting and physical assets is split between the state government and the City of Port Phillip Council, creating what King calls “a layer of bureaucracy and complexity”.

“I would put Albert Park Reserve under the council,” King states, though he quickly adds that he is simultaneously advocating for the current City of Port Phillip to be put into state administration and turned around due to systemic failures.

King is highly critical of the state’s spending priorities, particularly the hundreds of millions allocated to the Grand Prix compared to the lack of funding for local schools and basic park maintenance. “Albert Park Reserve needs to be returned to the people,” he argues, emphasising that the park is a vital health and wellbeing ecosystem for its seven million annual visitors.

A Legacy for the Youth

Ultimately, King’s campaign is built on a philosophy of unity, evidence-based decision-making, and intergenerational responsibility. He rejects rigid political ideologies, choosing instead to focus on facts and human outcomes.

“My wish is actually for the oldies to give more thought to the under 30s going forward,” King says, pointing to the state’s massive debt legacy. “I will back for the youth because they’re coming into a world that’s divided and complex… they need the support of a community around them”.

Running under the banner “Vote Community,” King hopes to inspire voters to make an informed choice at the ballot box. “At the end of the day, we’ve only got each other”.

A man of conviction, King will wield the facts like a sword.

Read King’s website.

TWiSK has offered all candidates an interview introducing their campaign.
Find them here