

Sandy Bolton

Independent Candidate for Noosa

Your Voice. Your Noosa.



POLICIES FOR NOOSA

Commitments

- 1 - I will be independent and answerable to the people of Noosa, not to any political party.
- 2 - I will offer residents a direct link to political decision-making and ensure their concerns and issues are raised in the Queensland Parliament.
- 3 - I will provide Noosa with a constantly strong and spirited voice and work to restore, maintain and build our physical and social assets.
- 4 - I will always be consistent, committed and tenacious in the interests of the people of Noosa.

Policies for Noosa

The first step in achieving progress in any community is to develop relationships, partnerships and networks and to use these as the foundation for effective planning, collaboration and implementation.

Sandy's involvement on regional organisations and committees engaged in community-building is well-established: in health, small business, innovation, economy, finance, disability services and more.

This engagement and understanding has developed an array of relevant and vital policies that represent Sandy's platform for this election and her *To-Do* list should the people of Noosa elect her to the Queensland Parliament.

Accountability

An MP with direct accountability to the electorate

Preamble

Sandy uniquely will give the people of Noosa an independent, respected and accessible representative who will fight tenaciously for Noosa's interests. Instead of answering to political party bosses in Brisbane and beyond, Sandy will be answerable directly to the Noosa community only. So how will this work?

Policies

Accessible local office

Sandy will establish a staffed office which will be accessible to residents, business and organisations with or without appointment, for private or group discussions.

A mobile community office

Sandy will go 'mobile' on an organised schedule to meet with and talk to people where they live especially in outlying town centres like Kin Kin, Cooran, Pomona, Boreen Point and Peregrine Beach. Constituents will be invited to make appointments or just drop by and chat.

Town hall-style meetings

These meetings will be advertised and held across the Shire, offering residents in Peregrine Beach, Sunshine and Sunrise Beach, Noosa Heads, Noosaville, Tewantin, Kin Kin, Cooran and Pomona a collective voice.

Interactive social media

A Facebook presence will provide residents continuing access to Sandy for important information, commentary on local issues, community discussion and dialogue on matters of local or State concern.

Regular media columns and commentary

Sandy will engage with residents on major issues through press, radio, television and a free quarterly email newsletter (with special editions as required).

Economy

Leadership in developing a robust and diversified economy

Preamble

The modern Noosa economy has been created on the back of commitment to the environment and the sensitive development of tourism, which is now a billion-dollar industry. Since the global financial crisis of 2007 there's been much talk of economic diversification but not nearly enough action. Sandy will lead a determined effort to change this to buffer our community against potential future downturns.

Policies

Convene a council of business leaders

Sandy will convene an economic development group, an umbrella body of local business and civic leaders to analyse, review, plan and drive economic diversification and development across critical sectors including aged & health care and education. This will complement Noosa's position as a highly desired destination and an environmental wonderland.

Promote Noosa as an education and enterprise hub

Noosa has good schools, a number of satellite university campuses and a world class language training centre. There are however threats to the appropriate growth and even survival of some of these entities. Immediately after being elected, Sandy will urgently convene a meeting of educational leaders to launch an action program to protect and expand our educational resources.

A plan to re-establish a public institution

There is an opportunity to breathe new life into the decommissioned Tewantin TAFE campus. Sandy is working on a plan backed by significant stakeholders to develop information technology, education, hospitality and creative industries out of the mothballed TAFE site. This will deliver significant benefits to Noosa and be instrumental in spinning off similar enterprises.

Sourcing effective outlets for community enterprise

There are a number of sites including Noosa Civic that have not been fully-developed as originally envisaged. Sandy will support the work of existing community groups seeking to realise the potential and intended community focus of this and other underutilised sites, to provide opportunity for Noosa centric job creation and product development.

Environment

Getting to grips with long-standing environmental issues

Preamble

The people of Noosa live in one of the most environmentally stunning places in Australia and the region's natural beauty is a compelling reason why many people choose to live

here. But environmental challenges still exist - and a number of these lie squarely within the responsibility of the State government.

Policies

Transition Noosa River to local management

The State government needs a good shake-up over its lack of attention to the hulks, waste disposal and other issues affecting the Noosa River. Noosa needs an effective and independent representative - a proven negotiator - who can work to have river management devolved to Noosa Council which would be a win for all stakeholders.

Improve the bio-mapping of Noosa's natural assets

The State government is responsible for most of Noosa's natural riverine and bushland assets, in some cases enabling Noosa Council to hold them in trust. Sandy believes the condition of each of these assets should be assessed, monitored, registered and regularly updated according to world best practice. This will enable greater clarification of issues such as Elanda Point where the quality of the fish habitat has been in question.

Ensure local environment organisations are supported

Sandy will provide a link between Noosa's many environmental organisations and the State government to ensure they benefit from public funding and other programs. She will also provide political weight to community organisations which have been formed to protect and conserve the environment.

Securing State backing for a research institute

Sandy applauds the recent announcement by Noosa Council of a feasibility study to be conducted by CSIRO into a sustainability institute, an outgrowth of Noosa's 10-year Biosphere experience, which will provide environmental and economic opportunities. Sandy sees this initiative as means of establishing Noosa as a hub for sustainability research and thought-leadership and she will work with the project at a State level to ensure its success.

Health and aged care

Giving the highest priority to health and aged care

Preamble

The establishment of a modern university hospital at Kawana is a great asset but does not remove the need for a modern, well-equipped health facility in Noosa – where we have an ageing population and are host to one million visitors a year. Noosa Hospital is a private entity that receives a subsidy from the State government for its public beds. Sandy believes more steps can be taken to ensure community needs for health care are fully catered for.

Policies

Assure adequacy of Noosa hospital services

Sandy knows that our most pressing need is to restore funding for the public services at Noosa Hospital which we must have for our ageing population. The funding must be guaranteed for the foreseeable future. She has stated that, in Parliament, this will be a non-negotiable requirement for any party seeking her support.

Sandy will negotiate with the State government to conduct an 'adequacy audit' of the scope of community and visitor health needs in the Noosa region and the ability of the local health care system to cater to these.

Encourage establishment of modern medical technology

In 2016, much to the concern of many residents, Noosa lost the opportunity to establish a new medical centre near Noosa Hospital housing a PET scan and angiography suite. Sandy will encourage the development of a medical precinct adjacent to the hospital and work with the community to ensure Noosa never loses out like this again.

Review of 'ageing readiness' of the electorate

Noosa has one of the most rapidly ageing demographics in Queensland as mature age people and retirees choose to live here, a trend that brings with it specific issues. Sandy will work with State government agencies to undertake a comprehensive review of the implications of this trend to ensure local facilities and services are effectively managing current demand and are able to cope with future growth.

The hidden scourge of domestic violence

Local police and welfare authorities understand that domestic violence is a major problem in our community and how ill-equipped we are to deal with its outcomes. Sandy will work with State and regional authorities to investigate the incidence of domestic violence and determine how it matches the availability of support services and facilities and what else is needed.

Roads and Transport

Beckman's and other critical road and transport issues

Preamble

Massive regional population growth (the area to our immediate south is set to increase by 100,000 within 10 years) is an increasing burden on our roads, parking and public transport. The problems are evident but too little is being done to address them. Sandy will fight tooth and nail in the corridors and committee rooms of Parliament House and behind the closed doors of the bureaucracy to ensure these dangers to the community receive the funding they require and which they have been long denied.

Policies

Duplication of Beckman's Road

This long-running issue keeps slipping off the political agenda. There is chronic gridlock on this stretch of road capped off by the Cooroy Road intersection being designated one of the most dangerous in Queensland. Sandy will use her leverage as an independent member to get the required funding breakthrough.

The dangerous intersections of Cooroy

The perilous tangle of main road intersections that threaten life and limb in Cooroy, lie outside the Noosa electorate but affect the well-being of Noosa residents and visitors accessing the 'Gateway to Noosa'. Sandy will work to ensure this chronic safety issue is fixed.

Two-way traffic for the 6 Mile Stretch

There are three single-lane bridges on the Pomona to Kin Kin road that are dangerous and isolate our outlying communities in even moderate rain events. They also create issues for local disaster management crews after heavy rain. This road also requires upgrade as it is part of the Noosa Country Drive initiative to improve tourism opportunities in rural areas.

Hinterland public transport services

The people of the Noosa hinterland are used to being told that there is no demand for improved public bus services. Sandy will press for an independent study which will examine potential patterns of use in order to provide reliable data from which to make rational decisions.

Institute a 'Noosa Circuit' bus route

Existing bus routes in Noosa do not mesh well for residents or visitors. Sandy will negotiate with State transport authorities for a circular route stopping at Hastings Street, Noosa Parade, Gympie Terrace, Noosa Regional Gallery, Noosa Library and Leisure Centre, Noosa Civic, Noosa Arts Centre, Noosa Junction and back to Hastings Street.

Housing and Energy

Securing affordable housing options and energy costs

Preamble

As local property prices escalate and mortgage and rental stress become more common, many employees are being forced out of the electorate. In addition, the massive increase in energy prices are posing problems for many sectors of our community including our most vulnerable people.

Policies

Affordable housing makes for a sustainable community

Sandy believes that a dynamic and balanced community must have affordable housing at all income levels. She will continue to collaborate with Noosa Council on this and other relevant matters to progress State policy and initiatives to benefit people on lower incomes.

Escalating energy prices are hitting people hard

A caring community ensures its vulnerable citizens are not denied a decent lifestyle because of avoidable costs. Spiralling energy prices, partly due to State government decisions, have made many people's lives more difficult. Alternative renewable sources like solar are increasingly available but carry relatively high capital costs.

The State government has a responsibility to ensure it is not benefiting from high energy prices at the expense of its people's well-being and that renewable options are more readily available to low income earners. Sandy will apply her advocacy skills to finding ways and means to defray power costs and assist the less well-off to acquire lower cost renewable technologies.

Sandy Bolton – for whom Noosa is ‘forever home’



For 25 years, Sandy has lived, worked and raised her three children in our community, living in local communities including Kin Kin, Pomona and now Cooroibah with her partner, four times world lawn bowls champion, Ian ‘Shoey’ Schuback OAM.

Sandy's mum Clare lives in Tewantin, her sister Lyn in Noosa Heads and, with all the children and grand-children, they share rich lives in what Sandy calls their “forever home”.

Sandy's business background covers 35 years as an employee, manager and consultant in the tourism, agriculture, sporting, community, banking and social services sectors.

In 2014, Sandy was the only female councillor elected to the then freshly de-amalgamated Noosa Council. In 2016, she narrowly missed becoming our Mayor.

These life experiences have given Sandy first-hand knowledge of politics and also educated her in the frustrations and opportunities of dealing with the inertia of State government.

Further, they have provided her with an insight into effective means of negotiating beneficial economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Over the last 18 months, Sandy has continued to be engaged in a wide range of roles using her diverse skills including NDIS project manager for disability service provider Sunshine Butterflies, a founding member of Innovate Noosa, a Director of the four local Bendigo Community Banks and Community Advisory Council member of the Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network.

One of her ongoing efforts has been to work towards providing Noosa with a more diverse and robust economy. This goal will be a priority of Sandy's activities as MP for Noosa.

Sandy understands the interdependence between a strong economy, social well-being and cohesion and the resources required to maintain Noosa's splendid environment.

Her strengths are in planning, business development, governance and resource management. Her passion is in working with people and communities to create a climate and culture in which all can thrive and reach their potential.

Authorised by Sandy Bolton, 58 Little Creek Road, Cooroibah QLD 4565 for S. Bolton (Candidate)