



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Sullivan	Given name:	Brady
Position contesting:	Division 2		

Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour

Q 1 Are you aware of the Principles listed at the beginning of the Local Government Act 2009 and will you commit to abiding by these principles?

YES/NO Yes	How do you see them influencing your decision-making? I believe the five principles that underpin the Local Government Act should be a base set of principles a councillor uses to frame all of their decision making processes, the way in which they deliver and share information with their constituents and the manner and frequency that they engage with the residents of the Sunshine Coast.
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Q 2a What are the relevant legislation and regulations that govern the conduct of councillors and the activities of council?

Response: Local Government Electoral Act 2011, Local Government Act 2009, Local Government Regulations 2012
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Q 2b How will these impact your decision-making?

Response: These pieces of legislation dictate the way in which one conducts themselves as a councillor. Particularly in regard to proper process, transparent and evidence-based decision making, ethical behaviour and good governance principles. Generally they reiterate a good moral code that the public would expect of a councillor.

Q 3 Do you or your immediate family have assets, interests or affiliations which might be likely to present you with potential conflicts of interest in carrying out your tasks as a councillor?

YES/NO No	If YES, how will you deal with these?
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Q 4 As councillor/mayor you will regularly meet to vote on various matters. Some of these votes may be passed by a majority decision, yet there exists aspects which indicate some or all of the following: improper due process, breaches around what might be deemed 'reasonable action' according to duty of care, statutory instruments, local government legislative provisions, by-laws, policies, procedures and responsibilities. What action would you take?

Response: I would identify what I deemed to be inappropriate process or action and report/escalate them through the appropriate internal and external processes.

Q 5 Do you believe that all Council meetings should be open to the public?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, then what circumstances might justify a closed meeting? With the caveat that as represented in the local government regulation, there are specific cases where in-confidence sessions might be utilised to ensure good community outcomes.
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Q 6 Do you support providing requested information to the community without the need for individuals and organisations having to resort to Right to Information applications?

YES/NO Yes

Q 7 Will you commit to voting to implement the live streaming and video recording of council meetings at Caloundra, Nambour and subsequently Maroochydore by 30 June 2020?

YES/NO Yes

Q 8 Do you support that, once the previously published reasons for confidentiality have passed, the live recording, related documentation and information of the confidential meeting should immediately be made public?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not?
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Q 9 Do you support all financial dealings of Council in relation to major projects such as, but not limited to, the Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion, The Maroochy CBD, the Broadband Cable, the City Hall and the Solar Farm being made fully available to ratepayers once a decision to proceed has been made?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not? Provided that there are no ongoing commercial in-confidence or Intellectual property issues which could compromise community interest.
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Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response: Sustainable development by very definition is that which satisfies the needs of the present day without detrimental effect on future generations' capacity for good social, environmental and economic outcomes. There will be a number of parameters of social, environmental and economic sustainability that I will source from experts in their fields. This is the manner by which I will measure sustainable development.
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Q 11 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?

YES/NO No

Climate change

Q 12 Do you accept that:

(a) as the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases the proportion of the sun's radiant energy that is retained by the earth increases?	YES/NO Yes
(b) consequences of the increase in the retained energy include rising average temperatures and major changes in weather patterns that can result in drought and heavy rain in areas where such weather events had not previously occurred?	YES/NO Yes
(c) the combustion of fossil carboniferous fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas has been a major contributor to the increase in the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that has occurred since industrialisation began?	YES/NO Yes
(d) clearing of forest for agriculture and housing has also contributed to the increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere?	YES/NO Yes
(e) the major source of greenhouse gas emissions for local government comes from the decomposition of organic residues in landfill?	YES/NO
(f) maintenance of biodiversity as close as possible to what it was before human intervention is essential for the healthy survival of the human species?	YES/NO

Q 13 What do you see as the key impacts of Climate Change on the Sunshine Coast?

Response:

More frequent and severe weather occurrences and its implications on land use practices, community safety, economic prosperity and terrestrial/aquatic ecosystems.

Q 14 How should the Sunshine Coast Regional Council deal with this now and into the future?

Response:

Continuance and delivery of a coastal hazard adaptation strategy, continued green landbanking for environmental reasons, movement towards best practice in waste recovery and management, utilisation of commercially viable technologies and practices to reduce emissions and waste, collaboration with industry and other tiers of government to obtain best practice in development and primary industries. Improved planning processes to address sustainability issues.

Q 15 Do you support the SCRC in joining other councils in signing a Declaration of Climate Emergency?

YES/NO No

Q 16 Will you advocate for the SCRC to have a moratorium on any development proposed in areas vulnerable to the impact of climate change such as in flood-prone areas and coastal zones until such time as the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy is completed?

YES/NO

Planning issues

Q 17 Do you agree that:

(a) development applications that conflict with the relevant Planning Scheme Acceptable Outcomes and other planning instruments should be refused?	YES/NO
(b) genuine community consultation should be undertaken in the early stages of a Proposed Planning Scheme amendment and prior to being progressed to the state?	YES/NO Yes
(c) applicants wishing to lodge a Development application that substantially does not comply, or seeks to over-ride the Planning Scheme should be advised to await the formulation of the next planning scheme when they can lodge a submission on that new planning scheme during the public consultation period?	YES/NO No
(d) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?	YES/NO Yes

Q 18 Do you agree that:

(a) Planning Scheme provisions regarding density, site cover, height and parking requirements must comply with the Acceptable Outcomes in the Planning Scheme?	YES/NO
(b) financial contributions in lieu of the provisions of onsite parking should not be allowed unless improvements are provided within 200 metres of the development?	YES/NO
(c) greater enforcement is needed where a developer constructs (or private certifier signs off) other than what has been approved, particularly in relation to height and density of development?	YES/NO Yes

Q 19 What is your understanding of when it is appropriate to override the Planning Scheme, when there are conflicts?

Response:

As time evolves in the life of a planning scheme there might be very rare occurrences where flexibility in the planning scheme is acceptable if there is substantial community benefit AND overwhelming community support of a project. Applicants have legal avenues to pursue development applications that council refuse. By consistently approving applications outside of the planning scheme we provide legal precedent to be repeatedly challenged in our planning decisions.

Q 20 Would you support extending submission timeframes from the statutory minimum in relation to Planning Scheme amendments?

YES/NO Yes

Q 21 The floodplains of the Sunshine Coast have been extensively filled primarily for urban development. This has increased the risk to people, property, infrastructure and the environment from coastal inundation and flooding and contributes to greater exposure to extreme weather events associated with climate change. Planning instruments, State Planning regulation and various reports give regulatory and guidance material regarding floodplain management with land-use one of the key areas to avoid and manage risk. Will you act to prohibit further development on the floodplains?

Response:

I would act to support the best practice advice and scientific evidence that various experts put forward regarding floodplain management. It will be of increasing importance for good land use, safety, insurance and economic

reasons to improve our decision making around planning. There can and should be incentives for public and private landholders to better utilise flood plains, the blue heart project is one example of such an opportunity.

Q 22 With respect to the South East Queensland Regional Plan (Shaping SEQ) that was given effect on 11 August 2017, do you support the Plan in its current form relating to the Northern sub-region, including designation of the Urban footprint and population targets?

YES/NO Yes

Q 23 Do you support the proposed Coolum West intense residential/mixed use development and wave pool proposal on significantly constrained land, which is also outside the urban footprint?

YES/NO No

If NO, will you, if elected to council, support SCRC advocating to the State Government against this proposal? YES/NO Yes

Q 24 What is your view in relation to this statement:

“ALL mixed-use multi-residential buildings requiring a Material Change of Use (MCU) must be “impact assessed” except where compliance is achieved with all relevant SCPS “Acceptable Outcomes” in the codes applicable to each development application. Community notification and rights of appeal in the P&E Court will therefore be restored for all non-compliant applications simply by this change”

Response:

Q 25 The coastal hazard and “erosion prone area” is defined by the Queensland Government and State Planning Policy Guidance states redevelopment is to “avoid urban footprint expansion into erosion prone areas (3.2)”.

How will you participate in supporting a change to limit or avoid increases in the footprint and density of medium and high rise mixed use -residential buildings in these designated coastal hazard areas to reduce overall risk?

Response:

My role as councillor will be first and foremost to represent the interests of our community. My obligation is to make decisions and advocate for sustainable development processes based on evidence and reason. I have the education and professional background to understand complex issues and bring meaning to them. I will utilise this skillset to build awareness within our community and with my councillor colleagues regarding our future development processes to drive good community outcomes.

General

Q 26 The Sunshine Coast Regional Council ratepayers have been consistently hit with annual rate increases much higher than the region's CPI. How would you address this?

Response:

As a non sitting candidate it is hard to be armed with full detail of budget decision making processes. If lucky to be elected as councillor I will advocate for good fiscal responsibility through decision making that reduces monetary waste and utilises innovative methods or technology improvements to find budget efficiencies.

Q 27 Would you support a proposal that all Statutory Community Engagement exercises either by Council or other parties (including developers) must be carried out by a demonstrably independent and professional third party organisation according to specific pre-determined parameters?

YES/NO No

Q 28 Do you support the Environment Levy and its policies, including continued acquisition of land for conservation, partnership funding for Land for Wildlife and other environment programs?

YES/NO Yes

Q 29 Do you live in the division for which you are standing as a Councillor?

YES/NO/NA Yes

Q 30 If elected, how do you intend to engage with your community?

Response:

I will continue to engage as I have as a candidate. I have been a long time member of Caloundra based community groups, I have been an individual member of OSCAR and a representative for my community groups. As a candidate I spent 12 months engaging with residents, community groups and business owners. I knocked on over 8000 doors to listen to the needs and aspirations of residents in Division 2 and held many listening posts in public spaces. As a councillor I will continue to be engaged in community groups make myself publicly available to our residents.

Q 31 If elected as a Divisional Councillor how will you advance the specific needs of your Division?

Response:

My education and professional background has given me the experience in advocating for outcomes based on evidence and reason. My commitment to our residents is to listen, be well informed, to have strong community connections and work collaboratively with my councillor colleagues and all levels of government to obtain the best outcomes possible for our region. It will be the commitment and persistent drive for incremental improvements to Caloundra that deliver a vibrant and prosperous future.

Q 32 Why do you think that you are the best candidate for your Division or as Mayor?

Response:

I am a scientist by training, holding an honours degree in microbial biotechnology and post graduate studies in health services management. My professional career has been in the commercial arm of the pharmaceutical industry and managing a number of states for a start up company who manufactured building products from recycled plastics. I've spent the past few years as a full-time father to support my wife's medical career. This has been an extremely rewarding life experience and enabled me the space to reflect on what is important. In this time I have become very involved in a number of community groups and projects.

I committed to nominating for the Division 2 councillor 12 months ago, before our sitting councillor announced his retirement. In this time I have engaged broadly and listened to the needs and aspirations of our community. I

have spent the last 6 months doorknocking over 8000 houses. This has been an amazing opportunity to understand not only the big picture projects that our community need to sustain our population growth, but also the smaller localised issues that can improve our day to day lives.

I believe a good councillor needs to show commitment to broad-based community engagement, advocate for good community and environmental outcomes and help enable economic prosperity. Councillors need the education and professional skillset to understand and bring meaning to complex issues. They also need to have experience in negotiating meaningful and commercially viable outcomes. My education, diverse professional and life experience has equipped me well for this role. These factors, combined with my commitment to engage meaningfully and listen to our residents I feel makes the the best candidate to represent our community.

My wife and I are raising our young family in Caloundra. We love where we live, I view the opportunity of being division 2 councillor as a great honour to work towards a vibrant and prosperous future in Caloundra.