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Mail: PO Box 105
Coolum Beach QLD 4573
Mobile: 0417 577 881
Email: mail@oscar.org.au

Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Hodgson	Given name:	Charles
Position contesting:	Councillor - Division 5		

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	How do you see them influencing your decision-making?
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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:

Q 2b How will these impact your decision-making?

Response:

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?

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:

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

NO	If NO, then what circumstances might justify a closed meeting? ALL meetings is not practical. Critical matters can be live streamed or recorded if they contain
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	matters that are commercial in confidential or personal /private information. Once the decision is made the recording of the deliberations could be made available.
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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?

NO

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

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	You may need to define what “immediately” means.
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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	Generally YES but there may be circumstances where revealing such information may disadvantage council’s ability to negotiate subsequent competitive deals on behalf of ratepayers.
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Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response:

Q 11 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?

NO. I am not nor have I ever been a member, donor or volunteer for a political party.

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
(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
(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
(d) clearing of forest for agriculture and housing has also contributed to the increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere?	YES
(e) the major source of greenhouse gas emissions for local government comes from the decomposition of organic residues in landfill?	I'd like to see the data.
(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?	Preferable but whether that is realistic/practical given the currently developed footprint I'd need advice

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

Hotter, dryer and longer summers. Changes in sea/water levels that would prompt new modelling and assessment on those effects on buildings existing and proposed.

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

Response:

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

YES I support it but would not want the process of Declaration to be a distraction or for it to consume time and effort hindering actually doing things NOW.

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?

NO, blanket moratoriums are not the way to go. I'd prefer to be able to evaluate the evidence on a case by case basis.

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
(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
(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
(d) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?	NO. There needs to be an accommodation as to what the nature of the proposed development is.

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
(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?	NO I'd need to understand the specifics of the development
(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

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

Overwhelming community benefit.

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

NO I'd like to explore improving the notification and streamlining the submission process in the first instance.

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: It would depend upon the specifics of the development.

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 I would like to see state and federal governments support (properly) the existing population with infrastructure and services in line with their responsibilities.

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	I would like more information on the proposal.
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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:

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:

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

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

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

YES/NO/NA

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

Response:

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

Response:

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

Response: