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Candidate questionnaire – Noosa Shire Council Election 2020

Surname:	Fletcher	Given name:	David
Position contesting:	Councillor		

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? They are great principles and an awesome checklist for anyone involved with local government.
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Q 2 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 Yes	If YES, how will you deal with these? My partner and I are owners of a small business called FliteFit at Peregrine Beach which operates under a Noosa Council permit. Such permits are approved by council staff. I will adhere fully to the law in relation to matters coming before Council for decision.
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Q 3 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 in such a situation?

Response: Having been involved with policies and procedures and the implementation of regulations for the Australian Defence Force, I would ensure that all decisions are based on fact and current policies, regulations and laws. They are there for a reason and must be adhered to.
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Q 4 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?
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Q 5 Will you commit to continuing to support/extend the live streaming and video recording of all council meetings including those of the Planning and Environment and Services & Organisation committees?

YES/NO Yes

Q 6 Do you support that, once the previously published reasons for confidentiality have passed, the live recording, related staff reports and information of the confidential meeting should immediately be made public?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not? Only if the reasons for confidentiality are completely finished and there is absolutely no possibility it can impact or bring the reason for confidentiality into disrepute.
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Q 7 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?

YES/NO No

Climate change

Q 8 Do you accept the international scientific community's view that global climate change is the result of human activity over the past 200 years, principally through the burning of fossil fuels?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not?
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Q 9 What do you see as the key impacts of Climate Change on the Noosa Shire?

<p>Response:</p> <p>It is important that we accept the serious responsibility of supporting and assisting the community to address the Climate Change Challenge. The key impacts are threats from fire, flood, drought and coastal erosion. We must immediately develop a plan that prepares, assists and supports the community with these complex issues. The plan must include information on how precious habitats will be protected.</p>

Q 10 How should the Noosa Shire Council deal with Climate Change now and into the future?

<p>Response:</p> <p>What I believe is that we can prepare for and have an impact on ensuring that we have the right people employed to tackle the challenges that climate change throws our way. A strategy must be put in place and actioned on by the council that can prepare, assist and support the community deal with the complex impacts of climate change. We need to act now to reduce fuel loads throughout the shire, clear sufficient breaks along roads and provide emergency access roads to residential areas landlocked by bushland with only one access point. We need to educate and prepare people for, and what to do, in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>I am a firm supporter of reducing Single use plastics and Zero Emissions Noosa. Knowledge is power and the more people understand about reducing emissions and recycling the better our community will be. Recycling, composting, water and energy management, sustainable gardens are just some of the ways that individuals can help. There are some great organisations within our community that are doing excellent work and they must be supported by council. This is from renewable energy through solar, which must be managed especially for when the panels expire, which is a completely other recycling/destruction issue we will have in the future, that I believe needs addressing now.</p>
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Q 11 Will you advocate for the Noosa Shire Council to promote and support further Climate Change action within the broader community?

YES/NO Yes

Q 12 Do you support maintaining Noosa Shire Council's Declaration of Climate Emergency?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not?
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Q 13 Will you advocate for the Council 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 Plan is completed?

YES/NO Yes

Planning issues

Q 14 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response:

Is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. I am a firm believer of having a strategy in place and structuring how we meet the end goals of that strategy. Having place markers along the timeline that must be met and measurable to ensure that sustainable development continues based on evidence that it can or is working.

Q 15 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 Yes
(b) applicants wishing to lodge a Development application that does not substantially 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 Yes
(c) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?	YES/NO Yes
(d) 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

Q 16 The new Noosa Planning scheme has been approved by the Planning Minister subject to a number of conditions, two of which are of concern to the Council. They are:

(1) Provisions for mandating 10% of high density housing as social and community (affordable) housing at the Shire Business Centre and former Noosa Bowling Club site at Noosa Junction.

(2) Requirement that Noosa Council adopt the recent State changes to koala protection regulations and remove local provisions.

(a) Will you support the Noosa Plan as it is?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not? The Minister has signalled that Council can proceed with adopting the new Noosa Plan subject to eight conditions. Three of these are being disputed by Council on the basis that Council endorsed the new Noosa Plan for the purpose of state interest review. The planning scheme will go to the new council after the election and outstanding issues will be addressed once all councillors are up to speed with these requirements.
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(b) If elected will you support Noosa Shire Council in negotiating with the State Government to achieve a better outcome for the community in relation to these two provisions?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not?
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Q 17 What is your understanding of when it is appropriate to override the Planning Scheme, where there are conflicts?

Response:

It is important to adhere to the Noosa Plan and I am committed to that. The council's role is also to at times use its discretion when other important considerations need to be assessed for the benefit of the community it will impact. Consultation is extremely important and negotiation before litigation should always be sought.

Q 18 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 19 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?

NB The reason for this question being asked of Noosa Shire candidates is that Noosa Tourism published a survey in what appeared to be support for the project

YES/NO	<p>If NO, will you, if elected to the Noosa Shire Council, support SCRC community groups in advocating to the State Government against this proposal?</p> <p>When elected, I will request a full briefing on this matter in order to be able to make a considered decision based on the full facts.</p>
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General

Q 20a The Noosa Biosphere Reserve designation by UNESCO was recently renewed for another 10 year period. What do you understand is the significance of the Biosphere Reserve designation to the Noosa Shire and its community?

Response:

UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program aims to see the community and business live and be prosperous in harmony with the environment, this commitment is a key feature of Noosa Shire and its community.

Q 20b Over the past 10 years the Noosa population has undergone significant change with new residents moving to the area. Will you advocate for an education and marketing program about what it means to local residents and the community as a whole to be a UNESCO Biosphere and how the community can assist in supporting and maintaining that status?

YES/NO Yes

Q 21 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	If NO, why not?
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Q 22 In a recent interview the current Mayor referred to a "Crisis" in the Noosa River with biodiversity plummeting. What actions would you propose to address this issue?

Response:

The river has significant problems related to pollution, flooding, jetties, erosion, abuse by watercraft, hulks, anchoring, mooring and effluent disposal and I do not believe the council should take over its management. The council needs to collaborate with river users and the State government in a river partnership. I would promote immediately to establish a River and Lakes Working Group as an initial step to achieve this and then commit to a comprehensive river plan which has community support and action it as soon as possible.

Q 23 Given Noosa Shire is an undivided council, if elected, how do you intend to engage with the whole Noosa Shire community?

Response:

Being engaged with the community is paramount. My experience in the military taught me about representing

everyone in our country and at times just the person next to me and that's what I will bring to our shire whilst on council. I can have a discussion with anyone that may have a different view or is very passionate about something close to them and it is my responsibility to listen and be a voice for them on council, no matter what.

Q 24 Why do you think that you are the best candidate for Councillor or Mayor of the Noosa Shire Council?

Response:

I moved to Noosa five years ago with my partner Nicki to enjoy the coastal lifestyle and established FliteFit, a boutique gym in Peregrine Beach. Running a business has made me aware of the amount of work required to be successful as well as the need to balance my family life and nurture relationships with the community.

I had a successful 20-year career in Army Aviation, where I was deployed overseas on multiple occasions as a helicopter crewman. I retired as the senior instructor for aircrew and then spent eight years with Airbus Helicopters.

The military taught me about integrity, honesty, hard work and the importance of working in a team. But more importantly to me, having a disabled son with a terminal muscle wasting disease has taught me compassion and how to fight for what's right when other people cannot do it for themselves.

Having had multiple successful careers, I feel it's time for me to use my experience and skills and help Noosa move forward into the future and that's why I'm running for Noosa Council. Among my primary goals is to advocate for the individual, not just the loudest groups.

We must ensure the council has the infrastructure and services to handle the increasing numbers of visitors to our shire and understand that there is a role for the council in facilitating the growth of small business.

I understand the roles of planning, consultation, feedback and review, it is now time to start working together and embrace the future. That's why I think I am the best candidate.