



Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Law	Given name:	David
Position contesting:	Division 10		

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	<p>How do you see them influencing your decision-making?</p> <p>The principles will ensure that I represent the current and future interests of all the residents of Division 10 and serve the public interest of Division 10 and the whole of the Sunshine Coast Council. The principles will be my guide to ensure I will always be accountable and ethical . I will maintain the principles with ease since I have maintained the highest of ethical standards throughout my professional career.</p>
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Q 2a What are the relevant legislation and regulations that govern the conduct of councillors and the activities of council?

<p>Response:</p> <p>Local Government Act 2009</p> <p>Planning Act 2016</p> <p>Planning Regulation 2017 and Minister's Guidelines and Rules Under the Planning Act 2016 - July 2017</p> <p>Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019</p> <p>Local Government Regulation 2012</p> <p>Local Government Legislation (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) Amendment Regulation 2019</p> <p>Local Government Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019</p> <p>Local Government Electoral Act 2011</p> <p>Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019 No. 30</p> <p>Local Government Electoral Regulation 2012</p> <p>Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982</p> <p>Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018</p> <p>And the Sunshine Coast Council has adopted the Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland</p> <p>Also the relevant Local Government Bulletins and other Guidelines as well as all subordinate legislation.</p>

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

Response:

I will ensure that I become very knowledgeable of the legislation to enable appropriate decision making that keeps me accountable to the community and maintains my responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2009.

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?

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:

During the discussion in the meeting, whether a committee meeting or a full meeting of the council, I will take all available actions to ensure that there is a minute or statement on the public record of the meeting identifying the irregularities or discrepancies. I would then follow up with the relevant department or authority to have the matter investigated and remedial action taken.

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?

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?

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?

Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response:

Development that is environmentally and socially responsible that benefits the community and provides a good quality of life and livability. It is development that maintains old growth native forests. It is development that is relevant today and remains relevant in 50 , 100 and even 500 years time. Reasonable measures could be air quality measuring CO2 emissions and CO2 levels, livability assessments, reducing energy usage

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 Yes
(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 Yes

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

Response:

Researchers at the Australia Institute have reported that summers are getting longer and winters are getting shorter and this is more pronounced in regional areas.

This is increasing the length of the bush fire season and potential for catastrophic fire events.

Weather patterns seem to be changing with extreme weather events becoming more significant and longer lasting. The most significant impact being higher storm surges larger spring tides and far greater risk of flooding from sea level rise.

With the increasing temperatures and longer summers cyclonic activity is likely to increase and come further south. The intensity of cyclonic weather systems will increase and have greater impacts.

Year by year the change is perhaps negligible however over more meaningful time periods we are going to experience coastal erosion and river plain flooding / inundation. Hotter summers and warmer winters.

There will be climate change induced natural disasters until such time as the reaction changes from disaster response to proactive mitigation of human influenced climate change.

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

Response:

I will put forward a motion to declare a climate emergency.

This is a mobilising statement and the use of the word emergency signals that we need to do far more far faster than the usual speed of progress and change.

Embed climate emergency action in all council strategies, plans and actions, in particular the planning scheme and Transport Plans. Build environmentally logical developments that reduce energy use and take advantage of natural environment, and transport schemes that reduce car journeys and increase public transport use.

Reach out and collaborate with and learn from the work of other councils that have already done this and made progress.

Reduction of CO2 in the atmosphere and a target of zero emissions, for example a zero emission, 100% renewable powered public transport system that is able to meet the travel demands and reduce overall private vehicle trips.

Revegetation and maintain mature growth and native forests when considering new developments - create and protect urban forests.

I will always be looking towards the future and how the decisions today will impact today but also how will this look in 20, 50, 500 years time.

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

YES/NO Yes

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 Yes

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 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/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 Yes
(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 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?	YES/NO Yes
(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?

<p>Response:</p> <p>In principle the Planning Scheme should not be overridden unless the scheme is found to conflict with the Planning Act 2016 or other legislation or regulations</p>

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

YES/NO No

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?

<p>Response:</p> <p>Yes,</p> <p>it is illogical to permit development on land that nature requires to allow for water inundation.</p>

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 No

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:

Full consultation with the community is required to establish the best outcome for the community. Within the context of the statement this seems to be an appropriate process to achieve a better outcome.

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:

By gathering knowledge and information to achieve outcomes which do not permit development in erosion prone areas.

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:

Improvement in financial controls and transparency of financial reports. Annual budgets that provide the services that the council are responsible for and that the ratepayers and residents need.

Stopping unnecessary development, infrastructure projects and land acquisition that does not have genuine benefit for the community or environment.

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 Yes

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 hold regular "listening sessions" in each town of Division 10 . I will continue to communicate via social media and email. I will be very visible in the various towns of Division 10 and have conversations to drive progress and create stronger communities. I will attend the regular meetings of the various associations that represent communities and groups and this will include two way conversations to share important and relevant information from council back to the people I represent. I will be active and engaged across the whole Sunshine Coast so that I have an understanding of community wishes on the major matters I will be voting on.

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

Response:

By working hard to represent all residents of Division 10 and always working to the highest professional and ethical standards. I will support the live streaming of all council meetings and provide information to the community and listen to the community. As a truly independent Councillor I will only have the ratepayers and residents to represent and not some external stakeholder.

I will work to focus the council on the needs and requirements of the Hinterland towns that have been overlooked and left unrepresented for far too long with services being removed from the Hinterland and being placed into the coastal strip. The implementation of Regional Economic Development Strategy MUST include all of the Hinterland Towns of Division 10. I will work hard to bring the high value industries who are being encouraged to expand, create job opportunities and expand throughout the Hinterland. Here housing is affordable and we can reduce commuting by putting the jobs where the people are. I want the new business start ups to start up in the Hinterland.

In my role as Councillor I will do everything I can to stop the economic vandalism of the Hinterland towns by all levels of Government. I will put all my energy into bringing the economic benefits of the SMART City to the Hinterland. I want the benefits the coastal strip has enjoyed for many years to return to the Hinterland. I want the Sunshine Coast Council to INCLUDE division 10. I will do everything possible through influence and determination

to get these things done.

I will always;

be transparent and effective in carrying out my duties and work processes

make decisions in the public interest

ensure I consult widely to provide democratic representation

work to achieve social inclusion and meaningful community engagement

be ethical and work within the law and I will hold all councillors and employees to the same level of accountability.

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

Response:

My career in the not-for-profit disability sector, including National Manager for Disability Services is a good fit for the role of councillor. I believe I have the most relevant and proven leadership skills out of all seven candidates.

I have strong motivation having lived in this community for 18 years and my integrity and transparency is second to none. My track record for achieving positive outcomes is easy to demonstrate on a local and national scale and I have both the education and experience to adapt quickly to the role.

I have a qualifications in Business and Finance and a Masters Degree in Disability Studies with higher distinction.