



## Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Wallace	Given name:	Hilary
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	How do you see them influencing your decision-making? Basically, these principals are the foundations for good 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: The Local Government Act, Local Government Electoral Act and the Planning Act are the main ones.
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**Q 2b How will these impact your decision-making?**

Response: These documents provide a baseline standard, and guide on which to make my decisions. Councillors should to the best of their ability act and make decisions in the interest of ALL the community, and not themselves.
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**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: Firstly I’d like to declare that this question is written very poorly, however I will attempt to answer the question based on my understanding of the principals outlined. Whether I perceived the matter as intentional or just poor governance. In the first instance I would bring the matter to the attention of my fellow Councillors. If the matter is fobbed off, I would personally escalate the matter with the mayor and CEO and if I was not satisfied with their action, I would contact the Office of the Independent Assessor.
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**Q 5 Do you believe that all Council meetings should be open to the public?**

YES/NO No	If NO, then what circumstances might justify a closed meeting? By All Council Meetings, I presume the question relates to Ordinary and Special Meetings of
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	<p>Council. YES! I believe that all Council meetings should be run in open session, however within the open session meetings there may be items of the Agenda which should be discussed and debated in closed session (confidential). The difference for me is whether by discussing the item in open session, would or could cause a financial detriment to the ratepayer (eg, purchase of land). I am aware that current practise is for Agenda Reviews to not be open to the public. In light of the community's wish for full transparency where ever possible, I would be happy to have community scrutiny in these meetings as well.</p>
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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
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**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
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**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	<p>If NO, why not?</p> <p>Again I stress that as long as the decision is not financially detrimental to the ratepayer, all debate, decisions and details of the decision making should be open for public scrutiny.</p>
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**Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?**

<p>Response:</p> <p>Sustainable development to me is development that has minimal impact on the environment and is well planned with the appropriate infrastructure, either in place, or part of the development.</p>
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**Q 11 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?**

YES/NO No
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## 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
(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
(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
(d) clearing of forest for agriculture and housing has also contributed to the increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere?	YES/NO
(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: If all the above questions are in part asking me whether I believe in Climate change the answer is definitely YES! I also believe that if mankind does not take positive steps to reduce global warming, we can legitimately expect a sea level rise in excess of a metre by the year 2100. As the majority of the Sunshine Coast Residents live on the low coastal floodplain, it is imperative into the future, that Council makes responsible planning decisions.

### 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/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 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 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: When there is significant community benefit, and it outweighs the impacts on the community

### 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: Yes, unless the flooding issues can be adequately addressed.

### 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
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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: I am not a Planning Expert, and would need to seek advice from the Planners in order to make a decision on this.

**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: Again - I would need to be guided by the experts on this matter. I certainly would not support increasing risk.

## 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 the Division 10 Councillor, I would make prudent, economically viable decisions and endeavour to get Council to operate within its means.

**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: Active participation with community events and being accessible at all times to residents within the Division will be features of my engagement plan. I will also adopt a proactive communication plan to ensure all residents in Division 10 will be kept up to date and have access to information on the issues and decisions that affect them.

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

Response: Listening, prioritising, identifying a pathway to completing the issues will all be important in advancing the needs of the Division. Similarly, teamwork within Council, the community and amongst fellow Councillors are also essential qualities for success.

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

Response: Local Government is about achieving outcomes for the community. This election is about selecting the best people with the right skills, knowledge and experience to get those results. Of all the candidates, I have the most experience in Council's Division 10, having worked directly with Cr Rogerson for the last 7 years. I therefore understand the issues and have learnt from him and others in Council and the community about how to get things done. I am a local resident, keen to listen to the community's needs and aspirations in building a future for Division 10.