

Candidate questionnaire – Noosa Shire Council Election 2020

Surname: Glasgow

Given name: Jess

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

How do you see them influencing your decision-making?

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?

NO

If YES, how will you deal with these?

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: I would refer all actions and information to the CEO and other relevant bodies he recommends.

Q 4 Do you believe that all Council meetings should be open to the public?

YES

If NO, then what circumstances might justify a closed meeting?

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

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

If NO, why not?

Q 7 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?

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

If NO, why not?

Q 9 What do you see as the key impacts of Climate Change on the Noosa Shire?

Response: Throughout history there has always been changes in climate, but during the last 30 odd years things have escalated at an alarming rate. The impact of Climate Change on Noosa Shire will continue to be seen in our natural environment. We need to do as much as possible, through emissions reduction and adaption, to limit the effects now, so that in 50 years, when I'll hopefully still be alive, we can all have a good quality of life.

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

Response: We should continue with our zero emissions policy and encourage the commercial and private sectors to get on board. Also education programs for residents on the importance of emissions reduction and the ways we can all contribute.

Q 11 Will you advocate for the Noosa Shire Council to promote and support further Climate Change action within the broader community?

YES

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

YES

If NO, why not?

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

Planning issues

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

Response: Development that is in keeping with Noosa's town plan and design principles.

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

(b) applicants wishing to lodge a Development application that does not substantially comply, or seeks to override 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?

NO

(c) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?

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

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

If NO, why not?

(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

If NO, why not?

Q 17 What is your understanding of when it is appropriate to override the Planning Scheme, where there are conflicts?

Response: Only when there is a massive community benefit. Sunshine Butterflies is a good example of this.

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

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

Response: I am not across the full detail of the development at this stage.

If NO, will you, if elected to the Noosa Shire Council, support SCRC community groups in advocating to the State Government against this proposal?

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: Yes, it's important that we keep this branding for Noosa. Noosa's natural environment is unique. With the help of the NBRF our standing as an environment success story has set an excellent example to communities everywhere. The benefits of the Biosphere Reserve designation, both financially and environmentally, to shire residents are substantial.

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

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

If NO, why not?

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: Take control of the river from the State Government and start working with all relevant stakeholders to bring the river back to its natural state.

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 a lifelong local, I pride myself on being accessible to all sections of the community. I listen to their wants, needs and their concerns. I would continue my community engagement, through the many municipal groups I am part of, from the coast to the hinterland.

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

Response: Having grown up in Noosa, I bring a life time of local experience to the job. As the youngest incumbent, I bring youthful ideas and knowledge to the table. I have proven that I can listen and respond to people's concerns and opinions. I have shown to have the courage to fight for what I believe in and what is best for the community. We need people with vision in Council, people who will go the extra mile ...I'm one of those people.