



Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Natoli	Given name:	Joe
Position contesting:	Division 4		

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? These principles underpin every decision that a council makes, in being open and transparent and making decisions that are in the interests of the broader public. Councillors represent the people who have elected them and must ensure they are fair and inclusive in their manner and work. All work must be undertaken in an ethical way.
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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: Local Government Act 2009, and Local Government Regulations 2012

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

Response: The decision making of council must be lawful and in keeping with the act and the regulations.

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: In some cases these can be dealt with and brought up during meetings. However, if I feel that Council’s decisions are improper, there are a number of avenues that are available to have the matter referred to the appropriate bodies. Transparent and accountable decision-making is paramount.
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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?
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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

Q 7 Will you commit to voting to implement the live streaming and video recording of council meetings at Caloundra, Nambour and subsequently Maroochydhore 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?
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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 Yes	If NO, why not?
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Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response: Sustainable development occurs when our built environment and economic activity is not impacting in a negative way on our natural environment and resources, so that it meets the needs of our community now while not impacting on future generations.
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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:

Rising sea levels, storm surges, storm events causing erosion, flooding in low lying areas where housing has been allowed, extreme bushfires.

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

Response:

Council must develop a plan on managing the impacts of climate change. Develop partnerships and alliances with key agencies on every aspect of the impact of climate change. Ensure mapping and data, information is flowing to ensure the council can modify key strategies and action plans as a better understanding of the impacts is known. Council needs to continually review its planning scheme to ensure no residential dwellings are built in known risk prone areas.

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 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?

<p>Response:</p> <p>The planning scheme may not reflect the views of the residents, changes may have slipped through during public consultation, and overwhelming community opposition to provisions within a planning scheme, such as code assessable applications on buildings higher than 3 stories as allowable in the planning scheme. It is appropriate to amend the planning scheme and override the provisions to make these developments impact assessable. Amendments to a planning scheme should never be made unless there is demonstrated, overwhelming, community support.</p>
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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?

<p>Response:</p> <p>Definitely no residential or commercial development on the floodplain however there may be opportunity for low</p>
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level parks, sporting ovals and some recreational activities with low level infrastructure to support those activities which could be allowed.

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:

Where there is a structure plan in place, I would support this statement, as the control of the building design and outcomes required under the structure plan is clearer for planning officers to ensure compliance within the codes and structure plan. However, I would in addition to your statement include that in an area where there is no structure plan in place, where building heights were allowable in excess of three stories, it would make any building higher than 3 stories impact assessable whether the building was mixed-use or not.

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:

The coast erosion prone areas need to be mapped and included in the planning scheme. No residential or commercial building should be allowed if to be built in the erosion prone mapped area. If there are conflicts which exist where development has occurred in erosion prone areas no change to the density to the existing built form should be allowed. Council obtain a petition by residents requesting the Minister for State Development , Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning to amend the planning scheme to remove the allowable development of medium to high density building from the erosion prone zones within the mapped area. Another option is the “Use it or Lose it” provisions could be used to avoid massive compensation. By using this provision, it allows the landowner 12 months to obtain an approval and 2 years from obtaining an approval to start building the building otherwise they lose the right to develop under the previous planning scheme. If development is code assessable then it would be better to also amend the plan to make all new building applications in excess of two storeys impact assessable.

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:

The council needs to stop being a deal maker and developer, leave this for private enterprise. Council needs to look at its operational budget and capital works budget and bring it in line with revenue raised. There has been a tendency to borrow heavily for major projects however I'm not convinced rate payers are getting value for money on so many of the deals that have been done, some of these deals on the face of it sound extraordinarily high in price. These deals are not subjected to public scrutiny due to be deemed confidential in nature, even the payment for intellectual property for the solar farm and failed Abacus Brisbane Road Car Park deal seem like a convenient way to bury these documents from the public scrutiny. The mayor needs to get rid of the huge number of spin doctors working in his office for a start in trimming the operational expenditure of council.

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 No

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

Response:

Attend as many community meeting and functions, be available to meet residents in person, and in particular, those who need assistance if struggling with council officers. Ensure we consult widely on every important issue. Encourage council to introduce world's best practice in public consultation, like the system used in Vancouver Canada, which engages the participants all the way to the end. The use of social media and online forums, trying to maintain a two-way conversation with my residents.

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

Response:

Door knocking during the campaign has uncovered so many issues and opportunities. I have documented those. I have not been able to speak to all residents, so it is important the we conduct an audit of all known issues and undertake several community forums to tease out any issues not known. It is important to tackle the major issues early, especially issues where the community is divided. Ensure that a dialogue is commenced with the community and allow the community to find the solutions to the problems with support from council. It is also important to be fair and equitable when budget time comes around, that we address inadequacies in facilities and plan to make improvements. I am a hands-on councillor, and it is important I am aware of any impacts from council decisions on my Division and raise this and alert the community. It is important that I can present the issues within my division in an articulate way to the whole of council to ensure I gain their support.

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

Response:

I believe I am the best candidate for Division 4. I have the most experience having served in Maroochy Shire

Council for 11 years, the last 4 years as mayor. I was on many committees, chairman of Environment and Community Services committee in my first 7 years, chairman of the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens for 7 years, chairman of the National Seachange Taskforce, SEQROC representative on waste management for 7 years, and many more committees. I know if elected I can be effective from day one. I have knowledge of how Local Governments works, and I can tell when we are having the wool pulled over our eyes. I ask the right questions and I pursue the matter until I'm satisfied the question has been answered properly. I'm tenacious, fair and just with dealing with staff and fellow councillors. I am respectful toward all those who engage with me, staff and the residents. I'm an innovative thinker and look for common sense solutions. I have a broad array of interests from the arts, small business, engaging with members of our community young to our elderly, indigenous to our migrants, able and those with a disability, interests from good building design to getting the right infrastructure to support our economy, to preserving the environment; helping farmers and those who want to value add from their produce. If given the opportunity to serve our community after a 12 year break, I know I come back with a renewed vigour and determination to give hope to our residents that the lifestyle they want to retain so desperately is front and centre of every decision I make. I have the strength and will to ensure the interest of our residents and our environment always come first, before the interests of big business and developers.