



Candidate questionnaire – Noosa Shire Council Election 2020

Surname:	FINZEL	Given name:	KAREN
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? At all times my actions and decision making will be underpinned by and guided by the principles.
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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 No	If YES, how will you deal with these?
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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: Of course, at all times when in the role of Councillor I will commit to be fully informed of all the relevant, legal and legislative requirements necessary to fulfill my role as a responsible and ethical representative for the ratepayers/residents of the Noosa Shire.
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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? Unless otherwise directed due to confidential items on the agenda.
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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? Once all confidentiality procedures are approved proceed accordingly with due process.
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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?

Response: Key impacts presently would include Fire, Flood, Drought and Erosion including effects on Wildlife, Ecosystems , Citizens and the Built Environment.

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

Response: Develop and implement an Action Plan to include a risk assessment to minimise identified impacts alongside a annual review process to include ammendments ensuring continous improvement in the delivery of the plan into the future. Of course consultation with all key stakeholders including residents/ratepayers, all levels of government , first respnders, health service providers and experts in the field will be a pre-requisite.
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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:

The concept of sustainable development has four dimensions as defined by the UN - society, environment, culture and economy. In short, it is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore sustainable development to me is the ability to measure all development against these four pillars when determining/approving development and asking the question how does this benefit or prosper our society; eg. in terms of a healthy environment to provide food and resources, safe drinking water and clean air how do we achieve this in a sustainable way against measurable performance indicators over a period of time.

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 Plan has been announced as returned to the Noosa Council with conditions. Some conditions are still under discussion between Council and the State. Provision for amendment/s process is available if the Noosa residents/ratepayers and other key stakeholders across the shire wish to follow to implement process for change. I will of course, as Councillor and elected representative of the people, consult and advocate for them at all times
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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:

Planning matters need to be considered on a case by case basis. It is important to adhere to the planning scheme in most case but there could be the rare case where some important reason and public good, over-riding the scheme might me the best solution.

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

If NO, will you, if elected to the Noosa Shire Council, support SCRC community groups in advocating to the State Government against this proposal?
If elected to the position of Councillor my intention would be to be fully briefed on the most current/relevant information available to guide me in making a well informed evidence based decision at that time.

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:

The Noosa Biosphere Reserve is significant to Noosa Shire as it is an over arching set of principles to guide decision making where the people, environment and economy live in harmony.

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?

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:

Firstly I the River should remain State Controlled. A priority is of course consulation and collaboration across all stakeholders and users of the river to provide equitable outcomes and access to all while considering impacts on

the environment, water ways, river mouth and erosion along the banks.

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

Response:

The role of a leader is to serve. As a elected representative I will of course listen to everyone in a respectful and responsive manner without bias to deliver outcomes.

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

Response:

Since moving to the Noosa Shire in 1986 to raise my family I have been committed to working hard with my community to contribute to creating a respectful and harmonious, inclusive and empowered place where everyone is accepted and valued regardless of ability, gender or race. Empowering people to be ambitious for their own community and supporting outcomes through advocacy to achieve collective goals that promote social, economic and environmental wellbeing. Moving into the role of Councillor is just an extension of what I have been doing.