



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

Mail: PO Box 105
Coolumb Beach QLD 4573
Mobile: 0417 577 881
Email: mail@oscar.org.au

Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Hyman	Given name:	Kathryn
Position contesting:	Division 8		

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? I will remain impartial and err on evidence based decision making at all times
------------	---

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, Local Government Regulation 2012 and to some extent the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994, among other legislative frameworks in decision making
--

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

Response: By upholding the principles enshrined in the Acts - those related to good governance and the public interest

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: Vote No and seek a review - where issues of statutory requirements not being met are present a complaints handling process must adequately address the complaint raised. If not, it should then be referred to the Office of the Independent Assessor for review.
--

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? There are some provisions within the Local Government Act outlining legal requirements in voting to go into closed session to discuss a confidential item. Reform to the Local Government Act will see these provisions reduced to the point that the majority of reasons Sunshine Coast Council currently go into closed session will no longer apply. I believe a workshop or training module should be introduced for councillors and relevant staff to undertake in order to understand how to properly apply commercial-in-confidence provisions
-----------	---

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: The current planning scheme allows for sustainable development. However, new data that will inform the next planning scheme will be reflective of best available science, this data will inform evidenced based decision making based on this best available science. To live sustainably within the confines of our environment and community needs, all decisions made in relation to planning for our region must be evidenced based and consider the best interests of existing and future residents.
--

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:

Natural Hazards, Disaster Management and Financial Risk - public and private assets are at risk, as is public health and safety.

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

Response:

No further greenfield development in vulnerable zones, policy creation to protect existing residents, focus on reducing the economic burden on the next generation. Zero emissions targets need to be prioritised and innovation in built form design and resilience in how, what and where we build must start now. Retreat paths for mangroves for carbon sequestration and for coastal dependent wildlife. Local water security and an education program is essential and should also be prioritised in consultation with state departments and Unity Water.

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?

Response:

I would only support an overriding of the planning scheme if it is done through proper process such as a planning scheme amendment, has had meaningful consultation with residents, and if it is evidenced based.

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 I will and have done so for many years. It is not best practice to continue to fill the floodplains for all rationale listed above and more. It is critical that we stop adding to this problem. When we know better we are supposed to do better. Consultation with stakeholders including cane farmers is required. There are varied uses that can be designated within a floodplain that does not put people at risk, community infrastructure such as sport and recreation is a viable alternative to placing urban development and people at risk in a floodplain.

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

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:

Code assessment is designed to streamline our busy council - a code assessment should be a compliant application 'tick and flick' exercise. A code assessable application, if not compliant, should be refused and filtered through impact assessment guidelines, provisions and framework including right of appeal.

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 ensuring evidenced based decision making is paramount - state legislation supports an eventual retreat from these areas, further development in these areas will leave home owners, rate payers, investors, business and the public purse exposed to financial risk and must be addressed and planned for now.

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:

Rate payers of the Sunshine Coast are servicing a lot of debt - I would like to see a financial audit that aims to reassure residents that we are getting value for our rates and that the level of debt our rates are servicing is well managed and invested. In our case here on the coast, we are seeing a reduction in on the ground services, an increase in other services and fees, licences, permits and fines. Our council is wearing two hats - that of a local government and that of a developer. We need to bring back and resume services to a level in line with community / rate payer satisfaction, keep some money in the bank for financial turbulence that can occur such as a recession, and then look at possible investment in our local government area.

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 have a relationship with all community associations in division 8, and I have often said I will never sever my umbilical chord to my community - I am committed to keeping my finger on the pulse of community sentiment and advocating for meaningful consultation of which the results of that engagement is reflected in decision making. I will regularly and systematically conduct pop up offices throughout division 8 in order to be accessible to residents

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

Response:

I will be proactive in lobbying for consultation that is meaningful and transparent. Division 8 has a magnificent river running through it, an iconic mountain and national park, flora and fauna of high conservation status, saltmarshes and beaches. I will advocate for the preservation of our natural assets and our lifestyle. Growth must be managed sustainably with infrastructure in line to accommodate this growth. Budgets for maintenance and resilience measures for our vulnerable coastal communities must be addressed and some of these measures will involve all three tiers of government. I will advocate for improvements to our existing bus system while we wait for mass transit solutions, I will initiate consultation on kerb side collect and improved waste management services and costs, paid parking and the amount of fines related to parking infringements must be addressed in the absence of user friendly public transport. There is support for a Shorebird management plan and a River plan to address the very high levels of PFAS and other contaminants found in our upper estuaries as per DES readings and data. During the next political tenure a new planning scheme will be developed and consulted on - this document must be representative and it must be adhered to. I would like to see cultural heritage sites included in the codes and overlays of the new planning scheme and further explore how we can showcase our indigenous history and knowledge through a cultural interpretive centre and dedicated signage. A moratorium on any further greenfield development of our floodplains is imperative and must become statute along with best practice planning for our

low lying drainage deficient areas. I would like to initiate dialogue as to how we as a council can better support small to medium business, bolster our aviation industry and protect our tourism brand. I will propose to capture niche markets where there is a current gap here on the Sunshine Coast.

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

Response:

I have a proven ability to understand complex planning related issues, I have spent many years exploring the spaghetti known as the planning scheme and sought advice from professionals across the various disciplines and fields of expertise. I have consulted with and informed the community by bringing them on the journey. Residents of division 8 will be able to trust that I will have their best interests and majority view at the core of my decision making, advocacy and representation. I will hit the floor running and am excited to bring a fresh voice and fresh ideas to council. I am of the old fashioned school of thought that a Councillor is simply part of the machinery of government to represent and reflect the will of the people through the official channels - not the other way around. Our current local government appears to undertake token consultation and then inform communities of their plan - this goes against the principles of democracy, for the people by the people. I want to be a friend in government who will listen, consult and actively lobby the issues important to locals to initiate policy creation that is inclusive and truly representative.