



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Gosper	Given name:	Siobhan
Position contesting:	Division 6 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? I believe that all decision-making should be transparent, ethical and put public interest first. If elected, it will be my priority to engage with the community and commit to abiding by the principles; it would be my duty if I am an elected representative.
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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 Regulations (2012) Local Government Act (2009)

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

Response: See Q1 response.

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	I do not, nor does my immediate family, accept any donations or “gifts” from big business or any developers.
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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: If a major decision is made, I will respect it. However if the following listed above takes place during decision-making it should be called out.

Q 5 Do you believe that all Council meetings should be open to the public?

YES/NO

I believe that all council meetings should be public. If a meeting is closed it should only be for legal & confidential reasons.

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

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

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

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

If NO, why not?

Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response: Sustainable development provides what the community needs at present without compromising the ability of future generation's needs. To me, sustainable development involves longevity and stability. Investing in renewable energy & utilities, restructuring the waste management system to reduce environmental harm, improve transportation options & accessibility and adequate green space for native flora & fauna to flourish.

Q 11 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?

YES/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
(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:

The Sunshine Coast and Australia as a whole will experience longer and more intense summers. This is due to extreme weather events that occur more often such as drought, fires, storms and floods. We must prepare ourselves for future weather conditions that could have devastating impacts on the environment and community. Climate change also impacts our economy, affecting key industries in our region such as agriculture and tourism. Regional areas of New South Wales and Victoria have had hard economic impacts due to the Summer Bushfires, due to loss of tourism and business, whilst rebuilding destroyed homes and buildings.

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

Response:

- Improving our recycling system and waste management system, we can make more meaningful impact by getting recyclables out of landfill and introducing Council composting.
- Council can look at more carbon neutral transport solutions to a) get cars off the road b) ease the reliability of petrol cars.
- Installing LED street lights
- Invest in renewable energy and be a carbon neutral council. Current solar farm is at half capacity with a 109% return, cutting 20,500 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.
- Working with the community to transition to renewable energy and more sustainable living in everyday life (Solar panels regulated on all homes, rain gardens & water tanks on properties).
- Adding more green space and regenerating bushland.
- Be more prepared for future droughts, floods, fires and severe weather events - Flood mitigation, working with First Nation peoples and emergency services.

Q 15 Do you support the SCRC in joining other councils in signing a Declaration of Climate Emergency?

YES/NO However,
actions speak louder
than words.

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
(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
(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
(d) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?	YES/NO

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
(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
(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

Q 19 What is your understanding of when it is appropriate to override the Planning Scheme, when there are conflicts?

Response: The Planning Scheme should never be overridden due to a development application. This especially the case when it conflicts with community interests and has negative environmental impacts. Before approving any applications that don't align with the Town Plan must seek feedback from the community. Involving residents in decision making not only shows transparency but true engagement.

Q 20 Would you support extending submission timeframes from the statutory minimum in relation to Planning Scheme amendments?

YES/NO

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:

I have always disagreed with development, especially housing, on flood plains. Homes are no longer built for flood prone areas and don't have the proper elevation or drainage. The Sunshine Coast has a lot of low layering area and we need to be practical on where development is approved. I would rather see floodplains such as Twin Waters West remain as reserves and parks.

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

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

If NO, will you, if elected to council, support SCRC advocating to the State Government against this proposal? YES/NO

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:

Acceptable Outcomes are not enforceable under the Planning Act guidelines, however Performance Outcomes are enforceable. I would like to see changes to the guidelines immediately for community benefit.

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:

There is an ever increasing demand for beachside residence on the Sunshine Coast and throughout Australia. This has resulted in applications for high density housing closer to the beaches, which requires urgent attention. Council must Developing too close to the coastal front has dire environmental impacts and consequences. If elected, I will strongly advocate for limiting development in erosion prone areas.

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:

I want to see the future council have strong fiscal management, by providing adequate services and required infrastructure for our population growth and work to reduce rates.

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

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

Q 29 Do you live in the division for which you are standing as a Councillor?

YES/NO/NA

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

Response:

- By being involved by local community group
- Pop-up stalls throughout Division 6 to regularly engage with residents
- Utilizing social media - livestream forums/Q&A, posting issues and topics so residents can comment their thoughts and opinions
- Personalised newsletter rather than the standard one made by Council

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

Response:

By working with the community and listening to their needs.

Staying engaged and focusing on local matters.

I want to see Council-owned parks maintained, improve parking in Buderim and Sippy Downs, provide solutions to easing traffic congestion and protect our local environment.

I want Division 6 to be a place of accessibility, by connecting footpaths to local shops, schools, university, TAFE and parks.

I would love to see Harmony connected by public transport and create a second road to access Harmony.

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

Response:

As a young person who has grown up here on the Sunshine Coast, I am heavily invested in the future of our region. As more and more big developments are approved by State and Local government, I do not want to see our community left behind. What I lack in experience I make up for in passion, foresight, innovation and honesty. It is important to have these characteristics in Council to create diversity and balance. I am a compassionate

candidate and many community issues and concerns I resonate with. I want Division 6 to have a transparent Councillor that upholds community values and interests.