

Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

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| Surname: | Scriggins | Given name: | Shane |
| Position contesting: | Candidate Division 2 Sunshine Coast Regional Council | | |

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?

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| YES/NO | How do you see them influencing your decision-making? 1. Yes, I am aware of the principles; and 2. Yes to a, b, c, d, and e in every decision |
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Q 2a What are the relevant legislation and regulations that govern the conduct of councillors and the activities of council?

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| Response: Local Government Act 2009 Chapter 5A Local Government Regulation 2012 Chapter 8, Division 1A |
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Q 2b How will these impact your decision-making?

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| Response: I will, in every decision, be cognisant of accountability, transparency, engagement and behaviour |
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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?

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| YES/NO | If YES, how will you deal with these? No |
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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?

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| Response: Refer the matter to either a government entity, an assessor or the Crime and Misconduct Commission |
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Q 5 Do you believe that all Council meetings should be open to the public?

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| YES/NO | If NO, then what circumstances might justify a closed meeting? For the majority yes. However, where there is a status of “commercial in confidence” that may best be left to a closed meeting. However, each commercial in confidence item should have a review date where the document must be made available for viewing. |
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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?

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| YES/NO Yes, in principle, however, each application would be dependent on circumstance and/or issue Protocols would need to be developed |
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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?

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| YES/NO Yes |
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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?

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| YES/NO | If NO, why not? |
| Yes | |

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?

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| YES/NO Yes, but if there are “commercial in confidence” issues attached to files and they are subject to “review timeframes” the timeframes must be respected. | If NO, why not? |
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Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response:

In regards to Sustainable Development, I believe that I am like many Australians of my generation who "in principle" support the concepts of sustainable development and can see the long term benefits of protecting our environment and our earth's natural resources for the generations to come. However, how many of us (myself included) can truly say we are open to embracing the sustainable lifestyle philosophy? I honestly believe that there is a little bit of hypocrisy in us all when it comes to being "truly open" to sustainable development. Like it or not we are all consumers, we all operate (consciously or subconsciously) on self-interest. We all want the latest and greatest mobile phone, the apple iPad, the best technology, the best home, the nicest car etc. The majority, if not all these products are developed from using a natural resource of some type. How many people can put up their hand and say that they can and will go without, and adopt a position of "letting go" of our basic need to consume? The results so far do not give me a feeling of optimism.

Global consumption is on the increase, population growth is heading close to 9 Billion all of which are placing a heavy demand on the earth's finite resources. However, with all the negativity having been said, I do personally have a view that with new thinking, a clear vision and strong policies, humanity can adapt and become truly committed to sustainable development. However, the pendulum I believe will swing slowly. The transition will be painful, and we may regrettably have to endure more natural disasters (i.e. bushfires, cyclones, flooding and severe heat) for change to take effect. I am forever the optimist.

I am supportive of Federal, State and Local Government entering a partnership arrangement to drive community change. I cannot however support the Federal Government devolving the sustainable development agenda down to local government and that they (the local government) become the vehicle for driving "the agenda" without the necessary funding to achieve the desired outcomes. Without funding there is every likelihood that sustainable development will become the elephant in the room.

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

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| YES/NO |
| No |

Climate change

My comments regarding climate change are: -

I am not a scientist, but I am someone that requires evidence-based data to make an informed decision.

In politics both here and overseas climate change has long resembled a contest to see which party can discredit itself more. One Australian party has seized upon outlandishly improbable climate scenarios to urge drastic and immediate action, whilst another has announced that the science underlying global warming is somewhere between highly speculative and "the greatest hoax" ever.

What is the truth? I have a view that the earth will see some serious and undesirable changes occurring, is it climate change or some other natural or unnatural phenomenon? This is not an attempt on my behalf to invoke ignorance in order to avoid embarrassment, it's neither.

I know that there are a number of scientists (globally) that challenge climate change, so their views require equal consideration and representation.

I personally view the topic of climate change seriously and I would rather not, politically, be "sitting on the fence."

For me, politicians should take the topic seriously and do their own research. If at some point the Sunshine Coast Regional Council elects to develop a policy position on climate change, Councillors should be ready to open dialogue with their constituents, talk through the issues and seek their approval to make a conscience vote.

Regardless, of which way a Councillor votes, they should not be held in contempt for making an informed decision, and a decision that comes with the best of intent.

What I personally do not want to see from the climate change debate is untried and costly policy/legislation. I don't believe Australia can afford to risk untried policy at this time.

I am certain that climate change will be best dealt with through modern and reliable science.

Q 12 Do you accept that: REFER TO ABOVE STATEMENT REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

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| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| clearing of forest for agriculture and housing has also contributed to the increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere? | YES/NO |
| the major source of greenhouse gas emissions for local government comes from the decomposition of organic residues in landfill? | YES/NO |
| 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?

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

Response:

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

YES/NO

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:

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| development applications that conflict with the relevant Planning Scheme Acceptable Outcomes and other planning instruments should be refused? | YES/NO Yes |
| 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 |
| 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, but they should also be offered an opportunity to amend the DA to meet compliance. |
| that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited? | YES/NO Refer to my climate change statement above. With potential flooding and inundation concerns then its obvious to all concerned that building on vulnerable sites is not in the best interest of the individual, the community, insurers, environment or financial institutions. |

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Q 18 Do you agree that:

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| Planning Scheme provisions regarding density, site cover, height and parking requirements must comply with the Acceptable Outcomes in the Planning Scheme? | YES/NO Yes |
| 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 Do not support financial contributions in lieu of onsite parking If a developer cannot provide parking then no development, unless there is a commitment to funding parking houses within proximity to the development. |
| 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 do not support in any circumstances it being appropriate to override the Planning Scheme. Where there is conflict, the Planning and Environment Courts and Mediation are the only outcomes I can support.

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

YES/NO
Yes (within defined guidelines) cannot go on indefinitely

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 do not advocate development in floodplains

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 As I understand the SEQRP defines the future settlement using land more efficiently, whilst protecting the values important to the community. I also understand that the plan will play key role in the success and sustainability of our region. Plans are important for monitoring targets, goals and objectives, however, as with all plans, they must be fluid and subject to change where necessary. If local government planning schemes, and other planning instruments are included in the document then I believe we as a community are on the right pathway for managing sustainable development. If elected I will make it a priority to learn more about the SEQRP, and only after completing my research will I make an informed decision if I support the plan.

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?

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| YES/NO | <p>If NO, will you, if elected to council, support SCRC advocating to the State Government against this proposal? YES/NO</p> <p>I have flagged my concerns in a previous question regarding developments on floodplains. I don't believe it's the smartest move, but I confess I am not a civil engineer, so my knowledge is limited.</p> <p>I understand that the Development Application sits outside the Urban Footprint in the South-East Queensland Regional Plan and is not considered a compatible use of land, so there are obvious concerns to all if the project goes ahead.</p> <p>I also understand that OSCAR does not support the proposal and is urging the community and government to understand the ramifications and risks.</p> <p>Not being a current sitting Councillor, I regret I do not have a whole lot of information on the development proposal. It would be remis of me to pretend to your audience that I am any sort of expert on the development proposal. I will however, if elected, commit upskilling myself on the Development Application, where after I hope that I can offer a comment based on knowledge and not presumptions.</p> |
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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: I personally support this view. However, I do not know the circumstances why community notification and appeal avenues through the Planning and Environment Court were revoked. I am unsure if it was State or Local Government lobby that called for change. I would like to research the background on why the appeal process was revoked and as I said previously, by whom.

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: I’m not sure why your question is leaning just towards medium and high-rise mixed-use residential buildings? Why not all development?

In principle, I support the State Planning Policy Guidelines. The guidelines would, I hope, be the “reference document” used for all potential developments in erosion prone areas. If they are not, then the questions needs to be asked, why not?

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: If you review my election manifesto and commitment to the Division 2 electorate, you will see that I support a moratorium on Council rates for a period of 2 years. I want the CEO to report back to Council with a formula that I satisfy myself and other Divisional Councillors that the rates model is fair and equitable. Also, where a rate increase has been deemed necessary, I want the rate increases to be reflected in the annual budget. I want to see where the money is going to be spent and more importantly is the spending necessary. The days of linking rate increases to CPI should be a thing of the past. It's very easy to spend rate payer money for political gain. I want Council to review the current services it provides and measure them against cost, timeliness, necessity, quality and effectiveness.

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

No, I believe that the cost would be prohibitive. I would support guidelines being developed by an independent body (Qld Ombudsman’s Office) and Council commits to an MOU complying with the guidelines. Any alleged noncompliance could be referred to the Qld Ombudsman's office for investigation.

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, with defined guidelines

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 understand that to apply best practice community engagement, I will if elected, commit to community engagement of four levels: -

- with a focus on community development/community building;
- community participation in consultation and decision-making process;
- helping organisations, businesses etc. to improve service delivery or to achieve their goals; and
- assist with social change (i.e. voluntary community organisations).

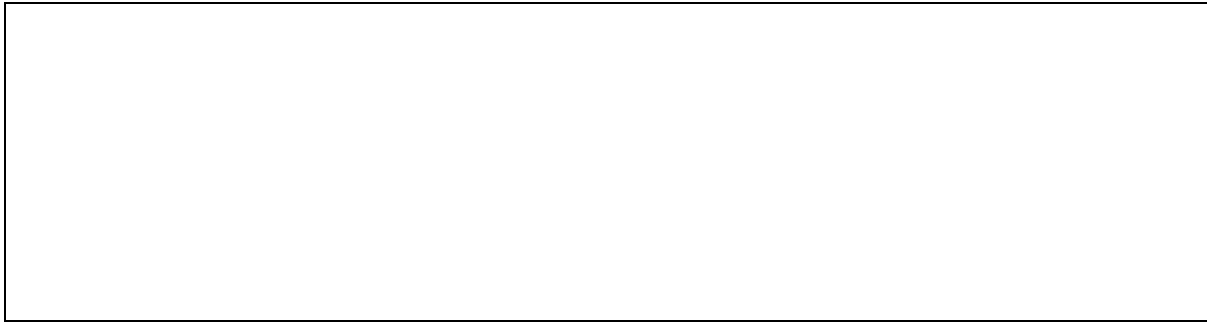
In committing to community engagement, my business model will include: -

- weekly forums being held throughout the Division with immediate stakeholders;
- an open-door policy;
- build an email database where residents, business owners and absent owners can subscribe and they will receive a weekly update on issues affecting Council in general, Division 2 and issues to be heard at Council meetings;
- Establish a monthly meeting schedule with the Caloundra Chamber of Commerce and local business owners in Caloundra; and
- Establish regular meetings with the Directors and Managers of Councils service delivery team to ensure they are aware the specific needs of residents and to use the time to receive feedback concerning specific projects relevant to Division 2.

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

Response:

My priority in the interim is to address local issues, I won't necessarily know all the specific needs of Division 2 residents until such time as my community engagement model is activated. However, with my open door policy I will be encouraging residents to contact me to make me aware of their concerns, I would like to add in closing that the Sunshine Coast Regional Council is one Council and I want to ensure that if there are major issues that affect us as I Council I want to be aware of them and the issue can be managed collaboratively. I also want to establish a working relationships/partnership with State and Federal members, Community Groups, Special Interest Groups and residents.



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

Response:

I find it ironic that four of the five candidates standing for Division 2 are positing blogs and posts through social media that imply among other things that they have the experience and leadership skills necessary to become the Division 2 Councillor if we trust them with our vote.

It is my view (having worked in Local Government for more than 30 years) that for most, this thinking is nothing short of delusional. Like it or not, unless a candidate has been or is currently an elected Councillor or has worked in a local government environment for many years, they do not have the necessary experience and leadership skills to represent me, you or anyone as the Divisional Councillor.

I will caveat my comment by saying that once elected, it will take a new Councillor approximately 2 or 3 years to fully understand and come to terms with the complexity of the role. A new Councillor (if they do not have the necessary experience) will need to serve an apprenticeship/traineeship of approximately 3 years.

I am really concerned right now that the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (after losing its Chief Executive Officer) can ill afford to wait for new Councillors to find their feet. Without a Chief Executive Officer (who generally mentors new Councillors during their 1st and sometimes 2nd term in Council) the task of getting on with the governance of our region has just intensified tenfold.

Now is not the time for risk taking or making mistakes. I am imploring everyone to use their vote wisely. Vote for experience not a maybe, trust me with your vote. I will from Day 1 be up and running and representing your best interests.

For those that don't know me, I am a local Kings Beach resident and business owner. My wife and I have collectively (between us) lived in Caloundra for more than 57 years and I believe we know our City well. We have children that have grown up here and have all gone onto further education.

I myself worked in Local Government (in a middle management position) for close to 30 years.

My resume reads: -

- Brisbane City Council – 1985-1995
- Townsville City Council 1995 – 2000
- Caloundra City Council 2000 – 2007
- City of Greater Geelong 2010 – 2011 (career break)
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council (2007 – 2010 and 2011 – 2013)

As you can see, I have had the experience of working for both several Regional and one Capital City Council.

My resume shows that I understood Local Government and more importantly how it operates.

I have the experience, knowledge and leadership skills to get the job done. I am authentic and I commit from my first day of office to open and transparent governance.

I spent 30 years of my life working in Local Government. I worked as part of the community. I worked in a tough role (Regulatory Services and Environmental Health). You didn't always make friends in my role but what I did was to stay focused and I aimed every day to make a difference. I would like to think on leaving local government that people in the community, my peers, friends and acquaintances would say that "I gave it my everything".

Voters need to ask themselves one very important question prior to giving a candidate their vote.....do the Candidates standing in your electorate understand what the job is and how the system works?

I strongly advocate that voters should and without fail (prior to casting their vote on 28 March) check the history of the candidates, research their backgrounds and achievements. Do your due diligence before giving them your vote.

If you want to know more about me, please feel free to carry out a google search. Most of my achievements and information about my background should be documented.