



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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**Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020**

Surname:	SANIM	Given name:	TRACIE
Position contesting:	DIVISION 5 SUNSHINE COAST		

**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	<p>How do you see them influencing your decision-making? I have 25 years experience in building transparency into government - more than any other candidate across the Sunshine Coast Council elections. I will be seeking to drive change in HOW council undertakes and implements the decisions and priorities it is focused on.</p> <p>My experience and my qualifications mean I have a strong understanding of the workings of governments and their various departments at all levels and I use an evidence- based approach to my decision-making. I will not be a councillor who simply reads a recommendation and votes yes or no. I will be undertaking independent research and seeking to engage our community at the front-end of all processes or initiatives that affect our community.</p> <p>In this focus I will have a whole of council focus as my role will not simply be to represent Division 5 - it will be to demonstrate a genuine commitment to the whole of our Sunshine Coast.</p>
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**Q 2a What are the relevant legislation and regulations that govern the conduct of councillors and the activities of council?**

<p>Response:</p> <p>Under section 150D of the Local Government Act 2009 (the Act), the Minister for Local Government must make a Code of Conduct stating the standards of behaviour for Councillors in the performance of their responsibilities as Councillors. In addition to this, the Code of Conduct may contain anything the Minister considers necessary for, or incidental to, the standards of behaviour. Before assuming public office, Councillors must understand and commit to complying with the Local Government principles and obligations of Councillors in accordance with section 169 of the Act, as well as the standards of behaviour set out in this Code of Conduct. All Councillors are required to make a declaration of office under section 169 of the Act. As part of that declaration, Councillors must declare that they will abide by this Code of Conduct.</p> <p>I do note that in my experience that Codes of Conduct are only as effective as the people who are committed to abiding by them. I hope that Local Government Reforms will mean that these codes are strengthened to have more "teeth" and repercussions for those who contravene the intent and instruction of the codes.</p>
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**Q 2b How will these impact your decision-making?**

Response:

The Code sets out the framework under which councillors behave in delivering their roles to represent the community.

I do not believe the code adequately represents how we engage with community - it seems to still support advising rather than consulting or empowering or co-design. Additionally, there are only a few items that are actually discussed and voted on in Council chambers in comparison with the number of decisions and actions that impact communities. I will advocate for a front-end engagement process across all activities that impact our community.

I believe there are a number of deficiencies in the Code of Conduct and I will be also engaging with community in relation to their perspective of the Code and any potential opportunities we have to refine and strengthen it.

**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?**

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?**

Response: I would seek an independent investigation and then supporting actions to review and recommence consideration of the item under consideration. In the first instance I would undertake my own research (I have experience and post graduate qualifications in both business management and business research)

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

YES	If NO, then what circumstances might justify a closed meeting? Yes I do - however there are some items that may need to be discussed in confidence - such as managing legally sensitive issues and commercial issues (ie investigations for land purchase that may influence price and negotiations therefore costing the community more)
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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

**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

**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	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	If NO, why not?
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**Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?**

<p>Response:</p> <p>Sustainable development respects the natural attributes of a region. It also means that our existing community and economy benefits from this development. In some cases, when development occurs too quickly, our existing business sector and community is sacrificed for this development. The balance of infrastructure alongside development should also be considered - how do we ensure accessibility, traffic flow, roads surfacing and key infrastructure development to manage planned growth? I would consider that we should implement a selection of measures across - environment (retention of natural aspects), social (crime, participation in sports and community events, access to key services such as education and medical etc), and economic (employment, business bankruptcy, events, visitor numbers, commercial investment).</p>
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**Q 11 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?**

NO
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## 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
(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
(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
(d) clearing of forest for agriculture and housing has also contributed to the increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere?	YES
(e) the major source of greenhouse gas emissions for local government comes from the decomposition of organic residues in landfill? As well as other activities and infrastructure development across the region	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

### Q 13 What do you see as the key impacts of Climate Change on the Sunshine Coast?

Response:

The primary impact is that we are living an unsustainable lifestyle. We are not taking care of our immediate environment which has longer term impacts - across waste production and management, our use and reuse of water, harnessing the opportunities within the circular economy, building commuting and interconnected hubs and communities that are self sustaining (reducing the need for travel and supporting local economies).

Our increased fire risk and polarising weather events also place significant risk on our built and natural environments. To preserve both we not only need mitigation and management of our natural bushland, we also need to build a holistic approach that showcases better ways to live. The movie 2040 covers some of this.

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

Response:

We should have a region-wide approach to building sustainable futures. We look to examples of leadership across the globe and consider and implement solutions that match our environment. How do we want our region and community to look in 50 and 100 years time and what are the actions we need to take to get there? Don't get caught up in short term thinking.

In collaboration with community and global leaders we should structure an approach we are all responsible for delivering.

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

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

## 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
(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
(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
(d) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?	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
(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
(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

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

Response:

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

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. The impact on the broader region into the future cannot be ignored - not only in relation to the natural environment but also our built form. Floodplains are there for a reason.

**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?**

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?**

NO

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

I believe this statement has a loophole which needs to be tightened.

**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 will participate through undertaking independent research and engaging with the community to develop further protections against development into erosion prone areas. I would also, if required, work alongside other councillors to influence the State Government on behalf of the community, to respect and enhance measures to protect these 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: Set in place a policy where rates are aligned with CPI, excepting in an instance where the community as a whole agrees to (via community engagement) invest in a regional initiative and the cost to be met through rating increases.

I believe that debt reduction, reduction of duplication and streamlining activities where possible will reduce the need for rate rises.

**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

**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

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

YES

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

Response:

I will engage through the following methods:

### FACE TO FACE

- Monthly street talks and conversation couches
- Attendance at community events and group meetings
- A rotating community forum
- A structured annual community priorities forum

### ONLINE

- Use of digital communications such as Facebook, email and web activities to share information and create conversation
- A monthly community newsletter via email distribution

I have detailed a broad community engagement and transparency approach on my website [traciesanim.com.au](http://traciesanim.com.au)

This is around the issue of transparency. Community engagement requires a genuine and consistent approach.

For different pieces of work we have different ways in which we consult with the community. Consult can mean many things - and over many years many organisations have argued that informing a community is akin to consulting with them.

Under certain circumstances it is - such as for highly legislated activities. That doesn't change the fact though that we should engage our community from the front end wherever possible.

My view is that we work with our community from the time a project or initiative is identified and then our engagement is a continuum - this is what is viewed in the industry as best practice. Wherever possible I like



work across what is known as co-design - where the community and the council works together to decide on and implement a solution.

And for community consultation to be at its most effective we all have to be informed decision-makers. Let's say we are looking at a new waste management system. There are many legislated elements to waste management as well as emerging trends and technologies.

Therefore I would begin with an education process - using our website, school tours and education, community briefings, focus groups, workshops, street talks and general media to talk with the community about the options as well as our community values, aspirations and needs.

This gives us the foundation for a proposed set of solutions. We then engage with the community to work through the options - again using digital media, focus groups, general media, workshops, community briefings and other tools to determine preferred way forward.

On selecting the preferred option we then educate the community about the incoming system and what it means for them. Throughout each stage we build community knowledge and participation - we actually do this beyond implementation. The same process stands true for most initiatives.

In extending the Maleny aquatic facilities for example we would work alongside not just Maleny residents but all potential users in the region - through to Montville and out to Kenilworth. We would consult with schools, aged care facilities, child care centres, sporting groups and more. We would work with influencers and decision makers across all levels of government- not just in sport and recreation but also in health and wellbeing. We would engage with health and wellness professionals, the broader swim industry and we would find champions.

Aquatic centres typically make a financial loss. Therefore when engaging and working through this process we would research those options where they are successfully turning a positive financial outcome.

These centres tend to include "value adds" - for instance a fitness centre, rehabilitation facilities, allied health professionals and more.

This is all part of transparently and thoroughly engaging our community to ensure the best outcome is delivered for the best value.

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

Response:

The process I would implement:

- Consult and engage with our community in relation to the individual aspirations and opportunities across our division
- Develop a 10 year plan in partnership with the community
- Cost and prioritise the plan in partnership with the community
- Use evidence-based approach to develop a business case and broader council support for the solutions agreed on
- Partner with broader council and other levels of government to deliver actions and to also advocate and influence in activities that are not the responsibility of local government
- Liaise with the community as partners in the process as the agreed actions and processes are developed and delivered
- Use learnings to refine the plan and actions as progress is made
- Reflect with the community on required pivots or increased focus as the plan progresses.

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

Response:

I am the only candidate in our Division and in the broader Council area who has:

- 25 years experience across local, state and Federal governments across 4 states
- Decades of experience in delivering in partnership with community waste management projects, reclaimed water initiatives, economic development and placemaking initiatives, infrastructure development initiatives across World Heritage Listed areas, road and bridges development, sustainability initiatives and more. I have not simply read a report and voted yes or no - I have worked alongside teams to deliver these projects.

I am the only candidate across the entire council area who has decades of experience in building community transparency and engagement into government at all levels.

In our particular division I have both the skills and attributes to deliver effectively for our community. I have qualifications in project management, community engagement, business management, innovation and entrepreneurship, organisational leadership and business research.

My skills are current and relevant and I have longevity and the vitality to commit to our region. I have experience in delivering complex projects across large geographic and dispersed areas - including Indigenous Welfare Reform in Cape York among other work I have done.

I am able to bring my experiences from across Australia to benefit the whole of our region as well as our division.

Since arriving on the Sunshine Coast I have

- Volunteered to support STEPs Charity - an organisation that helps young disabled people build the skills to live independently. Last year I raised around \$30,000 for them.
- Volunteered with the Old Ambo at Nambour - helping them secure funding and teaching artists and makers how to build their businesses

I have also

- Volunteered for a number of years with various chambers on their committees including Glasshouse Caloundra and Montville chambers - working on initiatives to help local businesses gain knowledge and skills and helping them to connect with other businesses and government support.

Over many years I have really combined my work and passion to help empower regional communities to secure long term impacts

*Just some examples include:*

- I've worked with communities to develop placemaking programs to upgrade streets and footpaths, parks and gardens
- I drove the community design and planning for sustainable infrastructure development across the Daintree and Cape Tribulation - home to TWO WORLD HERITAGE LISTED AREAS
- In bringing a FINA compliant swimming centre to a suburban council area in Adelaide I worked with senators, ministers at all levels of government as well as the community
- I've worked with various councils, the community, media and private industry to develop and bring new waste management systems to councils in Adelaide and again in Cairns and then in Port Macquarie
- In Cairns I designed and introduced an initiative called Sustainability Street - helping suburban families take actions to save money and resources and show others how simple it was to do so
- I joined forces with the community to design and deliver placemaking projects - creating hubs where the community comes together - one example is Wauchope near Port Macquarie in NSW - completely reinvigorating town main street landscapes and precincts.

In South Australia I worked with irrigators, local government and our water authority across agricultural areas to develop a fit for purpose water solution and to secure government funding to support this solution.

With this project we reduced effluent polluting the ocean and redirected reclaimed water to irrigators. This meant our landowners had a more reliable water supply and could use more of their land and they were not drawing on the water table. This resulted in us protecting our drinking water supply and reducing infrastructure needs and costs into the future.

No other candidate has this level of experience to bring to our community.