



Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	HUNGERFORD	Given name:	TED
Position contesting:	Division 7		

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	<p>How do you see them influencing your decision-making? My decision-making has been, and will continue to be, strongly influenced by the local government principles. I ensure my ethical decision-making is in the interests of the entire region and as well as the Division that I represent.</p> <p>I believe the sustainable development and management of assets is achieved through adhering to sound financial management practices and adherence to all financial regulations which advise local government how public funds are to be administered.</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: The Local Government Act 2009 and The Local Government Regulations 2012 and Amendments. Specifically, Conflict of Interests Section 175 of Local Government Act 2009.</p>
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Q 2b How will these impact your decision-making?

<p>Response: To ensure open and transparent decisions on each issue based on its merits and its benefit to the whole community.</p>

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	<p>If YES, how will you deal with these? No and I do not accept any donations. I am totally self-funded so that I am not beholden to any person, entity or developer. I am self-funded so I can fully represent the community.</p>
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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 anything like this were to occur, I would forward these concerns to the Office of the Independent Assessor or seek advice directly from the Local Government Minister's Office immediately.

Q 5 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?
Except for commercial-in-confidence or contractual negotiations where it could prejudice council negotiations.

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?
Yes, providing it does not conflict with the commercial-in-confidence or intellectual property of the entities that are being dealt with.

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?
Yes, as long as it does not conflict with the commercial-in-confidence or intellectual property of the entities that are being dealt with.

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

Response:

Sustainable development is achieved through adhering to the Sunshine Coast Plan 2014 and the provisions contained within.

My voting pattern in Council clearly shows that I consistently vote to uphold the Town Plan as this is the Community of the Sunshine Coast's Town Plan.

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:

The key impacts of climate change will be from increased weather events that will affect agriculture, road maintenance, coastal inundation, beach erosion and cause bush fire events.

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

Response:

Climate Change is occurring. To slow this progression, everyone needs to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels. Sunshine Coast Council is the first local government in Australia to totally offset our electricity consumption. This has saved Council \$1.7million in the first year alone. The Sunshine Coast Solar Farm saves more than 20,500 tonnes in carbon emissions each year. This is equivalent to taking about 4,300 cars off the road for one year. Over a 30 year period the solar farm will provide an estimated \$22 million in savings based on 2017 electricity prices.

The Council continues the process of replacing the public street lighting with LED technology.

The Council is also moving toward adding more hybrid vehicles to our vehicle fleet.

With the Maroochydore City Centre, we will be the first in Australia to operate an integrated waste system to assist with collection and sorting of recyclables.

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?

<p>Response:</p> <p>I do not believe in overriding the Planning Scheme by a Development Application as this creates a precedent contrary to the Sunshine Coast Town Plan 2014. If Council intends to make a change to the Planning Scheme, it should do this publically through the amendment to the planning scheme process. Not by approving Development Applications that are contrary to the Town Plan.</p>

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?

<p>Response:</p> <p>Yes. I voted against Twin Waters West and the further investigation area for Palmview. These two developments are outside of the Town Plan and are hydrologically challenged.</p>

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 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 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:

Unfortunately, under the Planning Act guidelines, Acceptable Outcomes are not enforceable. They are accepted if they can be achieved which is not strong enough language.

Only Performance Outcomes can be enforced.

This is a failure of the Planning Act guidelines and should be changed immediately.

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 continue to advocate strongly, as I have in the past, to have strong control of the Town Plan and to limit development in these 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:

The rapid rate of growth for South East Queensland is dictated by the State Regional Plan and I do not agree with the level of density resulting from these State Government directives. Caloundra South is a classic example of high-density residential development being forced upon the Sunshine Coast Council.

These developments bring contributed assets which come to Council along with the associated infrastructure required to service these communities, for example sporting fields and associated buildings.

These assets and developments put an enormous pressure on Councils who are then required to provide additional services and to build the associated infrastructure for these new areas.

The above is one of the contributing factors to rate rises being above CPI as Council is being made to pick up the infrastructure costs caused by this State mandated population growth targets.

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 currently engage heavily with my community by attending many of their meetings, including the rural fire brigade that is not a Council responsibility but is a State responsibility.

I attend Neighbourhood Watches, Community Progress Associations, Rural Fire Brigades, Hall Committees, Chambers of Commerce meetings, Historical Society meetings, Craft Cottage meetings, Garden Club meetings, Lions Club meetings, Rotary Club meetings, Mens Shed meetings and Welcome to Residents meetings.

I am out 3-4 nights every week on average and 2-3 functions on weekends.

Through all of these gatherings, I am available to listen to my community and advocate for them in Council.

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

Response:

I will continue to advance the unique needs of Division 7 as I have done for the past 16 years.

The unique needs of Division 7 include working towards improving the parking issues. I will continue to upgrade the parks and open spaces throughout the Division and create new local parks for our community.

I will continue the program of sealing the gravel roads of Division 7.

I will continue to install cycleways and footpaths linking local communities to shopping centres, schools and our great parks.

I am excellent in Council debates and my strategic ability to negotiate in Council has enabled me to deliver a vast number of projects in Division 7.

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

Response:

I have a proven track record of delivery for Division 7 and always vote to uphold the Town Plan in Council.

I have delivered Dusty Rhodes Bridge upgrade.

I have built the \$2.36m pedestrian and cycle bridge on Eudlo Creek which connects the footpaths that I previously had installed.

I have improved the traffic flow at Forest Glen through the installation of Owen Creek Roundabout which led to the delivery of a new safer access to the Sunshine Coast Grammar School.

I intend in the next four years to improve the footpaths on Parsons Road, Mons School Road, Stringybark Road, including improvements to the roundabout through provision of slip lanes to improve traffic flow.

Twin Ridges Road and Ferny Glen Road are the next two gravel roads on my road sealing program and they are ready to commence. In addition every year, between 5-10 kilometres of road is re-sealed on average in Division 7.

I will continue with the Milne Park upgrade and finalise both the viewing platform and children's playground for Buderim Village Park which I ensured was built over the last 6 years.

I have facilitated the purchase of 2 new land parcels that will become conservation reserves in Buderim. Through the Environment Levy, I was able to negotiate the purchase of 27.5 hectares at Crosby Hill Road Buderim and 4.8 hectares at King Street Buderim.

I have facilitated the purchase of the Police land adjacent to Middy's Complex upon which I will formalise the gravel carpark to a sealed carpark.

I am the best candidate for Division 7 because I have a proven track record of project delivery for our Community.