



Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Hamilton	Given name:	Tim
Position contesting:	Division 2		

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? These are the principles that I would apply to my role, whether they were ensonced in legislation or not, transparency, sustainability, strong voice for the ALL the people, honesty, respect and working within the rules are all embedded in my position statements.
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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 Act 2009, Code of Conduct for Councillors in QLD, local government regulation 2012
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Q 2b How will these impact your decision-making?

Response: They are the framework within which we as councillors make decision, conduct business and deal with stakeholders both in and outside of Council
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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?

YES/NO No	If YES, how will you deal with these?
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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: Follow the appropriate process as outlined in legislation for dealing with actions that you believe to be in breach of that legislation
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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? Where the topic of the meeting is such that if it was held in the public domain, it would be to the detriment of the constituents (eg. Commercially sensitive contract negotiations) or where legislation dictates that the meeting should be in private (eg dealing with council employee contracts)
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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/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 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?
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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/NO No	If NO, why not? I would support the release of the information once it has reached a point where releasing it will have no detrimental impact to the constituents and there are no legal restrictions to do so.
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Q 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response:
Development that meets our current needs without adversely compromising the ability of future generations to meet there's.

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
(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
(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:

- rising sea levels
- more extreme weather events
- increasing temperatures
- changes to biodiversity (plants and animals)

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

Response:

I believe the SCRC's Environment and Liveability Strategy is a good start, it outlines clear and achievable actions that will help prepare the region for the impacts of climate change. This is a far more effective reaction to climate change than any headline hunting declarations that have no real plans or policy behind them. That doesn't mean that we cannot be continually striving to achieve more and adapting further as our environment changes and adapts

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

YES/NO 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:

(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 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 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 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>The planning scheme reflects a considered and balanced view and is the result of good consultation and proper process. It is important that we all have confidence in the plan, and for councils to stick to the plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it's the agreed plan and it embodies the agreed balance; • it creates a level playing field (fairness and transparency); • it creates certainty for both public and private investment; and • shaping the future of a place takes time and commitment. <p>But We need flexibility to respond to unusual circumstances and emerging needs that will inevitably arise and we needed flexibility to encourage innovation and not stifle creativity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where discretion is used it is to be applied transparent and “above the table”); • We need to be more concerned with outcomes rather than conforming to arbitrary standards; and • We need to be more focussed on the actual effects or impacts of development than artificial definitions or spatial designations.

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 would judge any application based on its merits under the Planning Scheme and on the advice of the relevant expert authorities from all levels of government

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:

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:

We have both a civic and legislative obligation to allow for population growth. We have two options to deliver this, either we increase density, or we increase urban sprawl. I sit firmly in the increased density camp. But the location of that increased density is critical. It should be suitably setback from our sand dunes, beaches and waterways so as not to effect erosion, cause shadowing or impact the natural fauna that inhabits these areas. Densification should be on major transport corridors and our business and retails areas. But the infrastructure has to also be implemented to accommodate it.

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:

Unfortunately I have not had sufficient time to access all of the data in relation to this, for example from what baseline, how does it compare to similar size regions, did one off costs impact the increases etc. But as a councillor we would have a responsibility to be fiscally responsible in the setting of our budgets and should always strive to be efficient and effective in all the services we deliver to reduce the costs to rate payers as much as possible

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

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:

Yes it is a key principle of my beliefs in what is required of my role

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

Response:

Yes, it is at the core of my position, a fair deal for Division 2 and the wider Caloundra area. Its our turn.

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

Response:

I am committed to getting a fair deal for the Caloundra region, its our turn

I believe in open communication and will always listen to the needs of those that live work and play in our region

I understand the challenges faced by SME's and will look to lessen their burden at the local level.

I am a safe pair of hands with the necessary experience dealing with all levels of government as well as community groups and local residents.

I have the experience of working in large organizations with 1000's of employees and billion dollar budgets.

I have over 40 years of growing up with this region, I have seen what works and what doesn't.

I will fight to keep local government free of the influences of party politics and back room deals.

I believe in a strong community responsibility, no-one should fall through the gaps

I am a true independent

- I have never been a member of a political party,

- Completely self-funded campaign
- Refusing to do any back room deals for preferences
- Beholden to no-one except the constituents of Division 2