



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

Mail: PO Box 105  
Coolum Beach QLD 4573  
Mobile: 0417 577 881  
Email: [mail@oscar.org.au](mailto:mail@oscar.org.au)

## Candidate questionnaire – Noosa Shire Council Election 2020

Surname:	Wellington	Given name:	Tony
Position contesting:	Mayor		

### 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? The principles set out the responsibilities of all elected councillors to ensure government is accountable and effective. I will abide by them.
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**Q 2 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 Yes	If YES, how will you deal with these? Conflicts sometimes arise as a result of campaign donations. Where this occurs, I follow the protocols and procedures established through the Belcarra legislation and other good governance practices.
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**Q 3 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 in such a situation?**

Response: I will always respect the majority view of councillors as being the will of the council. If I believe that there may be issues in relation to due process or breach of legislation etc, then I would firstly discuss the matter with the CEO and, if necessary, seek further advice from an appropriate authority such as the LGAQ, the Integrity Commissioner, the Dept of Local Government, a legal firm etc.
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**Q 4 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? There are occasions, and they are very rare, where an issue may need to be discussed in confidential session because it is commercial-in-confidence or else is a legal matter where open discussion could prejudice the outcome of the case. Noosa Council has only dealt with matters in confidential session 17 times over the past 4 years.
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**Q 5 Will you commit to continuing to support/extend the live streaming and video recording of all council meetings including those of the Planning and Environment and Services & Organisation committees?**

YES/NO

**Q 6 Do you support that, once the previously published reasons for confidentiality have passed, the live recording, related staff reports and information of the confidential meeting should immediately be made public?**

YES/NO Yes

If NO, why not?

**Q 7 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?**

YES/NO No

## Climate change

**Q 8 Do you accept the international scientific community's view that global climate change is the result of human activity over the past 200 years, principally through the burning of fossil fuels?**

YES/NO Yes

If NO, why not?

**Q 9 What do you see as the key impacts of Climate Change on the Noosa Shire?**

Response:

There are a wide range of impacts, ranging from increased intensity and occurrence of natural disasters, impacts on local biodiversity, impacts of storm surge on properties, consideration of floor heights in our planning scheme, maintenance of council infrastructure such as the rock wall on Main Beach in front of Hastings Street etc. Ultimately, climate change impacts on almost every aspect of council operations.

**Q 10 How should the Noosa Shire Council deal with Climate Change now and into the future?**

Response:

We have established a zero emissions target and an action plan to reach that goal. Many actions have already been undertaken in that regard. We are still the only Qld council to declare a climate emergency. We were a founding member of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership. I was awarded the 2019 Ambassador Award by the Cities Power Partnership. Council has full time Carbon Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation officers. We have almost completed our Climate Change Adaptation Plan and our Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan (we were one of the first Qld councils to receive QCoast 2100 funding.) We will need to embed the findings of these two bodies of work into council actions and policies, including our new planning scheme. We also need to carry out considerable work to ensure our community is resilient in the face of natural disasters. We are currently reviewing our fire hazard reduction practices, including garnering advice from traditional owners. We will continue to work with organisations such as Zero Emissions Noosa and continue to promote appropriate climate change mitigation actions by our community. We will continue to investigate renewable energy sources for Noosa.

**Q 11 Will you advocate for the Noosa Shire Council to promote and support further Climate Change action within the broader community?**

YES/NO Yes

**Q 12 Do you support maintaining Noosa Shire Council's Declaration of Climate Emergency?**

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not?
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**Q 13 Will you advocate for the Council 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 Plan is completed?**

YES/NO No
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## Planning issues

### Q 14 What do you mean by, and how would you measure, sustainable development?

Response:

Sustainable development is development that considers the needs of future generations in terms of their capacity to meet their own needs. Thus, sustainable development is about keeping an eye on the future.

### Q 15 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) applicants wishing to lodge a Development application that does not substantially 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
(c) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?	YES/NO Yes
(d) 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

### Q 16 The new Noosa Planning scheme has been approved by the Planning Minister subject to a number of conditions, two of which are of concern to the Council. They are:

(1) Provisions for mandating 10% of high density housing as social and community (affordable) housing at the Shire Business Centre and former Noosa Bowling Club site at Noosa Junction.

(2) Requirement that Noosa Council adopt the recent State changes to koala protection regulations and remove local provisions.

#### (a) Will you support the Noosa Plan as it is?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not?
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#### (b) If elected will you support Noosa Shire Council in negotiating with the State Government to achieve a better outcome for the community in relation to these two provisions?

YES/NO Yes	If NO, why not?
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### Q 17 What is your understanding of when it is appropriate to override the Planning Scheme, where there are conflicts?

Response:

There always has to be a bit of latitude for rare and unforeseen situations where either the planning scheme hasn't made sufficient allowance for a particular aspect of a development, or where the development can demonstrate significant community benefit that may warrant overriding some aspect of the scheme. In general, however, the scheme should be adhered to.

**Q 18 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 Yes

**Q 19 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?**

**NB The reason for this question being asked of Noosa Shire candidates is that Noosa Tourism published a survey in what appeared to be support for the project**

YES/NO

If NO, will you, if elected to the Noosa Shire Council, support SCRC community groups in advocating to the State Government against this proposal?

## General

**Q 20a The Noosa Biosphere Reserve designation by UNESCO was recently renewed for another 10 year period. What do you understand is the significance of the Biosphere Reserve designation to the Noosa Shire and its community?**

Response:

The Biosphere Reserve accreditation is a voluntary covenant that has no legal or legislative weight. The Biosphere designation reminds us to consider the principles of the Man and the Biosphere Program. But, ultimately, the Biosphere designation is what we, as a community, choose to make of it.

**Q 20b Over the past 10 years the Noosa population has undergone significant change with new residents moving to the area. Will you advocate for an education and marketing program about what it means to local residents and the community as a whole to be a UNESCO Biosphere and how the community can assist in supporting and maintaining that status?**

YES/NO Yes

**Q 21 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

If NO, why not?

**Q 22 In a recent interview the current Mayor referred to a "Crisis" in the Noosa River with biodiversity plummeting. What actions would you propose to address this issue?**

Response:

Both the Thurston Report and the Skilleter study show considerable decline in the river's biodiversity. I support the 3 year oyster reef project between Council and The Nature Conservancy. I also support the work being done under the title "Keep it in Kin Kin" to reduce sediment run-off into the river system. Meanwhile, the state government is testing water quality, and Healthy Land & Water continue to measure the river's health. Council has made representations to the State on their Fisheries Reform. I support those moves. In particular, I would like to see a buy-out of beam-trawling licenses for the river. Consideration will need to be given to any further works on the Spit, particularly around Doggie Beach, to determine what long-term impacts may arise. I will continue to support efforts to reduce pollution and waste entering the river. And that's just a start!

**Q 23    Given Noosa Shire is an undivided council, if elected, how do you intend to engage with the whole Noosa Shire community?**

Response:

I already engage with the whole community, by attending events across the shire and maintaining an open door policy.

**Q 24    Why do you think that you are the best candidate for Councillor or Mayor of the Noosa Shire Council?**

Response:

I have the experience and proven ability. I have been working for many years, even before being elected to the amalgamated council, on behalf of Noosa and its residents. My record speaks for itself.