



Candidate questionnaire – Sunshine Coast Regional Council Election 2020

Surname:	Edwards	Given name:	Daren
Position contesting:	Division 9		

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? A guidance on how you reach or are influenced on the decision made ensuring those points are related in th decision making process, compliant with those criteria and displaying good governance..
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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, Local Government Regulation 2012 (Belcarra Bill amendments), Local Government Electoral Act 2011, Crime and Corruption Act 2001, Human Rights Act 2019
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Q 2b How will these impact your decision-making?

Response: Reinforces that decision making processes are made on legislative requirements. Councillors must comply with relevant laws and adhere to principles of good government such as; equity, transparency, integrity and accountability ensuring the confidence of the community is maintained. Acting in the best interests of the community, ensuring decisions will suffer scrutiny, they are compliant and lawful, and they are fair.

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: Request the decision is reviewed (review motion) to ensure that the decision making processes are made on legislative or other policy requirements and there may be substantial risk involved leaving the council liable to
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incurring possible costs to ratepayers. If the request is not complied with perhaps by the council legal area, then suggest other areas of reporting could result. If such breaches or failures are identified then a further motion can/should be put.

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?

A council's position in a negotiation with another entity, legal advice received by council, items which may identify and or affect the health and safety of an individual or group, proposed budget for a project (ie you are telling tenders how much there is to spend), may need to be considered.

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 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?

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?

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

Response:

Meeting the needs of today, without compromising the needs of tomorrow, ensuring that development using current levels of resources that will not leave enough or destroy environment for future generations. That development utilises renewable energy resources and maintaining green spaces in that development. The measure has to be an economic, social and environmental balance.

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:

Anthropogenic causes whether home grown or which cause or originate moreso from other locations in the world still have affects on weather changes in a country which is already dry and hot, however more extreme changes causing detrimental affects worse than previously encountered here, floods, fires and drought as we have experienced would be the most logical impacts.

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

Response:

Continue ensuring the use of renewable energy and perhaps ensuring it is regulated into developments, ie. housing, commercial buildings, bring back water tanks for water saving as well. Continue buying/preserving blocks of land for conservation, and reviewing our developments.

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 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 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>Where there is a substantial economic, social or benefit to the community and would not be be environmentally damaging to the specific location, or is consistent with future planning intentions.</p>
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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>Floodplain management with regards to development and the associated land use and flood risk is a priority and has been identified in various govt and council reports and policy addressing these concerns and expected level increases due to change. Whilst every type of development would need to be assessed on its own merit or benefit to a community I support preventing more development on flood plains as predominately the preferred option and view.</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 Yes

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

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:

My understanding and view is an impact assessable development application requires public notification and provides third party appeal rights (ie. P & E Court) to any submitters which is consistent with that statement which I support.

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:

Ensuring that proposed developments in these locations are kept to a minimum and that the Detp of Environment and Heritage and other coastal hazard guides for the basis of any decision or best practice in the decision making processes. Learning from mistakes in other locations as well also assists.

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:

Identifying where/why the increases have occurred which may have justified any raise (such as special purpose projects) and identify other areas of potential saving. I suggest with a new CEO some form of review can occur with some projections over the next four years being established.

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 No

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

Response:

I believe there are various locations in Division 9 where the councillor can set up on designated times and days for ongoing community consultation and access with no cost to ratepayers. I would not propose renting specific premises which may incur \$40K rent for instance which would provide someone with a job.

I would use the various locations for regular set days/times for 'listening posts' which would eventually (if we can be successful with funding) such as the proposed Peregrian Springs community house which would provide an ideal facility and further justification for it in the future, as does the Coolumb Beach Library presently. There are various community halls, ie. Verrierdale, Valdora and Bli Bli Halls which can also be used.

Once the live streaming comes in would be another way to get residents to connect and have some more informed information as well. The various community newspapers will also provide continued opportunity to provide and seek information from the community.

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

Response:

I will provide a strong local voice in Council that acknowledges, respects and listens to community views identifying immediate needs and an ability to pursue and get preferred outcomes and not being frightened to stand up for others. I want to represent and support community consulted opportunities and lobby for the investment and sustainable infrastructure this division requires to maintain our wonderful lifestyle. I will continue to provide good governance and accountability, providing leadership and direction as I have done throughout my career.

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

Response:

The majority of my working life has been a serving Police Officer (34 years) however since 2011 I have been the Officer in Charge of the Sunshine Coast District CIB. My career has been based on legislative compliance, problem,

evidence based and ethical decision making processes. I was also selected and completed a two year secondment to the National Crime Authority. My working life has been based on community engagement.

My current position saw me manage 40-50 staff (six units/offices), budgets and resources efficiently and effectively responding to the needs of our sunshine coast community over a 3000sq km district (including Noosa). I gained a great appreciation of the Sunshine Coast and the diversities it offers both with geographic and demographic challenges and the various needs of our individual communities.

I was previously attached to the Homicide Investigation Unit and Ethical Standards Command (2003-11). These were high pressure units again engaging with members of the community at times in very difficult circumstances.

I am a representative of the people, engaging with youth, families, older residents and small business owners whilst managing a large workforce delivering on safer communities across the Sunshine Coast bringing positive outcomes.

I hold an Advanced Diploma in Leadership & Management and recently judged number 22 of the 100 most influential people on the coast.

My working history and life experiences have prepared me with leadership skills and personal qualities to manage the complexities of the councillor role to deliver on critical infrastructure and social needs for communities.