



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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

Candidate questionnaire – Noosa Shire Council Election 2020

Surname:	SQUIRES	Given name:	ANDREW
Position contesting:	Councillor		

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?</p> <p>I see them as the guide we follow for better governance and to have a responsibility to the area and its people . Exert from the Gov web Site below.</p> <p>Local government principles underpin this Act</p> <p>(1)To ensure the system of local government is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable, Parliament requires—</p> <p>(a)anyone who is performing a responsibility under this Act to do so in accordance with the local government principles; and</p> <p>(b)any action that is taken under this Act to be taken in a way that—</p> <p>(i)is consistent with the local government principles; and</p> <p>(ii)provides results that are consistent with the local government principles, in as far as the results are within the control of the person who is taking the action.</p> <p>(2)The local government principles are—</p> <p>(a)transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and</p> <p>(b)sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and</p> <p>(c)democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and</p> <p>(d)good governance of, and by, local government; and</p> <p>(e)ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and local government employees.e.</p>
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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 No	If YES, how will you deal with these?
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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:

Vote with a clear understanding of the item to be voted on. Do not vote because of pressure from other parties. Gain the information required and share with the other Councillors to be able to vote from a place of clarity and understanding of the impacts.

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 will be times that legalities or privacy may not allow for a public forum. However unless there is this type of legal situation all other meeting should be available to the public.

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 Yes

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:

Drought, fire, flood, erosion, skin cancers, Residents being displaced, water restrictions.

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

Response:

Understand the precincts that are at most risk. Work with and educate the residents to be prepared for the potential impacts of climate change. This would involve creating an action plan that is adhered to.

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 Yes

Planning issues

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

Response:

Development that is within the Noosa Plan. Uses the natural environment such as light and water collection. Use the technology and designs that are available to best suit the land space and climate and minimise emissions.

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 Yes
(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:

If the wider community support the change or there are significant extenuating circumstances that justify.

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 Yes	If NO, will you, if elected to the Noosa Shire Council, support SCRC community groups in advocating to the State Government against this proposal?
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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: Recongnition of a unique environment that works in harmony both with the residents, commerce and the natural environment.
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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?
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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: I propose that the River Plan be adopted after it has been more appropriately researched. Lobby the State Gov to be more active with management of the waterways. I believe more feedback and engagement with the local businesses and key people who know the river and combine this with State Gov input. This will give council the correct information to make decissions on the best course of action that will benefit the waterways and the people who live, work and enjoy the river. This has to be done now and a culture regarding the quality of the river needs to be promoted. This will assist us in maintaining the river together and help people who visit understand that we love this river and want to keep it pristine for all to enjoy.

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 engage with the community by being involved with the community. I am already a member of a number of associations such as local arts and culture groups, local business groups and Landcare. I am avialable to key leaders in the community to discuss their concerns and gain feedback. This feedback will be from the coastal beach area to the waterways and river and through to the Hinterland on how the council is performing, what can be done better and how can the council assist.

I make myself available to speak with the residents across Noosa and make sure I answer all questions directed to me. I will be accountable to the people across Noosa and share my time with all the different precincts throughout the Shire.

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

Response:

I bring knowledge, skills and experience with an open and consultative outlook on how decisions are made and leadership expedited. I will conduct myself responsibly and accountably always with the best interest of Noosa and the community in mind every day. I will act appropriately and not jeopardise myself or bring the Council's reputation into disrepute. I will listen to the people, understand their needs and wants and act on their behalf to make Noosa the best it can be and the most livable. The environment is very important to me and a balance needs to be reached regarding the environment, commerce and the residents. I will investigate and act on areas of concern within the community such as traffic and Parking, Tourism strategy, infrastructure, The waterways, Hinterland engagement, small business support including encouragement of diverse appropriate new business. I do not want to see Noosa turn into just another Shire of over development, I do not want to see bad decisions made because of the lack of information or understanding. I am committed to this community and will do what it takes to make it the best it can be.