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## Candidate questionnaire – Noosa Shire Council Election 2020

Surname:	Van Zijl	Given name:	Yanni
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	They are the principles that should guide all decision making in Council. I am committed to accountability, transparency, effective delivery of services, ethical representation and meaningful community engagement.
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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	If YES, how will you deal with these? I can't see that any will arise but will always err on the side of caution and transparency in declaring any perceived conflict of interest, however small.
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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:	First action would be a point of order within a meeting and a discussion with colleagues and the CEO. If I was convinced there was a serious breach that was ignored or intentional I would refer the matter to the Independent Assessor.
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**Q 4 Do you believe that all Council meetings should be open to the public?**

YES, in most circumstances.	In general I support opening meetings to the public but there are some circumstances where confidentiality is necessary; there are also informal meetings where conversation, questions, answers can be more frank.
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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	In General YES. I would have to consider the costs and implications and take advice from the CEO about extending the current level, but in general I support transparency, including live streaming wherever this is reasonably possible and doesn't inhibit discussion.
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**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	Where possible YES, but my answer is Yes and No. There are some circumstances where release of information, even after decisions have been made might not be in the best interests of those involved or might breach commercial confidence or create some legal issue.
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**Q 7 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?**

NO

I am entirely independent. My campaign is being run by family and friends and I will have no obligations to anyone but the people of the Shire if I am elected.

## 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

The science on this is overwhelming. It's time for action now.

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

Response: More extreme weather events will have an impact on such things as coastal erosion, run-off, water quality and availability and bushfires and flooding as well as impacting on residents, roads, infrastructure and more. Rising sea levels need to be taken into account in planning decisions. Rising temperatures will have an effect on our capacity to introduce zero emissions and on the health of our community and should be considered in our building codes.

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

Planning and action must start now. As well as being leaders in individual and group reduction in emissions we must include planning for the future effects of climate change in all our decisions. Such things as building codes and zones need to be constantly revised; we need to encourage and lead in the uptake of alternative energy and alternative vehicles, plan on how to refit important infrastructure to meet changing conditions, constantly revisit our disaster planning, and take a leading role in educating our citizens.

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

YES

Council needs to both be a promoter, a supporter and an enabler. The most successful strategies will come from within the community with widespread acceptance and support. I see Council's main role in providing an enabling environment for the community to develop solutions.

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

YES

I think we should all be proud to live in a shire that is forward thinking and willing to step up and declare a climate emergency. We need that basic acknowledgment so we can go forward with planning for climate change in the future. Failing to plan is planning to fail!

**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

The answer to this is mostly YES, but it is also YES and NO, especially until such time as our coastal hazards plan is completed. There may be some developments that are necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change; there may be developments that take into account of predictions and present solutions; there may be opportunities for retrofitting existing developments. In general we should err on the side of acknowledging there will be significant effects from climate change and act accordingly. We also need to consider the impact of fire in our planning and development.

## Planning issues

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

It's a balancing act. I accept there will be growth and change, but change need not overwhelm what we already have or have a detrimental effect on the environment or residential amenity or the economy or the well-being of our community. Development or growth needs to be measured against possible impacts and managed to minimise negative or unintended consequences.

### 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
(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 They should be advised it doesn't meet the planning scheme. Everyone is entitled to submit on a new planning scheme.
(c) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?	YES I would also add that we need to consider fire risk.
(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 - I believe that happened in Noosa with the New Plan

### 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	I support the Plan as it is, but these conditions need to be negotiated before it can be adopted, and if it comes to holding up the whole planning scheme indefinitely because there is no compromise position I think these parts will need to be revised.
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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	I think these are two important issues for Noosa and I would support negotiating strongly to include both in the plan. However I would not support holding up adoption of the plan indefinitely.
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### Q 17 What is your understanding of when it is appropriate to override the Planning Scheme, where there are conflicts?

Sometimes there may be specific issues that have not been included in the plan, where common sense or safety dictates a different response, but there would probably be very few. My general position would be that the plan is there as the blueprint for how and where we want things to happen. It is not a 'guide' that should be overridden by considering individual cases in isolation.

### 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	Since this is a State Government matter I don't think Council has any option but to abide by the plan and to lobby for change where they think it is necessary. Council had the opportunity to have input and the increases in population and changes for Noosa Shire are modest and now included as part of the New Noosa Plan. What is of concern is the growth in population in the areas adjacent to Noosa as this will have an impact on infrastructure, traffic, demand for services and more in Noosa.
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**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	I don't think Noosa Council can make decisions on developments in SCC, however we can consider the impacts on our own shire and negotiate to minimise these. This is part of the ever more important question of how much more tourism growth is sustainable, a question that will have to be considered by the next Noosa Council.
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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?**

Noosa is an ecologically important and diverse area that needs to be protected. It's also a place where people live, holiday and do business. This is what the biosphere is about, finding the balance between the three so all three can prosper.

**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

**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

**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?**

I think there are some good strategies in the Noosa River Plan, especially those relating to run-off, industrial waste, improving fishing stocks and biodiversity. The River is one of our most precious assets. We need to ensure we look after it.

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

Response: Noosa is not a large shire. It takes not much more than an hour to drive from one end to the other. There are many opportunities for community consultation. Councillor newsletters are a great way to keep in touch. I intend to visit all areas of the shire regularly and encourage people to meet with me.

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

I am a good listener. I'm practical and believe in looking for solutions and compromise. I'm a creative thinker and have a strong commitment to building on the best of our past for a great future. I believe respect for each other and our environment is paramount in providing sound ethical governance.