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## Candidate questionnaire – Noosa Shire Council Election 2020

Surname:	LANDER	Given name:	Alan
Position contesting:	Councillor - Noosa		

### 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	
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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?**

NO	My partner Carol and I have no personal assets except our home, which we fully own. I manage, and play in, a band (The Claptomaniacs) which earns modest income from local clubs. We generally perform no more than 2-3 nights a month. I would always advise of a conflict or perceived conflict of interest if one such club was set to benefit from any council decision.
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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: A majority decision is a majority decision, and I would abide by that in all cases. To act otherwise is contrary to the principles as mentioned in Q1. Hopefully, a council comprised of like-minded people will be elected and this issue will be moot.
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**Q 4 Do you believe that all Council meetings should be open to the public?**

YES	At Noosa Council all meetings already are open to the public, with only occasional aspects of a meeting closed where legal or financial issues that could impact upon ratepayer money are discussed) while the General and Ordinary meetings are also live-streamed. I am happy with that arrangement.
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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
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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/NO	Generally yes, but there may be rare instances where that might not be possible for legal reasons.
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**Q 7 Are you endorsed or supported by any registered political party?**

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	As I said at the Tuesday MTC, "Climate change is not a religion; it's a fact. Intransigence at the federal level of government means we have to tackle this from the grass roots up."
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**Q 9 What do you see as the key impacts of Climate Change on the Noosa Shire?**

Response: Climate change intensifies and turbo-charges all weather systems, so bushfires, flooding and coastal erosion are all at high risk as the fire season gets earlier, hotter and larger; storms and cyclones become more intense, and shoreline erosion potential gets stronger.

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

Response: Some further research may be required into dealing with flooding and erosion – and Noosa Council already has some mitigation plans in place, however a re-think on the timing and method(s) of burning-off is important (and I believe already under way). I support this.

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

YES

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

YES	
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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

## Planning issues

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

Response: Sustainable development to me is a) a built environment balancing in harmony Noosa's social, environmental and economic imperatives; b) a built environment using non-toxic, preferably recyclable materials; c) a built environment that aesthetically complements its surroundings.

### 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
(c) that development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, flooding, and inundation be prohibited?	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

### 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	I would also add that, despite some suggestions to the contrary, the Noosa Plan has actually been approved; in the same way that most development applications are approved by councils with conditions, but nevertheless are fully regarded as approved by the applicant and council.
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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	
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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: The only area I can envisage where an override can be acceptable is where technology has irrevocably changed a situation or circumstance, eg a revolutionary and quiet alternative to a once-noisy utility with potential to affect neighbouring properties is developed and becomes standard issue.

In such a case and amendment to the planning scheme would also be required anyway.

**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

**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**

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?  Yes. The land is flood-prone, and this development would become the thin end of the wedge to further flood plain development causing no end of drainage issues for older surrounding suburbs and land values.
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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:

To me, a short form of describing the Noosa Biosphere is “the triple bottom line principle in action”.

All activities within a Biosphere have to be measured and balanced against their impact on other aspects of social, environmental and physical wellbeing within its area.

Thus for example, the wellbeing and future survival of wildlife within the Biosphere holds equal status to human social interactivity and infrastructure development.

**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 – but the real estate industry, being first point of contact for so many new arrivals, would have to come on board with this, too.

**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?**

Response: An early step would be to no longer acknowledge the healthy Waterways annual ranking process as it stands. Action under way includes NBRF’s Bring Back the Fish and Keep it in Kin Kin projects, and more is required however I am not in a current position to speak authoritatively on that yet.

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

Response: a) hold more council meetings outside chambers, in various shire locations; b) initiate individual rosters for councillors to be available, say, once a month each, at township locations for meet-and-greet and answering resident queries.

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

Response: I believe I am the only non-incumbent candidate with recent, substantial experience of working in a council, having initially been selected by and worked for then-Sunshine Coast Mayor Bob Abbot (2010-2012), then Mark Jamieson (2012-2015) in mayoral media.

As a journalist with Noosa News (2016 until last November) and the Sunshine Coast Daily (2003-2010), I have dealt with councils both on the inside and outside. In Noosa’s case, I think it has been a good council along with its predecessors, but could do better in communicating both with residents and within its own departments.

I also believe a) council needs to do more to help facilitate new employment opportunities by attracting business (not large) and entrepreneurs to our region (only those willing to work within the Noosa Plan however); also to ensure that Cooroy, under population growth pressure and increasingly being the logical commuter link for tourism and similar industry workers to live, receives appropriate infrastructure assistance, and that the Noosa ‘look and feel’ principles equally apply there and across the hinterland (eg no traffic lights).