



OSCAR questions for 2020 State Election candidates

OSCAR has a tradition of seeking the views of candidates for State elections on Local Government issues that are partially or wholly the responsibility of the State Government (by way of funding or legislative control). Your responses will be published on the OSCAR website for the benefit of our members and the wider community.

We appreciate the fact that you are very busy at this time but we would value receiving your responses on the issues we have identified.

Many questions can be answered with a simple Yes or No response but the opportunity is there for you to expand your response.

While we welcome individual responses from all candidates, those of you who are members of the same political party may submit a collective response if preferred.

Surname:	Mariko, Poole & Redford	Given name:	Pamela, Tash & Darrell
Electorate:	Kawana, Maroochydore and Noosa		
Party affiliation (if any):	Animal Justice Party - collective response for : Pamela Mariko (Kawana), Tash Poole (Maroochydore) and Darrell Redford (Noosa)		

● State Planning issues

1. Will you commit to ensuring there is statutory recognition and protection of the existing regional inter-urban break, between the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay Regional Councils (including Halls Creek), so that it cannot be easily eroded by future State Governments or Councils, thereby ensuring the protection of the national heritage landscape of the Glass House Mountains, the Ramsar protected Pumicestone passage and that the Sunshine Coast retains its distinct character and geographic identity in Southeast Queensland.

Yes, we support the interurban break. The Sunshine Coast will not merge with surrounding Brisbane, we will stay as we are. This is not only to keep the lifestyle that Sunshine Coast locals - both humans and animals - treasure so dearly but also to prevent urban sprawl and over-development in critical habitats. The Sunshine Coast is one of Australia's fastest growing regions and while it's exciting to be living in a place with so much opportunity, it's essential that our distinctive and

diverse landscape is preserved as part of our short and long term goals to ensure a strong economy, livable community and a healthy environment.

The 11 million visitors who travel to the Sunshine Coast every year are attracted by our natural assets. The tourism and leisure industry injects \$2.5 billion of direct expenditure into the region and provides almost 14% of total direct employment opportunities in the region.

As part of the Animal Justice Party Queensland's Ten Point Plan we commit to tackle all of the main factors contributing to the climate and biodiversity crisis; invest in an ethical economy; and advocate for a healthy population.

2. Will you endorse a moratorium on any Planning Scheme amendments within the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) within the coastal zone and areas of the Sunshine Coast under threat from storm surge, sea-level rise and coincident flooding until the completion and full implementation of the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS)?

Yes, we must make evidence-based decisions and plan for the next 50+ years rather than focus on short term development and profits. In the past 60 years we have experienced ten major flooding events on the Sunshine Coast - including eight years ago in Alex & Maroochydoore. We also need a moratorium on development approvals for construction until the new CHAS has been finalised – this will avoid approving development in areas which could be later subject to storm surge. We need to look at the historical data and use scientific modeling to ensure we are not putting people, their homes and businesses at risk.

3. Will you oppose any declaration of a Priority Development Area (PDA) for an intense residential/mixed-use and mechanical wave-pool development on the Maroochy floodplain at Coolum West?

Yes. Such a PDA would not be appropriate in this area

4. Will you support the Blue Heart project on 5000 ha of the Maroochy floodplain as a critical response to climate change? Will you ensure that funding from the State's Land Restoration Program is continued and is available to landowners within the Maroochy floodplain and in so doing go some way to advancing the Planning Act 2016, Section 3 Purpose – ecological sustainability?

Yes, we believe in this program and finding a balance between caring for the environment and the animals that live there. This project will protect against sea level rise whilst protection the current flood plain and contributing economically to the community. Sustainable farming practices and eco tourism will greatly benefit the coast.

5. As a result of changes to the Planning Act 2016 over the last few years, the vast majority of development applications in Queensland are now Code Assessable. The Act requires the approval of a code assessable development application if it complies with all of the Local Planning Scheme's code assessment benchmarks - ie the three measurable components of each applicable Planning Scheme code - Overall Outcomes, the Performance Outcomes, and the Acceptable Outcomes.

However, the Act now gives the assessment manager (usually the local council) subjective discretion to approve development that does not comply with all code benchmarks by imposing approval conditions that they consider overcome non-compliance with some intended code outcomes. As a result, development approvals and conditions are frequently made which conflict in important respects with the intended outcomes of the codes in a Planning Scheme. Furthermore,

unlike decisions on impact assessable development applications, there are no formal submission rights for code applications and no third party (public) rights to a merit review of code approvals through the Planning and Environment Court while developers can appeal when an application is refused.

These problems can be rectified by amending the Act and by adding a new section allowing a limited right of third party appeal to the Development Tribunal for an independent review of non-standard development conditions applied to code assessable development approvals that deviate from the intended outcomes of a code. The latter limited right of review will help ensure transparency, integrity, accountability, and professionalism in assessment decision-making without incurring the cost and delays associated with proceedings in the Planning and Environment Court.

Do you agree that there is an urgent need to close these gaps/loopholes in Section 60 (2) of the Planning Act 2016 as soon as possible and if elected, would you advocate for public consultation as soon as possible on amendments which aim to rectify these inequities in the present legislation?

Yes we support a limited third party right to appeal decisions on code assessable development approvals that deviate from the codes. We would also support public consultation on the matter.

6. Will you commit to:

a. advancing the facilitation of the achievement of ecological sustainability (Purpose of the Planning Act 2016) on a local, regional, state and wider level through the principles of ecological sustainability set out in Sections 3 (1), (2) and (3), 4 and 5 (2) and the binding of all persons and entities set out in Section 5 (1) and Section 7 of the Planning Act 2016, which underpin Queensland's system of land use planning, development assessment and related matters?

and

b. maintaining these ecological sustainability principles in the Act and applying those at all times in relation to all planning processes, development applications, and associated judicial proceedings?

Yes. Ecological sustainability must be more than hollow words. This principle must be strictly incorporated in all processes and all decisions made by all decision-makers under the Act.

7. As the Planning Act 2016 includes forms of planning and development that fall within the scope of "development" in the Economic Development Act, if elected, in the interest of consistency across state legislation, will you commit to amending the Economic Development Act to ensure that the ecological sustainability principles in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Planning Act are incorporated fully into the Economic Development Act 2012 and applied as intended by the Planning Act?

Yes, ESD definitely needs to be included in the EDA because there is no mention of it at the moment. This is unacceptable.

8. If elected, will you support the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Biosphere nomination?

Yes, the Biosphere nomination is very exciting and we support it. It is so important for the positive impact it would have on environmental protection.

9. In the next iteration of the Southeast Queensland Regional Plan (SEQRP) which is likely to occur in the next term of State government, will you agree to:
- have no further expansion of the urban footprint
 - apply the concept of “carrying capacity of areas” across the South East
 - reverse the current situation in which urban residential developments can be approved on the basis that it constitutes Overriding Need in the Public Interest (ONPI)?

A. We will amend state town planning legislation to end destructive urban sprawl and actively shrink our urban footprint with renewed focus on public transport and liveable cities.

10. During the past two years, there have been reports about a proposal for a private developer to build a high rise residential building on the site of the State Government facilities at the end of the Mooloolaba Spit incorporating the Water Police, Pilots and Fisheries. Also, the Mooloolaba Marina members and berth owners recently voted to reject a persistent developer's proposal for 50% of their land be used to build a 5 story high rise hotel development.

What are your views on potential high rise developments at the eastern end of Parkyn Parade on the Spit at Mooloolaba?

We are against the development of the Mooloolaba Spit. We must treasure this land and the remaining land that has not been developed. The Sunshine Coast is already one of the most adored places to visit in QLD and we do not need a hotel/resort in this location to boost visitor numbers.

● Transport infrastructure

11. If you were elected as a member of the next State government, which if any, of the following major transport priorities that the SCRC has identified in its Integrated Transport Strategy 2019 would you support as the key priority or what would you see as the best solution for the Sunshine Coast’s mass transit needs?
- North Coast Connect (including rail upgrades between Brisbane and Nambour and a new rail line from Beerwah to Maroochydore)
 - Light rail or bus-based mass transit from Maroochydore to Kawana in Stage 1 and eventual extension to the Sunshine Coast Airport to the north and Caloundra to the south
 - Other options.

A. We would support the North Coast Connect project.

B. We would be very keen to participate in the community consultation & council consultation for the mass transit project. All options need to be on the table to find a transport solution which balances what the community desires, what is best for the environment and animals (transport corridors must be wildlife friendly) and what the future of the Sunshine Coast needs to manage transport from Caloundra to Noosa.

12. Will you ensure that any consideration of the Mass Transit Detailed Business Case undertaken by TMR includes comprehensive local community engagement and that the existing commitment from the State Government for a contribution of \$7.5 million to the business case is honoured?

Yes

13. Do you agree that heritage, natural environment and cultural values must be acknowledged, respected and taken account of in any major new infrastructure projects to protect the character of our villages and towns and unique fauna, for example, fauna friendly underpasses/overpasses?

Yes, because once we deforest and develop, it's near impossible to get it back. It will be future generations asking why we did this and why we didn't take better care of our small coastal town lifestyle, beautiful forestry and protect our native animals. We need a population plan and infrastructure plan that respects wildlife habitat and cultural heritage.

● Local and State Government reform

14. Significant Local Government Reform has been undertaken during the current term of parliament and following the Belcarra report and CCC recommendations. Will you commit to:

- maintaining and NOT dismantling those reforms?
- continuing the reform program into the next term of Parliament including, but not limited to, expenditure caps for future Local Government (LG) elections?

Yes, we support past reforms and commit to maintaining and expanding them, including expenditure caps. The AJP supports empowering the CCC to complete its work and protect our democracy.

15. Do you support greater openness and transparency in Local Government, and will you seek to ensure that such requirements are incorporated into the Local Government Act and its associated regulations?

Yes, we must have more honesty, transparency and accountability in all levels of government and this must be facilitated by strong regulations.. A government that is open and shares information with its citizens, creates a strong and healthy community.

16. In the interests of transparency , good governance and personal responsibility by politicians will you support:

- consistency across levels of government in the rules that apply to personal responsibilities and accountability of politicians?
- closing loopholes in legislation and ensure that outcomes from the Fitzgerald Inquiry are maintained, and ban under legislation, any political party charging for access to ministers, shadow ministers and other members of Parliament to ensure all members of the community have equal access to our elected representatives.

As above, we support these values in all levels of government. For the purpose of good government, we strongly support equal and free access to decision-makers.

17. In the interests of consistency will you support the state funding of Local Government elections under a similar model to that of State elections, and the introduction of Full Preferential Voting (FPV)?

Yes, we support FPV at all levels of government. Members of the public need consistency and education programs on our electoral system so they can make an informed decision every time they vote.

18. Will you support the existing ban on developer donations at future State and Local government elections?

Yes. We also support a cap on electoral donations.

19. Will you advocate for fee relief for Not For Profit (NFP) groups making Right to Information (RTI) applications without NFPs needing to demonstrate financial hardship?

Yes we support measures that would assist NFPs access information without a fee impediment. Access to information on all kinds of areas is important for good governance.

20. Are there any further governance reforms to local and State government in Queensland that you would like to see introduced?

Yes, we want to reform the Animal Management Act which is on the whole enforced by local government. The present system is too cumbersome and prone to abuse (becoming a tool in neighbourhood disputes). We seek an overhaul of this system focusing more on the wellbeing of the animal and understanding why they are presenting as a nuisance, if at all.

● Other

21. Unity Water has initiated the development of a Total Water Cycle Management Strategy which will consider options for future water supply. Which of these options do you prefer for future water supply for the Sunshine Coast?

- a. more dams
- b. raising dam walls
- c. demand management
- d. desalination
- e. fit for purpose recycled water including potable reuse
- f. tanks
- g. stormwater harvesting
- h. other (please list)

We will seek technical guidance. It is important to manage population growth and the climate crisis to ensure secure water supply as well as protecting our ecosystem and biodiversity.

22. Will you commit to opposing the Commonwealth Government's proposed devolution to the states and territories of Commonwealth environmental impact assessment and other powers for the protection of matters of National Environmental Significance under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act?

If elected, will you also oppose any move by the incoming Queensland Government to accept the responsibilities for managing and protecting our nationally significant biodiversity and environmental values that the present Commonwealth Government is proposing to abrogate?

Yes. The protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) should remain a matter for the Commonwealth.

23. If elected, will you advocate for the Commonwealth to meet its national responsibilities by providing sufficient funding to end the backlog in aged and disabled packages over the next four

years to enable aged and disabled persons to live independently in their own homes for as long as they wish?

Yes, Tash's Grandma lived in her house until she was 99. It is an important option for our seniors to remain in their home and the Commonwealth must adequately fund relevant packages to provide independence and quality of life for the elderly and disabled. We must also manage and fund communal living arrangements as many members of the community will prefer to live in a communal setup where there is care and less chance of feeling isolated. Both areas need equal attention and support.

24. If elected, will you commit to increasing significantly State financial allocations to social housing, community housing and boarding house style accommodation over the next four years so that the unmet needs for affordable rental housing and crisis, emergency, transitional and disabled housing can be progressively met in Queensland?

If so, by what amount?

Yes, however we will need input from the community and/or technical stakeholders to ensure that this does not expand the urban footprint.

25. Do you currently live in the electorate you are contesting in this election? If not, are you prepared to relocate to the electorate if you are successful?

Yes all candidates live in the electorates which we are contesting.