

Thank you for your invitation to respond to your organization's 2020 election survey.

Rather than address the specific questions contained in your survey (for no reason other than not being familiar with the particulars of all of the legislation and particular issues) I will instead try to give a brief overview of my policy toward long term planning in the context of our built (particularly urban )environment and the balance required between population,'progress' and our obligation to ourselves in the now, and the expectation that we leave the future with a future.

All planning should be based on some non negotiable principals.At risk of stating the obvious,the first of these is to keep harm to a minimum.The idea of harm covers more than just the physical environment but should include some notion of social contract-what will life be like for people who live and work,or are educated in this place? Have we,as planners and enablers (through legislation,etc) taken into account the social and personal lifes of the people who will live here?

Next on my list is the idea that we need to look at the immediate AND long term effects of what we are doing,both environmentally, socially and economically.Something that is a good idea in the short term does not necessarily have the same value over time,we need to take a much longer term view of issues where decisions taken now will have impact over longer time frames.

We can't have a healthy population if we live in an unhealthy world,our home has to be in good shape for us to be in good shape.When we plan for things like housing developments or dedicated industrial areas the impact assessment needs to cover things like the effect on the water table of large scale tract housing and the effect on the air we breath of knocking down almost every tree in sight to facilitate high density housing or factories.We need to have infrastructure that keeps pace with development,and not be playing catch up with roads and so on after the fact-a perfect example of this is the twice daily traffic chaos on Caloundra road,Bellvista Boulevard and Parklands Boulevard.Another example is they way that public transport on the Sunshine Coast has failed to evole with changes in population demographics and an expanded urban footprint.

I am not even remotely anti progress or anti development.What I am in favour of is properly thought out long term planning that factors in social,economic and environmental issues equally,and tries to strike a balance.We need to change the way and where of work,recreation and the provision of government services.A simple question along these lines.....why do we still funnel thousands of people into the Brisbane CBD every day to jobs that could be done just as well closer to home? Thats just one question that could be answered by a simple change in thinking.

A vote for me,Mathew Hill, Caloundra Independent, will bring that thinking to the public arena.