



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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Candidate survey – Noosa Shire Election 2024

Surname:	Jackson	Given name:	Ingrid
Position contesting:	Mayor		

1 About you:

Are you a member of a registered political party?	YES/NO	No
If so, are you endorsed or formally supported by that political party?	YES/NO	

2 How will you deal with situations where you or your immediate family have assets, interests or affiliations that might be likely to present you with potential conflicts of interest in carrying out your tasks as a Councillor?

Comment:

I am fully committed to adhering to the requirements of the Local Government Act, including in relation to any conflicts of interest that may arise.

3 If elected, how do you intend to engage with your community and/or the region?

Comment:

I look forward to engaging with the community in as many ways as possible. I am well known for my strong commitment to transparency, open and honest communication, and being responsive and available to all community members.

On a personal level, I will continue to be available to discuss matters and assist - face to face, by phone, by email, via messaging, social media, etc.

As Mayor I would also have the benefit of engaging with the community via the range of Noosa Council community engagement channels, including community consultation processes, reference groups, the media, social media and more.

4 Why do you think that you are the best candidate for the position you are contesting?

Comment:

As Mayor, I will draw on my previous career as a Sydney-based manager and management consultant and, more recently, as Noosa Councillor from 2016 to 2020.

Many residents will remember my relentless pursuit of greater transparency, improved governance, evidence-based decision-making and giving residents and their businesses a fair go.

My most well-known contribution was fighting for transparency in the face of opposition by the majority of councillors. The community got behind me and I succeeded in achieving livestreamed Council meetings, public question time and other transparency initiatives.

I've also been an active participant in a number of Noosa Shire voluntary associations. At various times I've been Secretary of the Noosa Chamber of Commerce, Secretary/Vice President of the local Country Women's Association, and Secretary of Noosa Parks Association.

5 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning this section of the survey?

Comment:

I'm committed to continuing to make a difference for the people of Noosa Shire.

Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour

6 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
the relevant legislation and regulations that govern the conduct of Councillors and the activities of Council?	YES/NO	Yes

7 How do you see the above influencing your decision-making?

Comment:

I have a strong personal commitment to the local government principles in the Local Government Act and as Mayor and Council Meeting Chair, I will ensure that all councillors adhere to them. The first principle highlights: "Transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest"

8 Will you:

support providing requested information (other than current commercial-in-confidence) to the community without the need for individuals and organisations having to resort to Right to Information applications?	YES/NO	Yes
support that community consultation will become routine and results respected and acted upon such that the public interest takes precedence over vested interests?	YES/NO	Yes
commit to forensic scrutiny of projects and expenditure directions and the budget overall?	YES/NO	Yes
support the Environment Levy and its policies, including the continued acquisition of land for conservation, support for the Council's Voluntary Conservation Agreement Programs and the provision of funding to the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Trust?	YES/NO	Yes

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

Comment:

I am satisfied with Council's Sustainability Principles which state: "Noosa's economy is prosperous, diverse and protective of its unique environment", as well as the definition in the Noosa Economic Development Strategy: "A Smart Biosphere connects the strong environmental societal values of our community to future focused, technology and data driven actions to find creative and resourceful solutions to economic and environmental challenges."

The Economic Development Strategy already includes some performance indicators and measures. I shall encourage Council to agree that further expert work is needed by the Economic Development Unit to recommend indicators that specifically identify and differentiate sustainable development.

10 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour?

Comment:

I am highly committed to ensuring improved governance, transparency and ethical behaviour, as was demonstrated during my time as 2016-20 Councillor. As Mayor I shall lead Council to be further open for scrutiny, foster transparency and accountability, and demonstrate respectful and ethical behaviour as part of its commitment to the community.

As Councillor, in spite of constant opposition by other Councillors, with the community behind me I succeeded in getting Council meetings live-streamed, a public question time at Ordinary Meetings, recording how each Councillor votes, and other initiatives. My observation is that some transparency gains have been lost or diluted since my departure in 2020.

If elected Mayor, I will seek to have the Queensland Information Commissioner invited to review council transparency arrangements and then meet with Councillors and senior staff to discuss recommendations.

I shall recommend an internal working party will be set up to implement transparency initiatives.

I will want to see progress on transparency being part of the performance reviews of the Council CEO, Directors and Senior Managers.

I will also make sure that Councillors are briefed, fully understand and adhere correctly to the Local Government Act conflict of interest requirements.

Climate Emergency

11 What do you see as the key impacts of Climate Change on the Sunshine Coast and how should Noosa Council deal with this now and into the future?

Comment:

Noosa Shire is vulnerable to a range of potential climate change impacts including extreme weather events, sea level rises, storm surges, flooding, inundation, coastal erosion and bushfires. It is the role of Noosa Council to prepare for increasing impacts both by evidence-based planning, infrastructure upgrades (such as stormwater drainage systems) and pro-active adaptation measures to protect resident wellbeing, their properties and public properties with the assistance of State and Federal governments.

12 Do you endorse the Climate Change Emergency Declaration made by the Council in 2019 and will you advocate for a review of its scope, effectiveness, transparency and accountability to give effect to the Declaration?

Comment:

Yes, the potential impacts of climate change must be taken seriously. Planning, pre-emptive actions, remediation and adaptation are required by all levels of government. Transparency and accountability are a must.

13 What role do you see for the Noosa Council and its Planning Scheme to accelerate the LGA achieving net zero emissions by 2026?

Comment:

As a Councillor I always supported the Council's Zero Emissions Noosa Organisational Strategy and related policies. As Mayor I will encourage Council to take further steps to educate and engage members of the community in reducing the Shire's carbon footprint.

14 The Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan (CHAP):

Will you ensure that the current CHAP is regularly updated as new Climate Change information and IPCC reports become available, and ensure CHAP updates are incorporated in the Planning Scheme?	YES/NO	Yes
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15 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Climate Emergency?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>I am committed to evidence-based decision-making, pre-emptive planning, action and adaptation to prepare Noosa Shire and our community for potential climate change impacts.</p>

Planning issues

16 What is your understanding of when it is appropriate to override the Planning Scheme (PS) when there are conflicts?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>It is up to Council staff to analyse development applications in light of the planning scheme and state regulations and, for more complex applications, make recommendations to Council for decision.</p> <p>The Council is somewhat like a Board and it is appropriate for Council to exercise judgement and discretion, taking into account the full complexity, context and implications.</p> <p>In its important role as local government, the Council may choose to override the staff recommendations if it determines there is in the best public interest. This includes supporting and achieving the long term goals stated in the Noosa Plan's Strategic Framework.</p> <p>A particular goal may be judged by Council to be a significant priority in the public interest and for the greater good - such as facilitating construction of affordable housing or providing adequate medial services to meet the needs of Noosa's aging population.</p>
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17 Do you agree that:

Development Applications (DA) that conflict with the relevant PS Performance Outcomes and other planning instruments should be refused unless there is an overriding need in the public interest?	YES/NO	Yes
applicants wishing to lodge a DA that substantially does not comply, or seeks to override the PS, with or without a proposed amendment to the Scheme should only be permitted to lodge a DA following a successful appropriate Scheme amendment?	YES/NO	No
the community should be able to make formal public submissions and have the right of appeal to the Planning and Environment Court for development applications involving major impacts on the community and the environment?	YES/NO	Yes
Councillors rather than Council staff should decide such major development applications?	YES/NO	Yes
development that is vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change such as flooding, inundation, coastal erosion, landslip and bushfire hazard should be prohibited?	YES/NO	Yes
longer public submission timeframes than the statutory minimum times concerning amendments to the PS should be implemented to allow time for the community to understand and make an informed response?	YES/NO	Yes
further development on floodplains should be prohibited and not approved?	YES/NO	Yes

where community expectations about the PS are inconsistent with the planning directions and expectations of the State Government (eg in the SEQ Regional Plan Update or State legislation or policies), you will advocate strongly to ensure that the State accommodates the expressed planning wishes of our regional community to the greatest practicable extent?	YES/NO	Yes
Halls Creek should not be recommended for residential development and should remain part of the Inter-Urban Break?	YES/NO	
Do you support measures to curb the proliferation of Short Term Accommodation (STA)?	YES/NO	Yes

18 What measures would you propose to reduce the impact of STAs on the liveability of the Noosa Shire?

Comment:
Efficient complaints processes and enforcement are needed for the Short Stay Letting and Home Hosted Accommodation Local Law to be effective. There also needs to be a formal complaints mechanism when issues arise at properties without Short Term Accommodation or Local Law approval.

I will ask Council to action improving the complaints mechanisms and compliance at both approved and unapproved properties.

I will also seek to have the Local Law reinforced by ensuring council local laws staff are adequately resourced so they can enforce compliance..

19 Concerning the South East Queensland Regional Plan (Shaping SEQ) Update of December 2023, what are your views on the strategic directions for the Northern Subregion and the population and dwelling requirements for the Noosa region?

Comment:
It is important to be aware that the SEQ Plan does not specify population requirements. It refers only to "expected" or "anticipated" growth and "projected populations". The purpose of these projections is to provide a statistical basis for planning "new homes each year, as well as increased transport accessibility, job opportunities and essential services".

To cater for the projected population increase in Noosa, the 2017 SEQ Plan required the 2020 Noosa Plan to provision for 6400 additional dwellings, an increase from 26,000 in 2017 to 32,400 in 2041.

Six years later, some of those dwellings have already been built.

The revised 2023 SEQ Plan requires an increase of 5,000 dwellings, from an estimated 28,300 in 2021 to 33,300 in 2046. Given the longer time horizon, that is not all that much more than what was in the 2017 SEQ Plan and is already provisioned for in the current 2020 Noosa Plan.

The 2023 SEQ Plan also allows (already existing and new) secondary dwellings/granny flats to be counted as part of the requisite housing stock, thereby slightly reducing the number of new dwellings needed.

20 Given the focus on increased densification via higher buildings and/or "gentle density" as per the SEQRP2023 Update will you commit to:

the development of careful guidelines for "gentle density" and that this type of development is not just seen as "accepted" or "as of right" development?	YES/NO	Yes
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Comment:
For Noosa Shire, the recent updated SEQ Regional Plan envisions that by 2046, the proportion of dwellings in Noosa Shire will be 65% detached houses, 34% low-rise attached dwellings (1 to 3 storeys) and 1% medium-rise dwellings (4 to 8 storeys). The SEQ Plan does acknowledge that local governments will need to consider these targets in the context of their own local planning and may seek to refine their local application.

I shall advocate strongly on behalf of Noosa Shire to ensure our residents' values are honoured.

21 The coastal hazard “erosion prone area” is defined by the Queensland Government. The State Planning Policy Guidance states redevelopment is to “avoid urban footprint expansion into erosion-prone areas while the State Policy prohibits this land “to be used for urban purposes” unless already located in an urban area or urban footprint in a regional plan.

Will you oppose increases in the urban footprint and the density of medium and high-rise mixed-use residential buildings in these designated coastal hazard areas to reduce overall risk – and if so, how?

Comment:

Yes, I will strongly advocate against any expansion in coastal hazard erosion prone areas. Allowing such expansion would be negligent. It is heartening that State policies prohibit this. These State policies along with the Noosa Plan will be a strong basis for advocacy if needed.

22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

UNESCO's strategic objective for its Man and the Biosphere Programme is to "contribute to building sustainable, healthy and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere".

The Noosa Plan's 20-year timeframe already supports UNESCO's intent. The Noosa Plan Strategic Framework envisions that the Council will ensure community well-being, economic prosperity, the protection of the Shire's natural assets, sustainable population growth, ecologically sound urban development, affordable housing and a managed response to climate change.

Noosa Council decisions about development, investment and other inputs to the Shire need to be grounded in respecting the Noosa Plan's 20-year goals in its strategic framework. These are often forgotten in decisions about individual matters, and the potential to achieve the long term vision lost.

23 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Planning Issues?

Comment:

Transport Infrastructure and Service

24 Given the Australian Government has withdrawn financial support for all but one of the 5 major transport projects on the Sunshine Coast and has reduced Federal contributions from 80% to 50% for approved projects, and given the strong nexus between land use planning decisions and the provision of transport infrastructure, do you agree that:

all the current regional transport projects should be reassessed to identify and “lock in” the most effective and affordable project or projects that realistically can be delivered with Federal and State funding?	YES/NO	Yes
accurate budgeting with realistic cost increases and contingency funding must be included in this reassessment process?	YES/NO	Yes
projects that meet the need to efficiently move large numbers of Olympics 2032 spectators to, from and within the Sunshine Coast and that deliver a significant “legacy” transport benefit to the region must be a major decision-making consideration?	YES/NO	Yes
any reassessment should explore some options that do not involve the high capital cost, fixed transport infrastructure projects currently under consideration eg significant increases in the regional public bus network with small and large battery buses on more routes, servicing all major regional destinations, with greater frequency and express services, and with bus right of way clearways at peak periods and priority at traffic lights?	YES/NO	Yes

that ratepayers should not be subsidising major infrastructure projects that have been traditionally funded by the State Government through an increase in Council debt or increases in the Transport Levy?	YES/NO	Yes
given the importance of synchronising and integrating land use planning and development approvals with the planning, funding and delivery of transport infrastructure and services, you will support including in the proposed new Planning Scheme medium, high and gentle density land use changes only where the relevant transport infrastructure and services are guaranteed to be funded and delivered in a synchronised way?	YES/NO	Yes
Active transport and Accessible transport should be made priorities in any transport infrastructure projects?	YES/NO	Yes
Would you advocate for the Noosa Council to own and manage its own small, electric bus fleet to service the Noosa region?	YES/NO	No
<p>Comment: Noosa ratepayers should not be required to fund transport and infrastructure which are traditionally the responsibility of State and Federal governments, and funded through State and Federal taxes</p>		

25 Given the community is calling for a “transformational” approach to address Noosa’s transport and traffic issues, what specific proposals do you advocate to address the problem?

<p>Comment: Noosa Council’s transport and traffic solutions need to be put back on track. In 2017 I along with all councillors had input to the Council’s comprehensive Transport Strategy 2017-27 which was finalised on the basis of two extensive public consultation processes. Little of that has been implemented. Since then, Council has approved a Noosa Cycling and Walking Strategy, also not implemented. In 2024 I intend to see Noosa Council get a move on implementing both.</p> <p>The now seven years-old Transport Strategy will need be reviewed by Council and, in fairness to the community, require a further consultation.</p>

26 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Transport Infrastructure and Services?

<p>Comment: Given the projected increase of South East Queensland population, addressing transport, traffic and parking issues with sustainable permanent solutions is vital.</p>
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