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Mail: PO Box 105
Coolumb Beach QLD 4573
Mobile: 0433 214 320
Email: info@oscar.org.au

Candidate survey – Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) Election 2024

Surname:	Natoli	Given name:	Rosanna
Position contesting:	Mayor		

1 About you:

Do you live in the Division for which you are standing?	YES/NO	Yes
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	N/A

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:

My obligation is to declare all interests and if I perceive a potential conflict, I will declare this and follow appropriate requirements under the Local Government Act.

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

Comment:

I intend to be open, accountable and approachable. I will consult widely. I will hold open forum-style meetings monthly across each division (10 per year) and will continue throughout the term.

4 If elected as a Divisional Councillor, how will you advance the specific needs of your community?

Comment:

5 Why do you think that you are the best candidate for your Division or for Mayor?

Comment:

I believe elected representatives should represent the people they serve. I understand the importance of vision and strategy and the responsibility of making the right (and tough) decisions now, for our environment, our lifestyle and future generations. I have compassion and knowledge about many of the issues that Sunshine Coast is facing. I listen.

I am a great communicator. I have passion and drive and I am an energetic leader. I am strong and I will fight for our future as a leader.

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

Comment:

Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour

7 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

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

<p>Comment:</p> <p>All decision-making by elected representatives must follow these principles and the community demands and deserves councillors who conduct themselves appropriately. All of my decision-making will be framed around these principles and I will expect my team of councillors to do the same.</p>

9 If elected 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
advocate to ensure consistent, high-quality, professional outcomes by requiring the planning and execution of all Council-initiated community engagement processes to be oversighted by the community engagement team of the Council?	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, partnership funding for Land for Wildlife and other environment programs?	YES/NO	Yes

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

<p>Comment:</p> <p>Sustainable development achieves a balance between economic growth, environmental protection and social outcomes for residents. This should be the aim of all decisions. Now that the Sunshine Coast is a Biosphere, it is even more important that the human footprint coexists with the natural environment.</p>

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

<p>Comment:</p> <p>I am committed to open, transparent and trusted leadership and through the workings of all council staff. Reports should all be available to the community - if there is nothing to hide, there is nothing to hide. As Mayor, I would demonstrate and expect the highest standards of ethical behaviour.</p>

Climate Emergency

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

Comment:

Based on scientific assessments, the effects of Climate Change will be felt more intensely, with greater impact. Much of our community lives in low-lying and coastal areas. We must ensure our future development considers the impacts of intense storm-surges, erosion, bushfire, flooding and potential rising sea levels, before decisions are made. There should be no development in a flood plain.

13 Do you endorse the Climate Change Emergency Declaration made by the current Council and will you advocate for a review of the scope, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the current corporate performance mechanisms to give effect to the Declaration?

Comment:

Yes, it is important that we, as a Council, deliver a comprehensive plan of action that is reviewed annually to ensure accountability within the Corporate Plan, the Operational Plan and is budgeted for.

14 What role do you see for the SCRC and the Planning Scheme to accelerate the Sunshine Coast becoming a low emissions region by 2041?

Comment:

We can lobby State Government to encourage houses to be more energy efficient with energy-efficient hot water systems, lighting and appliance. Our street lighting can be energy-efficient. We can lead by example.

15 The Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS):

Will you ensure that the current CHAS is regularly updated as new Climate Change information and IPCC reports become available, and ensure CHAS updates are incorporated in the Planning Scheme as soon as possible after updates occur?

YES/NO

Yes

16 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Climate Emergency?

Comment:

Planning issues

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

Comment:

We must uphold the integrity of the Planning Scheme. However, when previous councils have rezoned parcels of land inappropriately, then it is within the scope of Public Interest to override the PS.

18 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

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
financial contributions in place of the provisions of onsite parking should not be allowed unless improvements are provided within 200 metres of the development?	YES/NO	Yes
longer public submission timeframes than the statutory minimum times concerning amendments of the PS and for the proposed new PS should be implemented and consultation time for the new PS should be longer than the statutory timeframes (currently a minimum of 40 business days) to allow time for the community to understand and make an informed response?	YES/NO	Yes
further development on the floodplains should be prohibited and not approved?	YES/NO	Yes
a thorough review of the proposed Draft of the new PS, including the assumptions underlying it and the provision of infrastructure on which the proposed Draft PS is relying should be undertaken by the new Council? These include for example, the proposed rate of population growth specified in the SEQ Regional Plan Update to be accommodated on the Sunshine Coast and the impact of that rate of population growth in the region including the increases in dwelling numbers and densities mandated in the Update.	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 as per the long-held view of the SCRC and supported by OSCAR?	YES/NO	Yes
there should be a level playing field for all quarry operations in the Sunshine Coast region by ensuring that the new PS has the same zoning for all quarry operations and the same level of development assessment for their operations?	YES/NO	Yes

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, the expansions of the Urban Footprint at Yandina, and the population and dwelling requirements for the Sunshine Coast region?

<p>Comment: The population and dwelling requirements outlined in the SEQ Regional Plan will change the character of the Sunshine Coast as we know it. I am committed to maintaining the character of our towns, and development should not come without the infrastructure to support it.</p>

20 Given the focus on increased densification via higher buildings and/or “gentle density” as per the SEQR2023 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 development”/“as of right”?	YES/NO	Yes
ensuring that SCRC undertakes a pilot project for higher density living that demonstrates the best in planning outcomes as per the ELS policy?	YES/NO	Yes

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:

If there is existing development, I will not support increasing density in those vulnerable areas. If there is no existing development, then no development should be approved.

22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

Future Planning Scheme must not encroach into the natural environment, all protections must be respected and it must be able to provide better-connected public transport, so there are less cars on the road. These are just some examples.

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 traditionally have been funded by the State and Australian Governments 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

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

<p>Comment:</p>

Thank you for your responses. We appreciate your time commitment to complete this survey.