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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:	Robinson	Given name:	Ashley
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	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: Declare all or any conflict

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

Comment: I've committed to hold mayoral forums in each division during first 12 months in office. I will establish a mayoral advice board drawn from expertise in the community to give me a perspective beyond that of the bureaucracy and their external consultants

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

Comment: I intend to listen first and act only after thorough consultation

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

Comment: I have a proven capacity to lead, to network to deliver outcomes as I have across business, community and sporting organisations
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6 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning this section of the survey?

Comment: I know business, I know the place and want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy the best of it. And I genuinely care about people

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?

Comment: I have always conducted myself both in business and the community within those parameters

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?

Comment: Respect the Planning Scheme and its intended outcomes

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

Comment: I will respect community input and the experience that sits behind that input. I will engage with as many qualified residents to take advice on important matters

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: Coastal inundation, flooding fire risk. Respect the Planning Scheme with regard to floodplain development

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 I do endorse it and will seek advice from Queensland Disaster Management as to whether we need to do more

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:

Lead by example. Transition vehicle fleet to hybrids, advocate for solar buses, encourage the use of design and materials to reduce air conditioning reliance and provide incentives where able

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:

Take advice outside the council to ensure our local government through its policies and actions is treating the issue with the seriousness it deserves. There is expertise in this community that should be tapped to keep the council on the ball

Planning issues

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

Comment:

It is only ever appropriate if it can be clearly proven to be in the community's best interest. The test of that must be rigorous, transparent and only after genuine consultation. That is why it is important to get the draft planning scheme right so that it accurately reflects the expectations of the Sunshine Coast community and gives proper regard to the growth we all appreciate is coming

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: Growth areas have to be identified along existing transport routes and to provide opportunities for affordable housing</p>
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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 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:

We can't keep putting development in areas of known constraints. Recent extreme weather in North Queensland came with an insured cost of \$1.2 billion and counting. Premiums in high-risk areas are already prohibitive and will climb. Given that the entire Sunshine Coast Council foreshore and many of its waterways fall under the definition it is a Planning Scheme issue that is best addressed through that document.

22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

I need to better understand what impact biosphere designation has had to date and how it may be better leveraged

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

Comment:

As I have said the entire campaign I intend to respect the Planning Scheme and do everything possible to protect and enhance this region's amenity.

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: We need to implement shorter time-frame solutions given the lack of funding and the time engineered infrastructure takes to be delivered. Work with developers to deliver safe, well-maintained bikeways and with the education department to reduce the number of parent drop-offs. I'm also looking at ways to reduce reliance on small-distance car travel which would help reduce congestion</p>
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Thank you for your responses. We appreciate your time commitment to complete this survey.