



Candidate survey – Noosa Shire Election 2024

Surname:	WILKIE	Given name:	FRANK
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	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:
All Councillors are required to fill out a register listing the assets and interests of family members to help clarify conflict of interest declarations

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

Comment:
Daily via email, phone, face to face, live-streamed meetings, by information sharing or broad public consultation for new policies and strategies and planning scheme amendments. In a manner appropriate to the proposed initiative.

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

Comment:
Having eight years experience as Deputy and Acting Mayor, I know how to work collaboratively with the community, fellow councillors and staff, within a Local Government framework to deliver projects and services for the Noosa Community. I can be doing this from day one.

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

Comment:
Experience matters. Local Government is a specialised field with the provision of services for residents and protection of our region's natural assets as key priorities. I have a proven track record of always acting in the best long-term interests of our community and environment.

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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>I have always worked professionally and respectfully with councillors and staff because it is the most effective way of making decisions that reflect the best long-term interests of residents and the local government area.</p>

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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>Meeting human housing and living needs in a way that also respects, preserves and enhances the natural assets and ecosystems of that Local Government Area. It is measured by the amount of land committed to conservation, the health of the waterways, numbers of fauna, quality of the air, quality of the drinking water, the health and happiness of the residents.</p>

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

<p>Comment:</p> <p>The material generated by local governments are publicly funded and therefore should be publicly available.</p>
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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:

Increased fire, flood and storm damage, more regular tidal inundation in certain areas, plus health issues caused by more intense heat. Early fire detection technology and early storm warning systems will allow residents and councils to prepare. The designs of key infrastructure must also take into account predicted water levels and the higher resilience needed. More trees and parks are needed where people can escape the heat.

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:

I was part of the council that endorsed the Declaration in 2019. It states "Council accepts the latest science on climate change provided in the October 2018 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and acknowledges that the Noosa Shire is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including heat waves, more intense storms and sea level rise all of which is likely to adversely affect the Noosa natural and human environment. Council therefore declares that we are in a 'Climate Emergency' which requires urgent action by all levels of government";

I still endorse its intent as Noosa Shire has already experienced more intense fire and flood as predicted. A review of all policies is a healthy idea when a new council is sworn in.

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:

Noosa council's main source of emissions is the landfill, generating some 60 percent of emissions. Council has introduced a third bin for green waste which has reduced organic matter going to landfill and generating methane. More methane extraction pipes have been installed which increased methane capture by 50 %. The methane is flared (to reduce greenhouse gas levels) and methane volumes will potentially reach a level that make it viable to generate power. Another bin for food waste to be anaerobically digested and converted into energy will further reduce emissions, but offsets will be needed to reach the 2026 target. The planning scheme will be useful in accommodating changes to transport and electricity practices.

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?

Comment:

Regardless of what you think the cause of climate change is, it is here, affecting our lives now and is being factored into council planning.

Planning issues

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

Comment:

When there is an overriding social, economic or environmental need for a development to occur that is not outweighed by any traffic, social, environmental or health hazard or negative impact on resident amenity that may be created by the development

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	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	
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	Yes
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:

More resourcing so Queensland's first local law to manage STAs can function fully as intended in Noosa.
Offering of incentives for STA owners to convert their businesses to long-term rentals.

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:

The population and dwelling targets can be achieved under current planning scheme settings. It was appreciated that the State clarified what they meant by 4-8 storeys and that they did not impose three storey unit development on every low density residential lot as presented in the draft plan.

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

Comment:

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:

The planning scheme does not support increases in the urban footprint

22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

The Biosphere designation was awarded because the planning scheme shaped an urban community where built and natural assets co-exist in a manner that respects and seeks to preserve the environment.

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

Comment:

Planning schemes are an agreement with, and are created after consultation with, the community. Planning decisions must always support the intent of the Planning Scheme and the community's aspirations. If the scheme settings are wrong and need to be changed to reflect changing community values, then change the scheme via amendments after public consultation, rather than make decisions which conflict with the planning scheme and the community's expectations.

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	
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	
<p>Comment: It would be more cost-effective and legally appropriate for the transport route owners Translink to continue investigating introducing a small, electric bus fleet to service the Noosa Region.</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: Paid parking for visitors, free for residents. Extension of the free weekend and holiday bus services to all year round.</p>

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

<p>Comment: Electric push bikes and scooters have revolutionised personal transport and significantly lowered the reliance on the private car for local transport. State Laws governing their use will need to be more stringent.</p>
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