

## Candidate survey – Noosa Shire Election 2024

Surname:	Bankes	Given name:	Mathieu
Position contesting:	Councillor		

- **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

- **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?**

Raise my conflict in the appropriate way.

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

I will attend existing community meetings and if no appropriate community meetings are available I will set them up for regular consultations to occur. I will be an active member of the community and a hands-on Councillor.

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

With a superior capacity to listen and understand people from all walks of life, I am compassionate to those in need and courageous against those who act with an agenda of self interest. With my youthful exuberance I will pave the way in the Noosa Council for community engagement, transparency, and advocate for the communities voice.

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

I am an Aussie battler, I'm a single dad with a 3 year old son, working multiple jobs while campaigning at the same time. I represent the more that 50% of our community who have just been making-ends-meet with the cost of living going up and up... in a community with so much prosperity, resources and intelligence, I know that together we can innovate solutions to make Noosa Shire a prosperous home for everyone.

## Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour

- 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

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

Everything and everyone has a part to play in the forming of any opinion, belief or decision. The above are simply legislations written by men who put their best foot forward at the time of writing them. That doesn't mean they are the absolute truth and cannot be amended, updated or improved as time goes on. I will honour them as they stand, and where I feel they require further reassessment I will follow the appropriate channels to make that happen also.

- 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

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

To me, sustainable development means; Development that is designed in a way that enriches and enhances the overall environment over a long period of time.

I'm not a geologist or environmental engineer, so I would be finding people who specialise in those fields and other relevant fields to work with Council to set clear parameters for the definition and measure of sustainable development to ensure new developments are designed in a way that enriches and enhances the overall environment over a long period of time.

This is one of those questions which is a good example of where, if a Councillor / Candidate is claiming to have 'the answer' when they have not had the relevant training and qualifications... then the only honest answer is to consult with professionals. I'll always keep it real with you.

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

I have envisioned a more robust system which makes all tasks, applications, complaints and communication to Council a public noticeboard which is categorised in priority of urgency and importance, where locals can view at anytime which will hold Council accountable, and also communicate to the local community exactly what step their inquiry is upto, and for what reason it is there and not currently further along. This will also help tak the pressure off Council because the community will be able to see immediately how their concerns are progressing, along with dates and processes of next steps. No more uncertainty and limitless unknown deadlines.

## Climate Emergency

- **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?**

Climate change isn't the problem. It is the symptom.

The problem is a culture that values profit above the health of people and the planet, and gaps in our technology that is keeping old unsustainable technologies in action.

We need to innovate new technologies that make the old technologies and systems obsolete.

Then we need to support our community in evolving their values.

Are there areas which are hurting our environment? YES!

Is it ok? NO!

Are there other options? Usually... but not always.

What we DO always have is an opportunity to innovate new technologies and systems to make the old systems obsolete.

When the cars were invented, it created a structural change that saw the removal of horse and carriage transportation.

The same is true for the (actual) problems which are causing 'climate change'.

- **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?**

I advocate for the review of all documents and declarations.

There was a priest, an atheist, and a tribesman sitting on a log.

All of a sudden, a bright light appeared before them and filled each of them with warmth.

The priest said "did you see that, God just appeared before us?!"

The atheist said "did you see that, something just combusted into a flame in front of us?!"

The tribesman said "did you see that, the spirit of the sand just blessed us?!"

Then Mat said, can you see how depending on the world-view of an individual, the same experience can be interpreted in completely different ways?

Every document and declaration is, and always be, open for review as it can be interpreted completely different based on the individual and collective world-view of those reviewing or setting them.

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

As above, for me to fulfill my role as Councillor, I will need to have an open dialogue with the local community to identify if that plan is in fact in the best interest of the community still, and it too will be open for further review.

If, after a review process, the plan still holds up as being in the best interest of the community, and supported by most, then it should support the attainment of that goal as it was intended to do.

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

After a tornado desimated my home town last week, after watching Cairns get torn to shreds recently, after a never ending barage of natural disasters, it is a high priority of mine to ensure climate emergency and preperation is taken very serious and proactively ahead of the game.
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## Planning issues

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

- 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	NA
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	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	NA
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	NA
Halls Creek should not be recommended for residential development and should remain part of the Inter-Urban Break?	YES/NO	NA
Do you support measures to curb the proliferation of Short Term Accommodation (STA)?	YES/NO	No

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

I would consult with locals and gather a bucket of innovative solutions and begin testing each

solution until we found one that created the perfect balance that Noosa Shire requires and is so clearly creaming out for. These trial and error processes are worth getting wrong at least a little while, so we can find what works faster!

It is the inaction, constant complaining and lack of innovation and tests that maintain issues with no solution for longer than they need. Let's fix it.

- 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?

NA

- 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

I don't know enough about this to make an informed comment, but it sounds beneficial on face value. I need to do more research on this.

- 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?

I will need more info before making an informed comment.

- How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

I will need more info before making an informed comment. - I have been given a stack of resources to read... ask me in a couple of weeks.

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

NA - my knowledge base is not vast on this topic currently, however, I am a quick learner and I will catch up to speed fast enough.

## Transport Infrastructure and Service

- 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	NA
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	Maybe
Comment:		



- **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?**

The number one, and most tangibly impactful achievement that would positively influence a lot of locals and visitors' lives would be developing underground carparking solutions that do not disturb the peace above ground, but caters for the Olympics and population growth for the next 100 years and eliminate paid parking in the Shire Council land completely.

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

NA