



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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

Surname:	Burns	Given name:	Tim
Position contesting:	Division 3		

1 About you:

Do you live in the Division for which you are standing?	YES/NO	No
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:

Abide by the Local Government Act and Code of Conduct and declare any potential conflict of interest and excuse myself from decision making etc regarding it.

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

Comment:

As regularly as practical in both in person form (attending community meetings, events, door knocking, through daily life etc) and via written form (newsletter or similar, social media). If needed, utilising my skills and experience as a trained Community Engagement professional to better understand community idea, sentiments etc.

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

Comment:

As mentioned in q4, plus where necessary engage with other councillors, Council exec and staff with expertise to better understand situations, seek out alternative opinions and understanding to expand my understanding or appreciation, feedback with concerned groups/residents, advocate for the community in the clearest and accurate form I can that might see adjustments community considerations taken into account. It's also vital to do this, in a way that continues to consider the whole region. Otherwise we may end up with piecemeal decisions that impact on other areas of the coast unnecessarily.

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

Comment:

I have over 20 years working with communities and groups of people in diverse settings in ways that have supported them to thrive and see changes occur they aspired too. My skills, experience and personality allow me to curiously explore situations alongside people and seek out reasonable/sensible outcomes. The role of councillor is a natural extension of my commitment and strong connections to people and groups at the local level, and is not from an aspiration to be a politician. Having led the Community Development team at Sunshine Coast Council for the last 4 years, I also have the understanding of council processes, strategies and plans and have a positive reputation for respectful and innovative collaboration with groups across the organisation. I believe we're better and stronger together, and working alongside people with the lived experience is a core pillar of my practice. I'm also well known for not taking myself too seriously and love to laugh with others which makes me approachable and humble.

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?

Comment:

By ensuring my conduct reflects the principles and regulations/legislation required of a councillor. The Act provides clear directions regarding conflicts of interest (perceived, potential or actual) and the responsibility of a councillor to declare that and where necessary, excuse themselves from decision making functions. I pride myself on my integrity and character and these elements will support my alignment to the Local Government Act.

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:

The Sustainable Development Goals are already being used as a consistent measurement tool across council to better understand the diversity of sustainability as a region. I support the ongoing use of this framework for consistency sake. There are other more technical measures that will align to certain industries that clarify sustainable outcomes or expectations too, and these need to continue to be utilised to ensure best practice. Sustainable development to me means considerations of environment, community and economy as we progress. Each in balance and support of the other. To me, sustainable development considers both means and end to ensure corners are not cut in the pursuit of a particular outcome.

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

Comment:

I'm confident that the legislation and regulations, best practice governance that is held at council, the public processes that allow transparency and the incredibly important community interest in the future of the SC, will ensure the continuation of ethical behaviour and decision making in the interest of the entire region.

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:

Any rise in sea level will have a devastating impact on our region. Further, increase in regularity and severity of weather events will test the resilient capacity (ability to bounce back better) of the region. This will impact on businesses and overall economy. Further impacts on our fauna and flora could be significant too particularly as different habitats and ecosystems become strained. Council is currently already considering these and more impacts and planning for what potential organisational and regional changes, adaptations, mitigations need to be put in place now, to better prepare us for the challenges ahead. SCRC are and should continue to work on measures across local government boundaries (eg Noosa Shire Council, Moreton City) and with State/Federal governments and local partners. Allow the science to direct and shape future considerations and decisions too. How and where we build matters, protection and enhancement of existing natural spaces (Blue Heart project, our dunal systems, wildlife corridors, bushland etc). It will inevitably require behaviour change on all our behalf too.

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 support it and believe it provides impetus and focus to continue shaping the work of council into the future.

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:

The Planning Scheme is an important instrument for supporting a low emissions region by 2041 through the consideration of how our region can and will be developed and planned for the future. This means how and where we can accommodate the projected growth in population for the coast. To this end, the better we develop around existing services and business centres, will allow people to live and access things more locally without the need to travel longer distances by car etc. The PS can also support improvements to public and active transport infrastructure which can help reduce emissions overall. Potential improvement in building standards and material can reduce emissions too.

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
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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:

I have limited understanding of overriding 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	
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:</p> <p>In regards to population and dwelling requirements for the future, I understand we will need to accommodate more people and do this in a way that supports existing quality of life and potentially enhances the lifestyle. I support sharing the population and dwelling requirements across the region, protecting natural advantages that exist (dunal systems, flood plains, bushland etc). Thoughtful development considering services, amenity, diversity of housing stock etc is vital to find balance.</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	

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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>I think it's important we consider the risk of erosion prone areas as well as future risks relating to climate change. Therefore, I will be active in understanding and questioning development in areas that are considered at risk.</p>

22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

The Biosphere relates to a complete understanding of what living on the coast entails- environmental, social, economic, cultural etc. Therefore, the PS can absolutely support the biosphere through upholding the range of considerations required to be a successful biosphere. It can encourage broader consideration of applications through the various lenses afforded by the biosphere.

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

Comment:

I'm unsure about the pilot project suggestion in q20.

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	
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?

Comment:

In regard to reassessment and exploration of options for transport, I think it reasonable and necessary to do this, however, I think it's vital to ensure the solutions we seek are not for what is best for now. Rather, we need to be considering which solutions will best support the forecast population growth and that won't require upgrades or further changes in the future. What is the best way to future proof our transport and do the job, hopefully, once! Active and accessible transport are absolutely vital elements for me. Transport needs to consider equity principles and will support not only residents, but visitors to the region as well. Transport changes will also support aspirations towards emission's reduction and climate responses and will support the region significantly into the future. The better our transport system, the less reliance on cars, the less parking concerns in residential areas and the busier business areas. It makes sense.

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