



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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:	CAMPIN	Given name:	SUZIE
Position contesting:	Division 9		

1 About you:

Do you live in the Division for which you are standing?	YES/NO	
Are you a member of a registered political party?	YES/NO	Yes
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:

I can't envisage this situation but if it arises I will declare a Conflict of Interest.

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

Comment:

I would aim to establish an office in Division 9 and to have venues booked throughout the Division for regular meetings. I would present updates in local media and social media regularly, attend community meetings and look for other opportunities to engage and listen. I would take advice from Division 9 residents on how to best engage with them. I would aim to develop new engagement practices that could feed into and improve the Council's existing engagement programs, some of which need an overhaul.

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

Comment:

I would seek to meet with Division 9 residents early in my term to reaffirm priorities. A lot of research (some good) is paid for by the Council but I wonder how much is actually used. I would analyse, evaluate and gather evidence-based information on those priorities and take all steps to build those into the Council's strategic framework - strategies, the planning scheme and State and Federal policies and strategies. I would prepare new proposals. I would take informed advice from Council staff. Once needs are agreed, shared and consulted on and developed into action plans or programs I would work through the Council processes to advocate for budget. I would recognise the input of the community in meeting the proposed outputs and outcomes and keep all my council work transparent and shared other than details I legally couldn't disclose.

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

Comment:

Division 9 has unique challenges and a wide mix of communities and environments. I am standing because I feel we need the type of training and work experience I offer. Strong negotiations will be needed to avoid cost shifting that has started from Federal to State to local ratepayers. I am well equipped to represent Division 9 and the Council as a whole in such situations. The challenges we face are to do with rapid growth that we haven't been prepared for, the need to change the Council staff culture, managing an increasingly powerful and forceful private development sector, addressing the increasing quality-of-life divide that is exposing the working poor, the need for new creative, interdisciplinary, technological perspectives and a rise in community expectations to truly be heard. I have worked as a town planner, development project manager, scientist/geographer, researcher, arts administrator, art guide and small business owner-operator. Working with charities and local communities I have raised funds for social housing, families in crisis, youth at risk, drug rehabilitation, disability support, migrant support, arts and culture, and heritage. I have the background and determination to deliver the best results for the community. I know what good government looks like and how to make that happen. In this election I offer new ideas, new energy and action NOW.

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

Comment:

I currently live outside Eumundi near Doonan at the boundary of Division 9 and 10 and near the Noosa Council boundary. I am in the Eumundi -Doonan Plan Area that includes Division 9 and 10 have been part of the Eumundi-Doonan and Ninderry areas and communities for almost 25 years.

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:

The principles provide oversight and promote ethical behaviour and practice. They are legally binding.

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

Comment:

The Planning Act 2016 defines ecological sustainability as a balance that integrates the protection of ecological processes and natural systems at local, regional, State, and wider levels, economic development and the maintenance of the cultural, economic, physical and social wellbeing of people and communities. Section 3 (2).

Sustainable development is internationally defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (United Nation's World Commission on Economic Development (Brundtland Commission) in 1987. This definition has endured the test of time and remains a benchmark against which new perspectives on sustainable development can be debated and extend understanding. Definitions can also be developed at different scale such that local definitions might include specific, bespoke details. I would use State of the Environment Reports and regular monitoring to assess achievement of sustainability.

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

Comment:

Third dot point of Q9 - I will advocate to ensure consistent, high quality and professional outcomes through all means available to me as a Councillor beyond the over-sight of the Council's Community Engagement team.

Fourth dot point of Q9 - I will commit to thorough and informed scrutiny of projects and expenditure and the overall budget.

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:

This is a big topic. Here are some responses.

Danger and health impacts of severe weather (flood, fire, wind, outages) - prepare communities, have emergency services on the ready, help those in need to live comfortably in extreme conditions.

Coastal erosion - keep development away from the shoreline and preserve coastal ecosystems and habitat assisting natural processes where possible, research e.g. participation in the Sunshine Coast Noosa Regional Coastal Process Modelling research project to prediction sand and sediment movement and protect vulnerable areas.

Floods and land erosion - inundation and landform change. Plan for these changes, stop development in flood prone and landslide areas and revise risk maps.

Pests - we are likely to see more tropical diseases and disease vectors (eg. mosquitos). There will be a need for new and innovative interventions.

Models and Flagship Projects - If these projects proceed I would seek that both Blue Heart and the Biosphere show clear ability to avoid, mitigate or remedy environmental harm within the next term of the Council. They must be much more than tourism attractions.

Community agency - support community groups in their work and encourage local responsibility

Mitigation - move to zero emissions within the Council and require this to be demonstrated in all development applications. In some cases this would be a simple statement by the applicant. Large development proposals will need to demonstrate their carbon-footprint very clearly beyond "off-sets".

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 would seek regular reporting on these matters to the community, State and Federal Government and International bodies. I would seek to learn from the many signatories to the declaration worldwide to ensure our participation is more than a press release. I would advocate for the Council to walk the talk.

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 SCRC operations and regulations, and the planning scheme can play a large role in becoming a low emissions region. Education and supporting community behavioural change (not just recycling also minimising container usage, container choices, housing material choices), retain green spaces, waste management choices (the Material Recovery Facilities, Resource Recovery Centres, e.g. separating green and organic waste) move to low emission energy sources, require local solar and energy storage facilities (shared community batteries) work with partners to quickly improve public transport, provide a state-of-the-art electric bus fleet ensuring high commuter use and hinterland connectivity, Tiny Living.

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:

Community organisations such as OSCAR, Development Watch, The Beach Matters Group, Coolum and North Shore Coast Care, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Sunshine Coast and Hinterland, Surfers for Climate and others should be invited to a regular summit to share their hands-on knowledge of the impacts of climate change as part of regular reviews of the SCRC performance on the CCE Declaration. The Council should fund these organisation to build their expertise through research, education, travel and knowledge exchange. The Council operations should be a shining example of what can be done beyond rhetoric and each portfolios in the SCRC should have lifting targets.

Planning issues

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

Comment:

Virtually never. A huge amount of evidence-based research, work, funding and community time ideally goes into finalising a planning scheme. Council programs, resources, budgets and the organisational structure often reflect the priorities agreed and implemented through the planning scheme. It is the blue-print against which decisions about sustainable actions are made. Sometimes there may be State and Federal government intervention for safeguards (related to biodiversity for example) but the odds are these issues/risks were considered in establishing the planning scheme. I understand Priority Development Areas can speed up assessment processes but they diminish the community voice and can be seen as politically expedient.

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	

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
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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: This is an extensive question. I am happy to respond separately. I am concerned there is little known about the Northern Sunshine Coast let alone the Northern Sub-region. Population projections based on historical trends that are not agreed with communities can topple governments and just might.</p>

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?**

<p>Comment: Yes I would oppose this and implement it through the Planning Scheme.</p>
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22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

<p>Comment: Another big important question. Be informed by evidence-based defensible science, be based on inbuilt modelling assumptions that recognise community choice not just past trends, provide wildlife corridors, provide for local government partnerships across boundaries for Ecologically Sustainable Development outcomes, provide buffer zones around critical habitat where sea level rise may threaten. Consider innovative approaches to “zoning” that encourage those in the Biosphere to act as custodians. Ensure that cultural elements, for example artisanal and indigenous farming practices, are revived and celebrated where possible.</p>
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23 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Planning Issues?

<p>Comment: Car-parking spaces should not always be required when high frequency/high connectivity electric buses are a serious factor in planning decisions. New technology and business models such as Green Car Pools linked to developments need to be considered along with small footprint tiny houses and tiny living.</p>
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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	
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	No
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?

Comment:

First dot point in Q24. I'm not convinced that any of the proposed current regional transport projects are soundly based, include assumptions that are widely agreed or have the answer.

Second dot point of Q24. I agree that accurate budgeting etc is required by am not sure the required plan or mixture of projects is known

Third dot point - Any Olympic or Paralympic projects must involve impact assessments including social impact assessment on the communities involved.

Last dot point - public transport needs to be a priority in any transport infrastructure projects

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