



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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

Surname:	Dickson	Given name:	Christian
Position contesting:	Division 6		

### 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	N/A

### 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 the conflict and remove myself from the matter entirely. There is no room for error and you must uphold the highest levels of integrity.

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

Comment:

Meeting with residents at their homes and seeing issues first hand is what I do well. Whilst being out and about is helpful, I also carry out letter box dropping of newsletters which are self funded and also regular social media engagements. I am always open to ways to engage in new ways.

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

Comment:

I believe listening to people and hearing their concerns is the best way to understand how they feel and what's important to them. To that end, I am very much in touch with the key issues in my area and am well advanced in resolving them.

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

Comment:

I lead my role with heart and the conviction to stand up for issues, even when I am standing alone. Ensuring I am not a politician, but a peoples representative in council keeps me grounded and close to our people. I have youth, experience and resilience as key offers. I also approach my tasks with a "never give up" attitude.

### 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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>The rules outlined in the local government act are paramount and fundamental to everything you do as a councillor. With a very strong track record in this area, I have a deep understanding of what I must do and how I should carry myself as a local representative.</p>
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### 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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>The question should be changed to "What is our carrying capacity?". Right now, I don't believe we are living a sustainable lifestyle. Key infrastructure projects are lacking from all levels of government, council included. More must be done to provide better public transport, parklands, open space, power and water security and developments that don't worsen environmental outcomes. We have a long way to go before we can say we are sustainably developing. My question is how many people can the coast carry? Surely we must stop developing until infrastructure catches up at a minimum.</p>
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### 11 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>I have no concerns or issues raised against me in this regard. I will continue to uphold the standards set upon councillors.</p>
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## 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:**

Sea levels rising and temperature changes are key issues for the community and all levels of government. Council should be careful to ensure developable land is appropriate and well documented as suitable for development purposes. Building upon the beach or sand dunes should surely be out of the equation. Planting more trees and reducing our reliance on concrete structures should be a focus. Good building and urban design is crucial for us moving forward.

### 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:**

Whilst I support the decision, i think much more can be done. When was it ever a bad thing to improve our environmental credentials and improve the planet. We should be reviewing our actions and goals and ensuring that things are progressing in a measured way.

### 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:**

There is certainly a clear link between the planning scheme and becoming a low emissions region. I don't believe this work has been completed, nor do I believe the community is on the journey. This will require a serious public transport strategy underpinned by significant investment into better busses, heavy rail and services close to homes. I am not convinced that we should have all of our growth on the coastal corridor and this may run at odds with becoming a low emission region. There is a careful balance and much discussion to be had.

### 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:**

This is something that I have carefully considered in my time as a councillor. Overriding community benefit is often coined as the term used in overriding the planning scheme, but it is never as simple as that. We must rely on professional advice and guidance for these decisions. There must also be matters of significant weight such as social, environmental or economic significance as major factors. For me, community engagement and feedback from the entire region is vital in weighing up planning changes.

### 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?

#### Comment:

I am yet to see or receive any advocacy from residents in regards to Yandina. This said, what I am hearing is that people don't support the State Government directed population figures. This is due to a significant lack of infrastructure and also the detriment to the quality of life here on the Sunshine Coast. I am prepared to push back on these numbers as it will be difficult to accommodate all the growth without negatively impacting our region. There must be a review of growth and perhaps a stronger focus on railway towns. I'd also like to see a review of small lot subdivisions (1 into 3 etc) and the accomodation of tiny homes.

**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:**

Yes - By not supporting development in these areas as explained above.

**22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?**

**Comment:**

By providing well thought out examples of development that are sympathetic and meet the requirements of locals. The Biosphere should be holding council to a higher standard with regards to where and how development occurs.

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

**Comment:**

Slow development and growth until government commitments are made to deliver infrastructure. Allow small lot subdivisions to provide larger lots. Support tiny homes and new ways of living.

## 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><b>Comment:</b>  I voted against light rail in 2021. I believe we require a rapid bus network, more services across the entire region, heavy rail to Maroochydore and also projects like the Mooloolah River Interchange.</p>
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Thank you for your responses. We appreciate your time commitment to complete this survey.