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

Surname:	Hungerford	Given name:	Ted
Position contesting:	Councillor, Division 7		

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	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 will declare them on the floor of Council and if necessary remove myself from chambers.

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

Comment: I will continue to engage with the community of Division 7 through attending onsite meetings to resolve issues and I currently attend as many Community Group meetings as physically possible. In addition, I currently produce, and have done so for the past 20 years, a bi-annual newsletter. My Newsletter is personally funded and delivered to Division 7's almost 14,000 mailboxes at no cost to the community. See my website for my Newsletters: www.tedhungerford.com

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

Comment: As Division 7 Councillor I will continue to work in a constructive and collaborative manner with my fellow Councillors to deliver as many services and projects to the community of division 7.

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

Comment: I am self-funded and do not take any donations for my campaign. This enables me to represent my community without any compromises or favours.

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

Comment:

I stand on my experience and record of serving this community for the past 20 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:

I have studied the Local Government Act and I was the first Sunshine Coast Councillor to complete the LGAQ Diploma of Local Government (Elected Member). For the past four years, I have successfully held the Governance Portfolio.

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:

Sustainable development is development that is in alignment with the Town Plan.

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

Comment:

For the last four years I have served on the Audit Committee as the Finance Portfolio holder. The Queensland Audit Office and Queensland Treasury annually audit Council's Financial Statements. We have received 15 annual unmodified audits in a row and Queensland Treasury has given the Sunshine Coast Council the highest credit rating possible, Strong with Neutral Rating.

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:

The key impacts will be increased flooding events, longer droughts, sea level rise and energy deficiencies. To combat climate change the Valdora Solar Farm was built. It offsets an average of 105% of Council's total electricity usage. At Council waste disposal sites, gas flaring is used to generate electricity. The Council buildings have light sensors to minimise electricity use and Council continues to expand solar panel installation on Council buildings. However, I advocate that there is always more that can be done.

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 voted in support of the Climate Change Emergency Declaration. In fact, it was a unanimous vote of council.

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:

If re-elected, I will continue to support the expansion of the above initiatives.

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:

In the future, we cannot predict the challenges that are unknown. I will work together with my fellow councillors to face the challenges that arise.

Planning issues

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

Comment:

Overriding the Planning Scheme should be the exception to the rule and done only when there is a clear overriding community benefit.

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
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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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>I have concerns with these projections. I would like to see us advocate in the new planning scheme these concerns about the increase in densities.</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	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, I oppose increases in the urban footprint. It concerns me that there are those that are advocating to abolish the Blue Heart and are demanding rezoning of this area. This would allow development in one of the largest flood plains on the Sunshine Coast. This is absolutely crazy and must be opposed.

22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

By upholding the balance between environmental reserves and residential communities.

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

Comment:

Sunshine Coast Councillors can and should advocate strongly. At the end of the day, it is the State Government who can dictate the planning provisions as the State is in control of planning in Queensland.

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

Comment:

I will strongly advocate for constructive and collaborative approach with the State and Federal Governments in rolling out these much-needed projects for the Sunshine Coast.

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