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

Surname:	HYMAN	Given name:	KATHRYN
Position contesting:	Division 8		

### 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	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:

Provisions under the Local Gov't Act provide for dealing with conflicts of interest and I will abide by same

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

Comment:

All manners including, by email, social media, and in person at community events and avarious aassociation general meetings (I already do this!) - I will also block my calendar to locate myself throughout Division 8 and advertise this in order that I am accessable within my community on a regular basis.

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

Comment:

Targeted engagement and information sharing that is timely and predictive of community needs and expectations.

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

Comment:

I have a track record advocating for community.

I have been committed to all things community and local government and for 8 years have been on the executive committee of OSCAR INC. I have gained a keen insight and education in the importance of governance and process in decision making and that of the public purse expenditure. Having a good understanding of the technical aspects of planning, the vernacular, the science, and that I can speak their language makes me job ready. I'm not a career politician and have never been part of a political party, I'm committed to Divion 8 and local government. My track record speaks for itself.

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

**Comment:**

I have also gleaned a very good understanding of the technical aspects of planning and have analysed many flood, traffic and groundwater models. I have a keen technical understanding of the dynamic system we live in and the constraints of our local environment. I am also very active and knowledgeable in the insurance and risk exposure and have organised two insurance law reform seminars at USC of interest residents of our vulnerable coastal communities throughout Division 8. These are issues impacting all residents of Division 8 as low lying vulnerable coastal communities.

If elected I will fight for what is right and expected when planning for communities, and those throughout Division 8 as I have been for many years unelected, and voluntarily of my own volition and with passion only for the public interest.

## 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:**

To remain impartial as per the principles enshrined in the Act including transparency and respect for all stakeholders and their various positions.

### 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:**

A balance that TRULY integrates the social, environmental and economic needs of our communities as per the Planning Act. I look to environmentalism in decision making.

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

**Comment:**

Impartiality is key - too often I have seen different rules for different land owners depending 'who' owns said land

## 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:**

Defence and protection of our assets to ensure insurability into the future. Corridores and retreat paths for our wildlife enhanced and protected. Resilience measures and mitigation of our communities, not just assets owned by foreign conglomerates. Retaining the remaining floodplains to perform their natural function is best practice.

**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, as above.

**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:**

Reducing our use of diesel as an organisation and keeping ahead with transition methods such as electric vehicles sooner being sourced by renewables not coal fired stations.

**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:**

The CHAS has already missed three planning triggers for review of the document - this is problematic as State Planning Policy, our Scheme and our CHAS recognise IPCC as best available science though latest figures, reports and triggers have not been brought through the various frameworks, policies and strategies as they should.

## Planning issues

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

**Comment:**

Very rare circumstances - there is a proper process to amend the Planning Scheme which does not include at the DA phase and we see this all too often resulting in costly litigation that taxes our communities in many ways.

### 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:**

When analysing growth projections and data produced by the Statisticians Office against current dwelling approvals it is apparent that developers need to release land to the market in a way that is affordable - we already have almost half the dwelling approvals required to meet growth forecasts. Pressure and an MOU should be implemented between council and developers that expects a timely release of lot approvals in line with affordable housing needs, and needs for social and diversified housing. This should take urgent priority given the affordable housing crisis.

**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:**

Volumes of literature and data and science supports this position - to proceed under the circumstance will create an insurmountable economic burden on the next generation. How? By referring to the various overarching legislation and policy documents to hold all decision makers to planning with vision and account. Council has a duty of care where risk is disclosed and present to make decisions accordingly.

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

**Comment:**

Balanced development and long term vision.

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

**Comment:**

The new scheme will need robust scientific methodology that must be adhered to. Our council is far too generous with the big end of town and we are seeing inappropriate development being approved as a result.

## 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> The need for improved timetabling and additional routes and destinations is urgent - Hinterland to Nambour - Nambour to the Coast - and the Airport. People and visitors are stuck and will be for a long time but have no alternative. This is urgent as it is impacting access to employment, health care and other important day to day issues for local people and our tourists visiting our beautiful area and spending their hard earned holiday dollars in our communities and our businesses.</p>
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Thank you for your responses. We appreciate your time commitment to complete this survey.