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Candidate survey – Noosa Shire Election 2024

Surname:	Jacobs	Given name:	Fiona
Position contesting:	Noosa Shire Councillor		

1. About you:

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: I will adhere to ethical standards and recuse myself from any decision-making processes where there is a potential conflict. I will prioritise the best interests of the community above personal or familial interests and will proactively disclose any potential conflicts to ensure accountability and trust in my role as a councillor.

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

Comment: If elected, I intend to engage with the communities in Noosa Shire through, community forums, social media outreach, and by actively listening to the concerns and ideas of constituents. For Hinterland communities I plan to arrange regular meetings at a community facility for convenient engagement.

4. Why do you think that you are the best candidate for the position you are contesting?

Comment: I genuinely care about the people in my community. I believe my background as a Registered Nurse, along with a proven track record of influencing State Legislation uniquely qualifies me as a Councillor. I also have been affected personally by the proliferation Short Stay Accommodation so understand how this has affected our community.

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

Comment: Noosa Biosphere is a unique and special place . It must be protected. I am committed to ensuring that we protect our green spaces and National Parks.

Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour

6. 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

7. How do you see the above influencing your decision-making?

Comment: Following the principles of local government, such as prioritising transparency and effectiveness, ensuring sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, delivering effective services, promoting democratic representation, social inclusion, and meaningful community engagement, practicing good governance, and upholding ethical and legal behaviour among councillors, would ensure that my decision making aligns with the public interest. This, in turn, would foster trust within the community and contribute to the overall well-being and development of the region.

8. 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
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, support for the Council's Voluntary Conservation Agreement Programs and the provision of funding to the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Trust?	YES/NO	YES

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

Comment:
Sustainable development means meeting today's needs without harming future generations. We measure it by looking at factors like economic growth, social well-being, and environmental health, using indicators such as poverty rates, carbon emissions, and biodiversity. We also consider qualitative aspects like community involvement and effective governance. The development of Destination Management Plan is an important step in achieving sustainable development.

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

Comment:
Upholding these principles ensures accountability, fosters trust among residents, and promotes a fair and just society.

Climate Emergency

11. What do you see as the key impacts of Climate Change on the Sunshine Coast and how should Noosa Council deal with this now and into the future?

Impacts of climate change on the Sunshine Coast, including Noosa, include more frequent and intense extreme weather events such as storms, floods, and heatwaves, sea-level rise leading to coastal erosion and inundation, changes in rainfall patterns affecting agriculture and water resources, and threats to biodiversity and ecosystems.

To address these challenges, Noosa Council has adopted the comprehensive Noosa Climate Change Response Plan that includes mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Any upgrades in infrastructure should be designed to withstand extreme weather events and be built with climate change in mind. Engaging with the community to raise awareness and promote more sustainable practices is essential for long-term resilience and adaptation to climate change.

12. Do you endorse the Climate Change Emergency Declaration made by the Council in 2019 and will you advocate for a review of its scope, effectiveness, transparency and accountability to give effect to the Declaration?

Comment: The Climate Change Emergency Declaration is an aspirational document . I would support a review to assess all of the above.

13. What role do you see for the Noosa Council and its Planning Scheme to accelerate the LGA achieving net zero emissions by 2026?

Comment:

I believe achieving net zero emissions by 2026 may be ambitious, Noosa Council and its Planning Scheme can still play a crucial role in advancing sustainability efforts. This should involve setting realistic emission reduction targets, integrating renewable energy sources into urban planning and development, incentivising green building practices, promoting sustainable transportation options, and collaborating with local businesses and communities to adopt eco-friendly practices. While achieving net zero emissions by 2026 may be challenging, taking proactive steps towards sustainability is still valuable in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

14. The Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan (CHAP):

Will you ensure that the current CHAP is regularly updated as new Climate Change information and IPCC reports become available, and ensure CHAP updates are incorporated in the Planning Scheme?	YES/NO	YES
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15. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Climate Emergency?

Comment: NO

Planning issues

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

Comment: My understanding is there must be an overriding need in the public interest and comprehensive community consultation.

17. 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
applicants wishing to lodge a DA that substantially does not comply, or seeks to override the PS, with or without a proposed amendment to the Scheme should only be permitted to lodge a DA following a successful appropriate Scheme amendment?	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
longer public submission timeframes than the statutory minimum times concerning amendments to the PS should be implemented to allow time for the community to understand and make an informed response?	YES/NO	YES
further development on floodplains should be prohibited and not approved?	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?	YES/NO	YES
Do you support measures to curb the proliferation of Short Term Accommodation (STA)?	YES/NO	YES

18. What measures would you propose to reduce the impact of STAs on the liveability of the Noosa Shire?

Comment:

Ensure visitors, STA owners and Council staff, are aware of Council's commitment to implementing the provisions of the Local Law.

Enforce existing Local Laws in a timely and efficient manner and issue fines for non compliance.

Ensure council seek and consider submissions from neighbours when approvals for STA are considered.

Undertake a comprehensive review, of operation and effectiveness of the STA Local Law by August 2024.

No more STA approvals in any residential zones.

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 and the population and dwelling requirements for the Noosa region?

Comment:

Quite frankly Noosa is in trouble should we see the predicted population increase suggested in the SEQ plan. We have an affordable housing crisis currently, this will only worsen with a further 11k people expected by 2026 and 19k people by 2046.

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” or “as of right” development?

YES/NO

YES

Comment:

Detailed definition and comprehensive guidelines are needed before "gentle density " is written into our planning scheme. My commitment to including this type of development into the planning scheme would depend on the definition and guidelines adopted.

**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 implementing stricter zoning laws that prohibit certain types of development in erosion-prone areas, promoting low-impact development practices, incentivising alternative building materials and designs that are resilient to coastal hazards, and enhancing public awareness.

Investing in coastal protection and restoration projects could further mitigate the impacts of erosion and other coastal hazards.

22. How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

By prioritising conservation and sustainable development practices.


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

Comment:

Planning issues are crucial for shaping the future of Noosa's Biosphere. It's important to prioritise sustainability, resilience, environment and residential amenity. Community consultation in planning decisions is vital to ensure the well-being of both current and future generations. I look forward to reading and participating in the next phase of The Destination Management Plan .

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	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	
that ratepayers should not be subsidising major infrastructure projects that have been traditionally funded by the State Government 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
Would you advocate for the Noosa Council to own and manage its own small, electric bus fleet to service the Noosa region?	YES/NO	YES YES YES
Comment: Translink and Noosa Council to work on an agreement that provides a unique and world class service for the whole of Noosa Shire.		

25. Given the community is calling for a “transformational” approach to address Noosa’s transport and traffic issues, what specific proposals do you advocate to address the problem?

Comment: Paid parking in high traffic areas with free parking for rate payers.
Noosa Council small bus fleet to use for various services across the shire.

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

Comment: Introduce electric buses now.