



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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

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|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Surname: | Law | Given name: | David |
| Position contesting: | Division 10 | | |

1 About you:

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| 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 | |

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:

Not applicable.

Since being elected I have never missed any council business or vote due to a conflict of interest and this will continue

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

Comment:

I will continue to hold regular drop in sessions in every town of division 10. I have provided this service twice a year in every town. I also give away native trees at these drop in sessions to generate above average interest in a councillor drop in session. I attend as many community meetings as possible every month and with five main towns in division 10 this is demanding, but will continue.

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

Comment:

Through active listening I will provide a strong voice for the community perspective on all issues. I will continue to improve the funding for the Hinterland by ensuring no more Region Building projects and focusing on the maintenance and renewal of the hinterland infrastructure. Footpaths, playgrounds, parks and gardens open space and the sealing of gravel roads.

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

Comment:

I work hard, inspire positive change, genuinely care about the communities of Nambour and Division 10. I belong to this place and have helped bring about real improvements over the past four years. Nambour's entertainment sector is taking off; I've been guiding this process and want to continue.

I've built strong relationships with migrants, First Nations, business leaders, artists, musicians, the very wealthy and the rough sleepers. I really am 'here for good', fully independent with no conflicts of interest.

I have never belonged to a political party or organisation and I will represent the community and not political ideology.

I only own the home I live in and I do not have any interests in construction or development companies.

Therefore I can freely and effectively represent all people in division 10. I will always be present for every meeting and vote as I will not have a conflict of interest.

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

Comment:
no

Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour

7 Are you aware of:

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| 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:
Ethical decision making with integrity is how I have always operated throughout my whole professional career in disability services and the past four years as councillor has not been any different. This will continue.

9 If elected will you:

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| 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 created by creating dwellings and commercial opportunities where the services already exist. It is not allowing urban sprawl and ensure no increase to the urban footprint. Noting that the State disregard community feedback and increase the urban footprint regardless. I will lobby to reverse these decisions.

Building dwellings and commercial property that are located on the block in the best way to utilise the natural light and air flows to reduce the need for artificial cooling and heating.

Use the principals in the yellow design book

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

Comment:

This must be led by the elected representatives to demonstrate every day integrity that is beyond relying on the minimal requirements of the legislation and regulations. Integrity goes well beyond the minimum required.

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:

SCRC needs to stop contributing to emissions, by stopping organic matter going into landfill, improving the effectiveness of recycling and consequently reducing landfill to zero. Vegetation removal to be minimised by stopping urban sprawl. Reducing emissions from the vehicle fleet by transitioning to zero emission vehicles

Sea level rise will occur in the future and the CHAS must be updated to reflect the new data. Construction on flood plains and in the sea level rise zones must not occur.

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 wrote the motion in council to have the declaration made and I achieved a unanimous decision against all odds. There is a lot still to do but the foundational frameworks and policy are in place to impact the whole organisation.

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:

I do not see the planning scheme providing much support for reducing emissions, it favours business as usual rather than the creative future vision. E.G. It is not possible to demand energy efficient buildings to occur with charging stations for electric vehicles. The developer will appeal to the P&E courts and claim the conditions are unreasonable. E.G. the recently approved hotel in Mooloolaba was not conditioned to provide a 5 star green building.

Council needs to remove all organic waste from land fill so that the production of CO2 in the future eventually stops. Landfill CO2 is the biggest source of emissions of the council. Next all land fill must advance to zero.

The council has a leadership role to demonstrate how to become zero emissions

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:

I work to have the council collaborate with the community to make the Sunshine Coast region as a whole Zero Net Emissions by 2041 or earlier if this is possible. Council must lead and have others follow to reduce their emissions. This will need to include the state government to improve and provide a zero emissions public transport network.

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 difficult to achieve with the developer or land owner able to appeal to another body being the P&E courts. Furthermore as landowners have demonstrated lobby state ministers to override the council strategic planning. E.G. The surf ranch behind Coolum on flood plain. E.G. Land Owners lobbying the minister and local MP not to support the inter urban break. So we are still at risk of development in this special area RAMSAR.

18 Do you agree that:

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| 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 |

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| 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?

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| <p>Comment:</p> <p>The expansion of the urban footprint to the north of Yandina was not put forward by the State for consultation with the community. This was an addition by the State in isolation after the consultation period without any consideration for the community wishes. A disgraceful act by the State. I do not support this addition to the urban footprint.</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:

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| 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?

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| <p>Comment:</p> <p>Yes, by ensuring the strategic planning team are directed by the CEO to ensure that the council position is upheld.</p> |
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22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

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| <p>Comment:</p> <p>By providing dwellings and commercial opportunities in the areas where the services are already located and to protect our green spaces and environment.</p> |
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23 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Planning Issues?

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| <p>Comment:</p> <p>no</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:

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| 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?

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| <p>Comment: I demonstrate leadership in active transport and when I have to travel to Maroochydore I do by active transport as a first choice. 1. bicycle 2. bus 3. car.</p> <p>Car parking in popular areas should cost more to use than the use of public transport. We have sound policy to move people to active and public transport but we need people to actually make the change. I will continue to lead in this work.</p> |
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Thank you for your responses. We appreciate your time commitment to complete this survey.