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Candidate survey – Noosa Shire Election 2024

Surname:	Lorentson	Given name:	Amelia
Position contesting:	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	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:

Navigating conflicts of interest, particularly when family interests are involved, requires transparency, integrity, and a commitment to upholding the best interests of the community above all else. I will always declare the potential COI whether real or perceived.

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

Comment:

Respectfully. I am dedicated to treating people kindly. This does not compromise my ability to make thoughtful and informed decisions. Over the last 4 years as a Councillor of Noosa, I have engaged and listened to EVERYONE in the community. I value the input of every member of our community. If elected I will continue to engage with residents by coffee chats, community meetings, forums, online engagements, joining volunteering groups, attending events, community festivals etc so as to connect with residents in an informal surroundings, and build relationships and listen to concerns ... I will not only listen, I will work to ensure that their voices are heard and included in decision-making.

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

Comment:

Having served as a Councillor for the past 4 years, I have acquired valuable experience and insights that will shape my approach next term. I have a comprehensive understanding of the role, and the knowledge to make a meaningful impact right from the start. I also have the academic qualifications (Law Degree, Masters in Industrial Relations and Labour Law, Grad. Diploma in legal practice) to allow me to contribute to the intricacies of local government and my professional working background (Operations Manager in Retail; and owner/operator of Employment Law Consultancy) has allowed me to understand business operations and the intricate challenges faced by employers and employees. Further, my volunteer work as a lifesaver at NHSLS, volunteer for Seahorse Nippers Program (inclusive program for children with physical and mental challenges), membership at Surf Rider Foundation and the Noosa Malibu Club, underscore my genuine commitment to issues that matter most to me - my community and environment.

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

Comment:

n/a

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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>The principles of local government and regulations regarding the conduct of councillors serve to uphold standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability in decision-making processes. By adhering to these principles, we know that our decisions are in the best interests of the community.</p>

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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>"Sustainable development" is how to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves finding a balance between economic growth, social progress, and environmental protection, ensuring that development occurs in a manner that is socially equitable, economically viable, and environmentally responsible. Measured by EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) and SIA (Social impact assessment) etc</p>
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10 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Governance, Transparency and Ethical Behaviour?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>na</p>

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?

Comment:

Erosion and Coastal Infrastructure Degradation: Climate change can accelerate coastal erosion processes, leading to the loss of beaches, cliffs, and coastal infrastructure. Rising sea levels, increased storm intensity, and changes in wave patterns can exacerbate erosion, threatening coastal communities, roads, buildings, and other infrastructure located in vulnerable coastal areas.

Infrastructure Vulnerability and Resilience Challenges: Climate change poses significant challenges to the resilience of infrastructure systems, including stormwater and erosion management systems. Infrastructure may need to be upgraded, retrofitted, or redesigned to withstand the impacts of climate change, such as increased flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise.

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:

Noone wants contaminated water, rubbish in our oceans and aterways, waste that ends up in landfills. I will advocate for a review.

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:

By adopting a multi-faceted approach that encompasses policy development, community engagement, infrastructure investment, collaboration, regulatory measures, monitoring, and leadership, the council can contribute to building a more sustainable and resilient community for current and future generations.

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	No
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15 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Climate Emergency?

Comment:

Regarding question 14. I have prescribed COI and will not answer question above. Please leave blank.

Planning issues

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

Comment:

Overriding a planning scheme is a significant action and is typically done under exceptional circumstances where there is a clear public interest or other compelling reason to depart from the provisions of the planning scheme. EG State government determines that a particular development or project is of significant state interest eg affordable housing; In emergency situations and if it is necessary to protect environmentally or culturally significant areas from development. Or if the social benefits (eg affordable/NDIS/social housing) outweigh the prescriptive nature of the Plan.

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	
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	
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:

Transparency- SSL DASHBOARD (note this is being built) real time updates regarding ssl approvals, registrations, complaints lodged, compliance notices etc; review of code of conduct; review of local laws, zoning regulations, three strikes and your out policy, 24/7 hotline, occupancy limits, broadening of definition of party houses, enforcement and compliance of local laws, penalties, data collection and analysis. Please note this is what I have done during my term of Council: Since July 2020, I've championed positive changes in our community. My amendment to complete and introduce a Local Law for Short-Term Letting, including the associated code of conduct to regulate short-term letting was unanimously supported when the Noosa Plan was adopted, followed by unanimous backing of my amendment for the investigation into a Council-employed security firm in March 2021. I recommended a workshop with the Mornington Peninsula Council to exchange insights on short-term accommodation regulations, leading to the advocacy for a 24/7 hotline and a "three strikes and you're out" policy. Subsequent amendments I made in October 2021 to the Local Law aimed to establish ongoing consultation through a multi-interest stakeholder group, received unanimous support. Additionally, in January 2023, I moved amendments to state-level amendments, requesting a broadening of the definition of "party house". I also advocated for Resort exemptions to short-term accommodation approval fees.

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:

Infrastructure Planning and Delivery: Coordinating population growth with infrastructure planning and delivery to ensure that essential services, such as transportation, water supply, wastewater treatment, and social amenities, are adequately provided to support growing communities.

Balancing population growth with environmental protection and conservation objectives by identifying and preserving ecologically significant areas, biodiversity corridors, and natural habitats. .

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:

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

22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

By incorporating policies, regulations, and land use strategies that protect and enhance the natural environment

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

Comment:

na

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 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
Comment:		

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: I have a policy that I am putting together/ I will forward when complete.

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

Comment:
