



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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

Surname:	Mackenzie	Given name:	Ken
Position contesting:	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	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:**

Any actual and/or perceived conflicts of interest will be immediately raised with Council such that the conflict of interest can be managed in accordance with relevant Council policies and/or Codes of Conduct and/or in accordance with the Office of the Independent Assessor Personal Interests and Official Responsibilities: A Guide for Councillors ([https://www.oia.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/45546/personal-interests-official-responsibilities-guide-councillors.pdf](https://www.oia.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/45546/personal-interests-official-responsibilities-guide-councillors.pdf))

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

**Comment:**

One of my policy platforms ([www.kenmackenzie.com.au](http://www.kenmackenzie.com.au)) is about open and transparent government and includes public participation. I intend on making myself available at times which suits the community (may be out of business hours) and in multiple forms that suits all demographics and age types. I believe open and active stakeholder communication and consultation is paramount to good community policy and outcomes.

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

**Comment:**

To advance the specific needs of the community, you must first be in touch with the community and have a genuine understanding of what the community wants and needs. Then you need to understand the mechanics of local government, and the advocacy avenues for embedding the wants and needs of the community into the delivery structure (eg. infrastructure plans, transport plans, open space strategies, financial plans, etc.) You must then ensure that these plans and strategies are appropriately funded and delivered in a timely and cost effective manner. I have experience and a successful track record in stakeholder management and community engagement, together with an understanding of the mechanics of local government (over 35 years experience) as well as formal training in policy, finance and delivery of government plans and strategies.

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

### Comment:

I have over thirty five (35) years experience in local government (including policy, development assessment and compliance) which provides me with the knowledge to find sensible solutions to todays problems. I have formal training in a Bachelor Degree, Post-graduate Diploma and Master of Business Administration which provides the technical knowledge to apply to the development of sound community policy outcomes with sound financial management. I have been recognised by my peers in receiving international recognition for planning and community outcomes (Fortitude Valley Special Entertainment Precinct) and National recognition for sustainability outcomes (Sustainable Built Environment Team and Eco-development Advisory Service). I have also been appointed as the first and only local government officer to sit on the Property Council of Auatralia (Qld) Sustainability Board and Urban Development Institute of Australia (Qld) Enviro-development working committee, and was also appointed as the Qld CitySwitch Manager sustainable building retrofit program.

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

### Comment:

Combining tertiary qualifications in science and business, with over 35 years of proven track record in local government advocating and delivering community focused outcomes within financial constraints, I have the best background to fully represent the community.

## 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:

Having over 35 years of local government experience, along with undertaking formal training in 'Good Decision Making' as delivered by the Office of Queensland Ombudsman and various Code of Conduct training delivered by a number of local governments and Local Government Association of Queensland, I have a thorough working knowledge of government, transparency and ethical behaviour.

### 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
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## 10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure sustainable development?

### Comment:

Strictly speaking, sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In Queensland, this would be achieved through the integration and application of legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act 1994, Planning Act 2016 and Nature Conservation Act 1992. Sustainable development must also take into account social, and economic considerations in addition to environmental. There are a number of ways to measure sustainable development (eg. key performance indicators or statistical metrics such as retention of green space, reduction in energy consumption, reduction in waste, etc.), however in the broader sense, sustainable development can be considered as increasing society well-being over a long time or the achievement of positive community dividend over an extended period.

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

### Comment:

My policy platform (found at <https://kenmackenzie.com.au/about-governors-strategy/>) provides further information and explanation of both governance, transparency and ethical behaviour as well as smart and sustainable development.

## 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:

Being a coastal community, there are a number of climate change risks facing Council including rising sea levels, increasing extreme weather events, increasing temperatures, drier conditions and changes in biodiversity. These risks can be seen as global, national and local. On a global and national scale, Council can make changes (eg. Net Zero by 2041) which will have incremental benefits on a larger scale. On a local scale, Council has the ability to manage local risks such as coastal adaptation (Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy), and management of localised temperature changes through appropriate development patterns which minimise 'urban heat island' effects. Council should be at the forefront of sustainable building practices, and acknowledge that innovative successful strategies of today should become the minimum standards of tomorrow. Council should also learn from previous extreme weather events (eg. floods), and manage development and infrastructure appropriately into the future (eg. appropriate development outcomes on identified flood prone land).

## 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:

I endorse the Climate Change Emergency Declaration made by Council, however this should be an evolving stance based on information and science as received and updated. Hence I would be continually advocating for the review of the scope, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the corporate performance mechanisms giving effect to the Declaration. The Declaration should continue to be made and implemented in 'Good Faith', and not used as a tool to drive ulterior motives and/or agendas.

**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:**

The Council has a number of opportunities to accelerate becoming a low emissions region by 2041. This includes both looking at its own assets and practices, together with driving change through the Planning Scheme. Some opportunities for councils' operations and assets might be to ensure new buildings are appropriately rated (eg. Green Star or Nabers), include solar or other sustainable energy innovations, are retrofitted to minimise energy and/or waste and promote active transport (eg. end of trip facilities) and use of green procurement practices. Council can also drive innovation through the planning scheme to achieve higher quality sustainable development outcomes through Planning Codes, drive active travel and better public transport options through infrastructure design outcomes and provide greater incentives for sustainable development outcomes.

**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:**

Council has a number of opportunities to drive local and regional changes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to respond to the risk of climate change. However, this must be integrated into all facets of Council dealings, and must be prominent in the Corporate Plan, Financial Plan, Business Plans and policies / strategies to ensure it has the 'buy-in' of full Council (including Council staff), and it has the necessary resourcing to ensure its success. It must be embedded in the culture of Council.

## Planning issues

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

**Comment:**

I don't believe that it should be the norm to over-ride the Planning Scheme, and should be very rare and based on the wishes of the majority of the community and based on a positive community dividend. For example, there may be a need for an essential service (eg. medical) in an area where an outdated Planning Scheme has not previously identified the essential service need and it is not zoned accordingly. However in this instance, the community would be driving the override of the Planning Scheme, not the Council or any developer.

**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?**

<p><b>Comment:</b></p> <p>In relation to the northern sub-region of SEQ, it is my understanding that the State has not proposed an increase in the urban footprint into the Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area, which I believe is a good outcome. However, it is also my understanding that there is a proposal to increase the urban footprint into areas which are subject to flooding, which I do not support. In respect to population and dwelling requirements, I believe that the State has made a bold and ambitious population target which is mis-aligned with the provision of infrastructure. It has been seen recently that the Federal and State governments have either pulled out of infrastructure funding, or have deferred infrastructure to some later date (presumably to announce as a future election promise!) The SEQ and in particular Sunshine Coast Council cannot expect to provide the State projected population and dwelling requirements without substantial commitments to the delivery of infrastructure, otherwise there will be transport gridlock and shortage of services, which will only be exacerbated with the delivery of the Olympic Games in 2032.</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 will oppose increases in the urban footprint in designated coastal hazard areas. The best way to reduce the overall risk is to ensure Council's preferred development pattern is clearly articulated in the Planning Scheme such that there is no ambiguity and/or loop-holes for the development industry to exploit to get developments across the line. Council should clearly articulate when developments are 'not supported', and Council should be clear in which applications should be refused. I believe that there should be a full review of the current Planning Scheme and any proposed updates which may be under State Interest Check.

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

**Comment:**

The Planning Scheme can support the Biosphere in a number of ways. It can identify the integration of the built environment with green space (eg. defines urban footprint, peri-urban, rural), and identifies the green environment (eg. riparian zones, wildlife corridors and protected green spaces). The planning scheme also defines the preferred pattern of development in areas to maintain the balance of built form and green space / open space. The Planning Scheme can also define the preferred development type such as sustainable buildings, green roofs, etc.

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

**Comment:**

I believe that there should be a full review of the current Planning Scheme and any proposed updates which may be under State Interest Check.

## 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>  Transport infrastructure and services should be planned and implemented in an agile way based on the community's needs (ie. should be community patronage driven not driven to justify high density residential along the transport corridor). We have an enormous opportunity to showcase innovation and technology to the world and have a world class sustainable and agile transport system (including public transport, domestic transport and active travel) which can adapt to changing needs.</p>
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Thank you for your responses. We appreciate your time commitment to complete this survey.