



Candidate survey – Noosa Shire Election 2024

Surname:	WILSON	Given name:	Nicola
Position contesting:	Councillor		

1 About you:

Are you a member of a registered political party?	YES/NO	Yes
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:
Unlikley to arise. My partner has a small business in the region but is not planning to seek council's support. Otherwise we have no relevant assets other than our home, and no other interests or affiliations. I hold a board position for a NFP outside of the Noosa region.

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

Comment:
However the community prefers! I would suggest a combination of methods to ensure I'm accessible to everyone, including but not limited to email, social media, phone, in person meetings, community forums

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

Comment:
I bring a lot of relevant skills to the role that will translate well from my professional career. I'm always sought to be on committees etc because I just get the job done. If I am frustrated with the way an organisation (e.g a NFP) is being managed I don't whinge about it, I get in and offer to help. I saw that the community was frustrated with the current council, and people were suggesting we need candidates with relevant skills (such as financial literacy and governance, business experience, qualifications), who they could also trust to be open, honest, transparent and acting ethically in the benefits of the community, not out of self interest. I knew I ticked those boxes, and when I canvassed opinions of friends and acquaintances, they agreed, and were quick to encourage me.

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

Comment:
The political party I belong to is the ALP, which best aligns to my personal values (equity, fairness, giving a hand up to those who need it).

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>As a Chartered Accountant and Marriage Celebrant, compliance with relevant laws, guidelines, principles and codes of conduct are second nature to me. I am a firm believer in transparency and governance, and will make all decisions accordingly.</p>
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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>Various possible interpretations:</p> <p>The goals adopted by United Nations (17 SDG's which I personally believe in, some of which are relevant to local government).</p> <p>"Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Monash). In Noosa, as in many other parts of Australia, we need to sensitively balance the needs of a growing population with the impact on the environment. There is a severe housing shortage, but any new development must protect the flora and fauna, and meet the needs for the future, for example be able to withstand climate change impacts</p> <p>Climate risk management framework for Queensland Climate Resilient Councils, as shown in the Regional Climate Action Roadmap, which shows phases of climate risk profiling, planning and implementation.</p> <p>I believe all of these are relevant to Noosa, and measurement will depend on the specific goals. It is important that meaningful goals are developed that can be measured reliably, and that achieve the required outcomes rather than an opportunity to "tick the box" (e.g number of trees planted can only meet the desired outcome if they are planted in the right place, with appropriate soil and water, free from debris and land movement, in order to thrive).</p>

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

Comment:

As above I live and breathe these behaviours and believe they are of paramount importance in all levels of government.

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:

We have already seen "unprecedented" fires and floods in recent years, and this has led to devastation in the region. This will continue to impact our people and flora and fauna. We need to get better at dealing with the fallout of these events (i.e providing temporary homes, sealing and repairing roads) but also taking preventative action.

We also need to reduce emissions. Council has a big role to play in ensuring targets are met (residents and local business), finding practical ways to reduce car use in favour of more sustainable transport, and supporting greater access to renewable energy sources.

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:

Yes, however it's my understanding that the plan supporting this declaration was released in September 2021 (Noosa Climate Change Response Plan) and gave vague targets (increase/decrease). I have not been able to find updates or reports on that plan. However this work may be covered under the collaboration with Sunshine Coast Council (Regional Climate Action Roadmap). I would advocate for an update on all related activity and ensure full transparency of the actions being taken. However I note that any requests should aim to minimise doubling up on work for council staff (already underresourced) if those reports already exist. A lot of time and resources are used in producing glossy plans and reports, where some concise realtime dashboards may suffice, in addition to publishing existing reports.

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:

Firstly providing leadership to the community in ensuring residents and local businesses to understand the target, their role in achieving it, and real time progress.

Ensuring all planning applications commit to zero emissions targets, and that once development commences, there are regular checks to ensure those commitments are fulfilled.

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:

Planning issues

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

<p>Comment: Where it is in the public interest</p>

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?

<p>Comment: Supporting full implementation of the Noosa Plan and the Local Law with respect to short term accommodation, restricting future approvals in residential zones, and enforcing penalties for non-compliance</p>

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:

While only a small increase compared to other areas in SEQ, the increase in Noosa is not sustainable without housing and transport solutions. It also needs to be considered that the Plan refers to the increase in permanent residents and the not the additional 2M tourists (annually) who also put pressure on infrastructure, especially roads, water, sewerage, energy.

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:

Gentle density is not a term in the Noosa town plan, and therefore requires further consideration as it may create conflict with the plan. The Noosa plan already allows for delivery of approx 5,000 new dwellings, as well as measures to return STA to the housing market. The SEQ Plan should not impose targets that conflict with the Noosa Plan, if the same outcomes are ultimately reached. The Noosa Plan was designed around known timing and resource constraints - if the SEQ plan imposes earlier deadlines it sets Noosa up for failure.

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 - in the first instance the Noosa Plan appears to favour this approach, and should continue to be updated as more erosion occurs. All development must comply with the plan.

22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?

Comment:

Ensure appropriate environmental experts are consulted and their recommendations incorporated into local laws, which should be enforced.

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

Comment:

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?

<p>Comment:</p> <p>Bus services connecting the hinterland to the main areas of work, education and health services. Most free services are aimed at shuttling tourists around, not at transporting residents in day to day activities, but residents are paying for the services. In addition bus services connecting residents to leisure activities - subsidised for residents rather than tourists.</p>
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26 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Transport Infrastructure and Services?

<p>Comment:</p>
