

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

Surname:	WALSH	Given name:	Peter James
Position contesting:	Division 10		

### 1 About you:

Do you live in the Division for which you are standing?	YES/NO	No
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:**

At this time no immediate family owns assets, interests or affiliations that would cause a conflict of interest. However, as a serving police officer, I fully understand the need to declare any thing that may present as a conflict of interest.

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

**Comment:**

I plan to have regular mobile offices in the eight key areas (Nambour, Burnside, Highworth, Yandina, Eumundi, Kenilworth and Mapleton). These half day mobile offices will occur monthly. In addition, I'll attended community meetings such as YADCA, MADCA, Business Yandina, the range of Chamber of Commerce.

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

**Comment:**

I'm seeking to become a representative for Divison 10 - Not just a councilor. My plan is to be regularly in each of the communities across division 10 in person. I prefer face-to-face conversations about issues.

My key aim is to understand what is the needs and requirements for each area and then advocate strongly for that need. Whilst I may not always be able to achieve the gold standard solution - I will always seek a solution that moves a community forward.

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

**Comment:**

My approach is one of working together with all key stakeholders to ensure that the majority view is clearly understood and acted upon without personal agenda. I do not want to be a politician, but rather a representative of the community. To me, all communities are equally important, and will have equal share of my time. I have a strong understanding of the law and will strongly advocate for the needs of this community.

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

**Comment:**

My street is about 50 metres outside Division 10. However, I have worked at Nambour police station for the last 17.5 years, while for the last 24 years, I have shopped, socialised, and engaged in community support and activities in the majority of Division 10 communities.

I am an LNP member for the last 3 year - I join to provide me a voice to improve law and order, Justice for victims and to reduce the juvenile crime crisis. As a police officer - I have no means to voice my opinion (on social media etc) in these key matters of concern. My only path was to join a policy committee to how steer change. As the current government has not helped to improve this matter – the LNP was the only other choice.

## 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:**

I currently preform all duites as a police officer under numerous acts. They provide a clear path for all my actions and ensure that they are lawful. I will contunie to comply with all aspects of the law without fear or favour, malice or goodwill. The law is the law.

### 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

**10 What do you mean by, and how would you measure sustainable development?****Comment:**

Evaluating the impact on communities of sustainable development projects requires a multifaceted approach. First, engage with the community to understand their needs and expectations. Use quantitative approaches to track changes or impacts on social well-being, environmental health along with economic growth. Also, consider qualitative approaches to evaluate community satisfaction and cultural impacts. Regularly evaluate and modify plans based on all feedback and developing goals. Finally, the accomplishment of sustainable development is evident in the improved quality of life, enhanced economic growth and positive environmental sustainability of the community.

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

All actions and behaviours MUST be transparent and ethical. I have lived by the QPS SELF test which requires each action to follow the following 4 questions – I will continue to operate this way.

Will it withstand SCRUTINY from the community?

Will it ENSURE compliance with standards and policy?

Is it LAWFUL? Consider laws, rules and regulations.

Is it FAIR? Consider the community?

**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:**

I support the SCRC regional climate action roadmap, zero-net emissions plan - 2022, environment and liveability strategy and coastal hazard adaptation strategy.

**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

**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 SCRC will support the State Government Low emissions targets.

**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:

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

Comment:

The Planning Regulation 2017 along with various other state planning instruments such as Temporary Local Planning Instruments (TLPIs) can direct a local government to amend a local planning instrument to be consistent with the regulated requirements or to protect or give effect to a matter of state interest.

**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
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**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> Before any further development, key infrastructure (drainage, missing links, exit roads, public transport etc) need to be resolved in order to prevent negative impacts to current residents.</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?**

<p><b>Comment:</b> Yes</p>
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**22 How can the Planning Scheme support the biosphere?**

<p><b>Comment:</b> A key part of the planning scheme must include impacts to the biosphere - our way of life, care for our environment, developing thriving communities and positive growth of our economy.</p>
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**23 Do you have any additional comments you would like to make concerning Planning Issues?**

<p><b>Comment:</b></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:**

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
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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>  Sorry for the rushed comments - currently time poor as I work (police and army) while campaigning.</p>
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Thank you for your responses. We appreciate your time commitment to complete this survey.