

2024 Local Government Election - Sunshine Coast Council Candidate Questionnaire Responses

Candidate Name	Suzie Campin
Nominating for	Councillor
Which division for?	Division 9
Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve	<p>It is part of an international program that lists five different types of Dark Sky designations and the Sunshine Coast proposes to be a Dark Sky Reserve. Dark Sky areas differ based on factors such as remoteness and public accessibility, but all need to demonstrate magnificent night skies which the Sunshine Coast surely has. Reserves consist of a core area meeting minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness, and a peripheral area that supports dark sky preservation in the core. Reserves are formed through a partnership of multiple land managers who have recognized the value of the natural nocturnal environment through regulations and long term planning</p> <p>The concept of a dark sky reserve as proposed in the west of the LGA will recognise and protect the nocturnal environment, provide an opportunity for environmental and cultural education, be a place of enjoyment for locals and visitors. The Reserve offers many opportunities including of course, nocturnal nature based research and tourism and astronomy. If managed well the Dark Sky Reserve could be a significant tourism attraction and increasingly with time as other parts of the world may increasingly light up and Dark Skies disappear.</p> <p>To achieve the designation of Reserve various initiatives will be required including engagement on issues such as approaches to lighting required for security, retrofit of public/government lighting assets, and consideration of lighting across the entire LGA. Current Council initiatives to amend shore line illumination must be widened. The horizon glow of major settlements seen in many areas of the Sunshine Coast can be</p>

	<p>progressively reduced by amending code requirements to reduce diffuse light where it does not strike the target space and instead is broadcast far and wide for no purpose. Planning scheme provisions to control stray light should be considered. We may aspire to be similar to the pending Jump-Up Dark Sky Sanctuary near Winton.</p>
<p>Do you support the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky designation?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Circular Economy</p>	<p>The 2023 Strategy was produced based on a State Government requirement over all Local Governments in Queensland. The Strategy responds to a network of important international, national, State and local policies, strategy and action plans. It is a magnificent step to meet Sustainable Development Goals and to live up to the expectations of the Biosphere designation. The circular economy approach moves away from linear thinking to the point where there is no waste – everything is reusable, recyclable, compostable and so on. The strategy embraces new technologies but also critically recognises the essential ingredient in achieving zero net emissions by 2041 – us. If elected I will do all I can to achieve the goal of the Sunshine Coast being Australia’s most sustainable region.</p> <p>The strategy provides for better access to resource recovery services, education on waste management, recognises the hierarchy of actions that can mean we absolutely minimise the creation of waste -avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat and dispose of only what remains.</p> <p>Critical to the success of the strategy will be engagement of the Sunshine Coast community taking a principal role of waste segregation and input reduction in particular by choosing lower levels of packaging and businesses making informed choices and applying economic pressures on the supply chain. Rather than wait for direction from them, I would include the State and Federal government as players in reaching the strategy targets. For example, recent experience by coastal councils of the failure of the State to act and significant cost (and huge voluntary effort) involved</p>

	with the clean-up of polystyrene particles following adverse weather events may require national regulatory intervention.
Do you support the strategy?	Yes
Biosphere designation	<p>The Biosphere designation is a rare and significant opportunity to research and reach a new, restorative balance between humans and the environment. The actions of the three local governments involved and other players and the bureaucracy around this need to move from words to action, to more quickly involved those in the Biosphere and buffers.</p> <p>I hope to be involved in translating these objectives into action, change, restoration, balance, cultural awakening and ecological renewal. The Biosphere can be a lot more than a marketing badge and committee table. In particular we are part of three connected Biospheres with significant opportunity to give back to the ecosystems involved through reopening corridors and restoring habitat that was previously lost. I assume there will also be on-going discovery of some awful truths of what can't be remedied and can't be denied but these findings will need to be shared and become part of a new, determined, resilient paradigm as we learn how to live for a sustainable future.</p> <p>To respond to our obligations to retain the Biosphere designation we need to be informed by evidence-based defensible science and modelling that includes community choice not just past trends, we need to provide wildlife corridors, provide for local government partnerships across boundaries for Ecologically Sustainable Development outcomes, provide buffer zones around critical habitat and where sea level rise may threaten. We will need to consider innovative approaches to ""zoning"" that encourage those in the Biosphere to act as custodians. Ensure that cultural elements, for example artisanal and indigenous farming practices, are revived and celebrated where possible. First Nations people must have a prominent role in the Biosphere.</p>



Will you actively promote our Biosphere Aims and Objectives?	Yes
Inter-Urban Break	<p>It contributes significantly to the economy through farming and tourism opportunities It contains exceptional scenic and recreation opportunities for communities It protects water quality in the Pumicestone Passage It is a significant feature of the region that cannot be lost</p> <p>The Inter-Urban Break is a buffer, a lung, between Greater Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast that stops a continuous sprawl of development from almost the Gold Coast to Noosa and towards Gympie.</p> <p>The area includes the iconic Glass House Mountains that may otherwise have been absorbed into the urban environment which as I understand happened in Auckland for example where a number of the small volcanic peaks existing at the time of colonial settlement, have now disappeared entirely due to quarrying of their resources.</p> <p>It provides high level protection of ecological connections to prevail across this region with many pathways for endemic species to forage and flourish.</p> <p>This area hosts critical food production of sub-tropical varieties such as pineapples, avocado, finger limes and macadamia as well as newer ventures demonstrating the productivity of these volcanic soils. This primary production is of long-term cultural significance from First Nations to colonial times.</p>
Do you support it's protection?	Yes
New Planning Scheme	The need to get the new 2024 Planning Scheme right is the principle reason I am standing as a Councillor in Division 9. I am a town planner, a scientist, have worked managing major developments, have worked as a policy advisor at senior levels of a government (Local, State, Federal) throughout Australia and have worked in



Not-for-Profits. I completed a Master in Tourism Planning and have a PhD in Business Ethics. I hope to offer this background to get the best possible result for the planning scheme and then to be there to advocate for it. The new scheme needs to be based on a shared vision of where and how people live, work and play, and how we do all of that as one species of many in our ecosystem (s). The decisions that underpin this planning scheme in particular will set the scene for generations to come. Once the new scheme is agreed we need to stick to it.

We aspire to retain Biosphere status and I think that comes down to more than generic, commodified processes used in the Council's current engagement practice. I was disappointed with the Local Area Plans that seemed to be lost in a time-warp. The wording for the areas within Division 9 missed a lot that is at the core of people's lives here including planning for alternative living options and gently activating rural-residential areas e.g. Art studios, farm shops, Tiny Houses. Comments that I submitted during the "Have Your Say" steps were not included with no explanation and I imagine I am not alone. Once again, much of what the Council released "for comment" appears to have been already decided.

There remains controversy about the draft Planning Scheme that is currently with the State for the Review of State Interests. There is disagreement in the community on where housing should be developed, how dense it should be, how transport networks will provide connections, whether we have protected our green spaces and coastline enough, how we can encourage more social housing and more affordable housing and more. Assumptions in the draft Planning Scheme on large infrastructure projects that the Federal and State Government have walked away from since the draft was submitted may be out-of-date. With the urgency to get the new scheme in place, I hope the plan does not need to be reviewed again. We also need to be looking ahead to how to guarantee essential services and utilities, how to prepare for extreme weather, changed households and family structures and much more. All of this can be reflected in a planning scheme. Many of these challenges require intergovernmental and cross-sectoral solutions. We need a new mindset, one beyond the original founding principles of Town Planning in the early 1990s which was largely about separation of incompatible uses.

Will you uphold the Community Planning Priorities?	Yes
Climate and Renewables	<p>There are many things that SCRC could do and activate at micro and macro levels, moving from policy documents to action, including at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular Economy waste management • Move to renewable energy and new energy storage options– the Council itself can be a flagship along with major projects such as the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Sunshine Coast Airport • Move to clean industries including reaching the highest international sustainable tourism standards and clever, low emission housing and buildings • Modal shifts in transport – less cars, more efficient public transport and active transport • Measuring and understanding what we are doing – data gathering ,e analysis and effective community wide communications • Education of the community and the community educating government – two-way street because those on the ground have critical knowledge outside offices • Biosphere outcomes including protection and regeneration of habitat • Intergovernmental partnerships that support the transition – aligned regulation, shared data, multi-partner actions <p>Nature based solutions for climate resilience have designed throughout time. We can never catch up on the R&D they have done.</p>
Do you support Nature based Solutions for climate resilience?	Yes
Sunshine Coast values	To protect ecological and cultural values we need to know what they are first. We also need to take communication on these issues beyond the basic, stop dumbing down

	<p>community engagement. I think the community wants to know more and to really live their roles as custodians and parts of an ecosystem(s).</p> <p>The story of every plant or animal should be told within the context of their ecology to make it clear they do not exist alone and, that the way they are and survive reflects their environment and speaks of all other flora and fauna within that system. Likewise the story of every cultural or heritage item of significance needs to be placed in time and in sociology. In this way the full gravity of their significance can be truly shared. In this way we can walk into past worlds of people and systems and marvel and celebrate them. From a practical sense, to ensure we are protecting all we can I would be reviewing current processes against the following steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify ecological and cultural values of the region through available research 2. Identify gaps in this knowledge and via public consultation and engagement 3. Fill those gaps 4. Identify measures to protect via avoidance, mitigation or remedy 5. Design strategy and programs (and review existing strategies and programs) that support these measures with community knowledge 6. Identify implementation plans and costs for the agreed strategies and programs 7. Advocate for budget funding for the programs with monitoring and regular feedback to Councillors, and reviews 8. Implement via skilled, informed, committed players including all tiers of government, private sector, NFPs, citizen scientists, community and visitors
<p>Do you support the use of non-lethal shark deterrent methods in our oceans?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Will you advocate to manage population growth to protect and</p>	<p>Yes</p>

<p>restore the region's ecological and liveability values?Liveability definition from SCRC new planning scheme preliminary documents - Liveability is the sum of the factors that add up to a community's quality of life now and in the future, including the built and natural environments, economic prosperity, social stability and wellbeing, equity and access, education, cultural and recreation opportunities.</p>	
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