

2024 Local Government Election - Sunshine Coast Council Candidate Questionnaire Responses

Candidate Name	Ashley Robinson
Nominating for	Mayor
Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve	Noble intent will require buy-in by landowners and that's why the consultation process needs to be genuine and prepared to take in and consider conflicting views. Having said that I recognise the benefits that can flow for the environment and tourism and believe it is worthy of further pursuit.
Do you support the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky designation?	No response
Circular Economy	I see waste as a resource and embraces the need to have policies in place that reduce waste towards a cleaner, greener future. This is of course the only sensible path forward. Requires a concerted effort across the community with council support and education campaigns to make recycling second nature. I've seen the consequences of a slackening attitude to waste rubbish disposal on the beach environment. That in turn will not just damage the marine ecosystem but will impact on tourism and hurt the economy.
Do you support the strategy?	No response
Biosphere designation	Is not so much a physical thing but a region's commitment to a sustainable future. That commitment needs to be apparent in policy, planning and service delivery and must consider the needs of community. Strong social structures are the fabric that binds communities and makes them more sustainable and is why it is shameful that, as the region has grown, support has not kept pace for community associations be

	they be in support of the arts, sport, environmental protection and conservation and providing services for those in need.
Will you actively promote our Biosphere Aims and Objectives?	No response
Inter-Urban Break	<p>Stockland has challenged the concept with its pre-emptive application under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act. There also seems to be ambiguity about the State Government's planning intent around Halls Creek. My view is to support the existing council policy that fixes growth to Beerwah East and protects the widely understood view of where the boundaries lie. I do have concerns about the amount of time it would take to bring Beerwah East on-line and it's critical to ensure that's resolved.</p> <p>The importance of the break is not only for ecological reasons and environmental protection but also ensuring the national highway doesn't become another multi-billion dollar mess that the M1 has become with ribbon development on both its flanks.</p>
Do you support it's protection?	No response
New Planning Scheme	<p>It is part way through an eight-step process and is due for completion in 2025. It is my understanding through discussions with OSCAR that it was largely happy with the consultation process to date, but the test will come with the State Interest Review of Community Planning Priorities.</p> <p>The next step from there will be formal public consultation on the draft scheme. As mayor I am committed to ensuring that process is rigorous, shows proper regard to natural restraints and the emerging threats of climate change. Clearly the State Government's intent is for the region to grow significantly through to 2045 and wants to see provision made for that growth. I believe the growth focus should be on towns located along the existing North Coast Rail line. Easy access to services including Nambour Hospital make a well-planned hinterland township expansion make sense</p>

	<p>particularly given that the entire coastal boundary of the region is designated erosion prone.</p> <p>There's a state election coming up in a few months which presents a great opportunity to test all political parties' commitments to planning policy for this region. That includes public and affordable housing.</p> <p>What I will insist on is that the remaining stages of the plan's development are not rushed, and that full regard is paid to genuine community involvement in what it ultimately looks like.</p> <p>I've committed to fully support the new Planning Scheme. We must get it right and only consider variation when there is an evidence-based and widely accepted public benefit.</p>
<p>Will you uphold the Community Planning Priorities?</p>	<p>No response</p>
<p>Climate and Renewables</p>	<p>I had the benefit to visit a business at Baringa last week – Strong Street Recyclers – which uses solar power, energy efficient lighting harvests rainwater, uses cutting edge sorting technology, is furnished with discarded desks and chairs from the old Caloundra council chambers and employs nine staff, six of whom live locally to the business.</p> <p>And it already has provision for future growth.</p> <p>I mention it because it is a textbook example of what should be happening, and what good planning and development approval processes should require.</p> <p>I will certainly be raising how that can be done with the new council and I'm sure it is something about which I will get powerful advocacy from members of the Mayoral Advisory Board I've committed to establishing if elected.</p>
<p>Do you support Nature based Solutions for climate resilience?</p>	<p>It is important that the community is brought along on the journey and is properly consulted, something I don't believe has happened effectively with the Blue Heart project.</p>

	<p>Due to the misinformation campaign around climate change it is essential that all council actions are done only after broad consultation to ensure everyone is rowing the boat in the one direction.</p> <p>The Paris Agreement is to keep global warming below 2C and ideally to keep it to 1.5C. At a local level that will require habitat protection and land use management, carbon capture and storage and resilience adaptation in recognition of the threat of flooding, sea-level rise and more intense extreme weather events.</p>
<p>Sunshine Coast values</p>	<p>Provide more support for community organisations as discussed in a previous answer to ensure they have lease tenure certainty and longevity to enable long-term planning. To establish support for communities and the organisations that provide the social fabric by making budgetary support a meaningful council priority.</p> <p>Ecologically through ongoing education campaigns that give the former “Naturally Refreshing” tourism brand new meaning through community engagement with waste reduction and reuse practices, employment of or re-allocation of existing council staff to roles that help enhance and protect the environment and of course, to ensure that development approvals fully consider impacts on ecological values.</p>
<p>Do you support the use of non-lethal shark deterrent methods in our oceans?</p>	<p>Yes, I do. However, this is a matter controlled by the State Government and needs to be pursued at that level by interest groups ahead of the next state election later this year.</p>
<p>Will you advocate to manage population growth to protect and restore the region's ecological and liveability values? Liveability definition from SCRC new planning scheme preliminary documents - Liveability is the sum of</p>	<p>Absolutely. It is a fundamental campaign commitment to maintain and improve amenity to ensure our grandchildren experience as much as possible the life we have all enjoyed here.</p> <p>That's going to be a huge task with many competing forces but I believe I'm up for the job ahead.</p>

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<p>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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