

2024 Local Government Election - Sunshine Coast Council Candidate Questionnaire Responses

Candidate Name	Jason O'Pray
Nominating for	Mayor
Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve	<p>I support the designation. As someone who has been on the Council for the last 12 years heading up Economic Development, this is something whereby we can have the economic returns and environment meet each other. I fully back Division 5 Councillor Winston Johnston when he said "This proposed designation seeks to continue to support and protect the landscape and character of their neighbourhoods, including the unique night-sky values, while they continue to live, work and play.</p> <p>This is good for the Hinterland, good for the economy and good for the environment.</p>
Do you support the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky designation?	Yes
Circular Economy	This strategy supports council's vision as 'Australia's most sustainable region and our target to be a zero-net emissions organisation by 2041. I stand by these commitments and the aspirations of the strategy.
Do you support the strategy?	Yes
Biosphere designation	The Sunshine Coast Biosphere is our commitment to a sustainable future. I support this designation and have proposed a suite of things to support our sustainable future. To see my views go to https://www.jasonoprays.com/plan .

Will you actively promote our Biosphere Aims and Objectives?	Yes
Inter-Urban Break	<p>I will never allow development in the Interurban break, ever. The Inter-Urban Break is the entryway from Brisbane and Moreton Bay into the Sunshine Coast. The natural barrier shows that the people coming into the region are entering our particular part of the world. If we ever lost it, Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast would almost merge into each other and we would lose what makes us special.</p> <p>We will also always protect the inter-urban break between Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast. We want tourists on the Bruce Highway to drive through trees and forests to get here. It is what protects the Glass House Mountains and the Pumicestone Passage. As an entryway to the Sunshine Coast, it is one of the features that makes us better than the Gold Coast. No one wants to drive through a concrete jungle to the Sunshine Coast.</p>
Do you support it's protection?	Yes
New Planning Scheme	<p>I have a long track record of supporting the planning schemes once they are agreed upon. For anyone who wishes to see my planning policies they can go to https://www.jasonopray.com/plan</p>
Will you uphold the Community Planning Priorities?	Yes
Climate and Renewables	<p>Over the last decade, a lot has been done to modernise our region. The Sunshine Coast International Submarine Cable Network represents a significant enhancement to the region's economic and technological landscape. However, there is more to do so that our young people see a long-term future in our region. We do not need another brain drain to Brisbane and further afield.</p>



Another area where Council will meet the needs of a changing Sunshine Coast is the embracing of EV technology. The Sunshine Coast Council should take a proactive approach in expanding public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and increasing the adoption of electric vehicles in its fleet for several compelling reasons. Firstly, promoting the widespread use of electric cars aligns with the council's commitment to environmental sustainability. By investing in a comprehensive network of public charging stations, the commission encourages residents and businesses to transition to electric vehicles, contributing to reduced carbon emissions and air pollution. This initiative addresses climate change concerns and establishes the Sunshine Coast as a forward-thinking and eco-friendly community.

Secondly, fostering the growth of electric vehicles aligns with the global trend towards sustainable transportation. Many countries and regions worldwide are actively promoting the adoption of electric vehicles to mitigate the environmental impact of traditional combustion engine vehicles. By expanding the availability of EV charging stations, the Sunshine Coast Council keeps pace with international sustainability standards and positions the region as a leader in embracing cleaner, greener transportation alternatives.

Increasing the number of electric vehicles in the council fleet sets a positive example for the community. As a public entity, the council can play a pivotal role in influencing residents and businesses by showcasing its commitment to sustainable practices. This reinforces the council's environmental stewardship and demonstrates the practicality and feasibility of electric vehicles in various operational capacities. By incorporating EVs into its fleet, the council sends a strong message about its dedication to reducing the ecological footprint of its operations. It encourages others to follow suit in transitioning to cleaner modes of transportation.

This is why I have promised to tripling the Sunshine Coast Council's EV fleet by 2028.

	<p>Going to market for tenders to deliver a Build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) expansion of EV charging stations across the Sunshine Coast for a rollout by 2028 in Council carparks</p> <p>Delivering partnerships with private car park providers to increase EV charging stations in those facilities.</p> <p>Integrate the rollout of EV charging stations with the Queensland Government's Queensland's Electric Super Highway initiative to promote drive tourism with those people driving EVs.</p> <p>Make the presence of EV charging stations a requirement of future development of privately owned carparks.</p>
<p>Do you support Nature based Solutions for climate resilience?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Sunshine Coast values</p>	<p>The Sunshine Coast Regional Council has a proud record of delivering quality environmental outcomes. However, there is more to be done. Whether that be protecting turtle nesting sites, planting more trees, or investing in the blue-heart. I am proud of what we have achieved, together, there is more that we can do to keep the Sunshine Coast special.</p> <p>The Council has a net-zero target, we need to ensure that future Councils deliver it and deliver it sooner.</p> <p>The Environment and Liveability Strategy consistently excels in steering planning efforts for our expanding population and addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Its overarching objective is to establish and maintain a wholesome and enjoyable environment for the residents within the Sunshine Coast Biosphere.</p>



	<p>The Council has established objectives to achieve net-zero emissions by 2041. Additionally, plans are in motion to implement the Blue Heart Sunshine Coast initiative, which aims to protect and supervise crucial areas of the Maroochy River floodplain. This involves restoring vital ecosystems and investigating inventive alternative land-use practices to adapt to landscape transitions. We need to continue to expand the Blue Heart program as the Maroochy River is the ecological heart of the region that needs protecting.</p> <p>The Sunshine Coast Council can play a pivotal role in safeguarding turtle nesting sites by implementing and enforcing comprehensive conservation measures. Firstly, establishing protected zones around identified nesting sites and regularly monitoring these areas during the nesting season is crucial. This includes limiting human access, especially during nighttime when turtles typically come ashore to lay eggs. Educating the local community and visitors about the significance of these nesting sites and respecting the designated protection measures is paramount. The Council can also collaborate with environmental organisations and researchers to conduct regular surveys and studies to understand better the nesting patterns and potential threats to turtle populations. Implementing proper lighting practices along the coast to minimise disorientation for hatchlings and supporting initiatives to reduce marine debris and pollution will further contribute to protecting these vulnerable marine species on the Sunshine Coast.</p> <p>The Sunshine Coast Council can actively contribute to reducing food waste by implementing a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) program. The council can divert significant amounts of organic material from landfills by encouraging residents to separate their food and garden waste for composting. The FOGO initiative transforms food scraps into nutrient-rich compost, subsequently benefiting local agriculture and landscaping efforts. To enhance participation, the council can engage in public awareness campaigns, educating residents about the environmental impact of food waste and the advantages of FOGO. Additionally, the council could provide resources such as compost bins and informational materials, facilitating the seamless integration of FOGO practices into households across the region. By championing the FOGO initiative, the Sunshine Coast Council contributes to waste</p>
--	--

	<p>reduction and fosters a culture of sustainability and environmental responsibility among its residents.</p> <p>The most responsible thing the Council can do is encourage planting more native trees in our region. I'm proud of our environmental credentials and achievements, including the Council planting 2710 street trees throughout the year under the Street Tree Master Plan and removing 9.5 tonnes of litter from Sunshine Coast waterways. Over 10,000 hectares were managed for conservation, and 1300 properties were registered under the Land for Wildlife program. However, there is more to do. Therefore, the tree planting offset requirements would be doubled, and the free tree program for ratepayers should be continued with the ability for every ratepayer to collect free trees for planting on private properties from Council depots.</p>
<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 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</p>	<p>Yes</p>

PO Box 269
35 Howard Street
Nambour QLD 4560
Ph: 07 5441 5747
Email: info@scec.org.au



environments, economic prosperity, social stability and wellbeing, equity and access, education, cultural and recreation opportunities.	
--	--