

2024 Local Government Election - Sunshine Coast Council Candidate Questionnaire Responses

Candidate Name	Tracy Burton
Nominating for	Councillor
Which division for?	Division 5
Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve	<p>The proposed designation of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve has several positive outcomes that will benefit not only the local community but also the overall environment and economy.</p> <p>Firstly, the designation will help to protect and preserve the fauna of the area. Light pollution from cities and towns can have detrimental effects on wildlife, disrupting their natural habitats and behaviours. By designating an area as a Dark Sky Reserve, strict measures will be put in place to limit artificial light and protect the natural darkness of the night sky. This will not only benefit wildlife but also allow for the appreciation of starry skies by locals and tourists alike.</p> <p>The designation can also have positive impacts on human health. Exposure to artificial light at night has been linked to various health issues such as sleep disorders and hormone imbalances. By reducing light pollution in the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve, individuals will have a better chance of experiencing natural darkness which is essential for maintaining a healthy circadian rhythm. Furthermore, the reduction of excessive artificial light can also decrease energy consumption and costs for both residents and businesses in the area.</p> <p>In addition to environmental and health benefits, the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve can also have positive economic outcomes. The designation will attract astro-tourism, a rapidly growing industry that caters to visitors seeking clear and unpolluted views of the night sky. This can bring in new sources of revenue for local businesses such as accommodation providers, restaurants, and tour companies. It can also create job opportunities within the astro-tourism industry and boost the overall economy of the region.</p>

	<p>Overall, the proposed designation of the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky Reserve has numerous positive outcomes that align with sustainable development goals. It not only protects and preserves the natural environment but also promotes human health and economic growth in a responsible and eco-friendly manner. This serves as an excellent example for other regions to follow suit in their efforts towards preserving the beauty of the night sky.</p>
<p>Do you support the Sunshine Coast Dark Sky designation?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Circular Economy</p>	<p>The Sunshine Coast Resource Recovery Strategy 2023 is a comprehensive plan created by the Sunshine Coast Council to manage waste on the coast. It aims to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and increase resource recovery through various initiatives and collaborations with local businesses, community groups, and residents.</p> <p>One of the main positives of this strategy is its focus on waste reduction and resource recovery. By reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, it can help mitigate the negative impacts of landfill on the environment and human health. Additionally, by recovering resources from waste, the strategy promotes a circular economy and reduces reliance on finite resources.</p> <p>Another positive aspect is its emphasis on community involvement and collaboration. The strategy encourages residents to take responsibility for their own waste management by providing education and resources on recycling, composting, and reducing waste. It also works with local businesses to improve their waste management practices and develop sustainable alternatives.</p> <p>However, one concern is the cost of implementing and maintaining the strategy. While it may lead to long-term cost savings through reduced landfill fees and increased resource recovery, there is an initial investment required for infrastructure and programs. There may also be challenges in changing existing behaviours and habits of residents and businesses. It takes time to adapt to new waste management practices, and some individuals or organizations may resist change. This could potentially hinder the success of the strategy.</p>

	<p>The Sunshine Coast Resource Recovery Strategy 2023 has many positive aspects such as its focus on waste reduction, resource recovery, and community involvement. However, there are also potential challenges that need to be addressed for the strategy to achieve its goals. Overall, it is a crucial step towards creating a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future for the Sunshine Coast region. So far, the strategy has seen some success with an increase in recycling rates and a decrease in waste to landfill. Moving forward, it will be important to continue monitoring and evaluating the progress of the strategy and making necessary adjustments for its success. By working together as a community, we can achieve a more sustainable future for generations to come.</p>
<p>Do you support the strategy?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Biosphere designation</p>	<p>The Sunshine Coast biosphere is a diverse and unique ecosystem that is home to an abundance of flora and fauna. This region covers an area of over 20,000 square kilometres, including both land and marine environments.</p> <p>One of the most distinctive qualities of the Sunshine Coast Queensland biosphere is its rich biodiversity. This region contains a wide range of habitats, from lush rainforests to sprawling coastal dunes. As a result, it supports an impressive array of plant and animal species, many of which are endemic and can only be found in this particular ecosystem.</p> <p>The Sunshine Coast Queensland biosphere is also known for its pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters. The long stretch of coastline provides a vital habitat for various marine life, including dolphins, whales, and turtles. These animals can often be spotted in their natural habitats, making it a popular destination for eco-tourism.</p> <p>In addition to its diverse flora and fauna, the Sunshine Coast Queensland biosphere is also home to several Indigenous communities who have been living in harmony with the land for thousands of years. These communities have a deep connection to the ecosystem and play an important role in its conservation and management.</p> <p>The biosphere is also recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site, highlighting its global significance and unique qualities. This designation provides additional</p>

	<p>protection for the region's natural resources and promotes sustainable development practices.</p> <p>But with human development rapidly encroaching on these natural habitats, it is more important than ever to protect the Sunshine Coast Queensland biosphere. All living things in an ecosystem are interconnected and rely on each other for survival. When one species is affected, it can have a ripple effect on the entire ecosystem. By safeguarding the Sunshine Coast Queensland biosphere, we are maintaining the delicate balance of nature and preventing any negative impacts on the environment. Protecting the Sunshine Coast Queensland biosphere is crucial for maintaining biodiversity, ecological balance, and essential natural resources for future generations.</p>
<p>Will you actively promote our Biosphere Aims and Objectives?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Inter-Urban Break</p>	<p>The Northern Inter-Urban Break is an essential aspect for the Sunshine Coast region due to several reasons.</p> <p>Firstly, it serves as a natural barrier between the urbanized areas and the surrounding hinterland. This break provides a clear distinction between the developed and rural areas, preserving the unique natural beauty of the Sunshine Coast. It also helps to maintain a healthy environment by reducing the effects of urbanization, such as pollution and loss of biodiversity. This is crucial for the region's sustainability and attracts tourists to experience the pristine natural landscape.</p> <p>Secondly, the Northern Inter-Urban Break plays a significant role in promoting sustainable development. As the population on the Sunshine Coast continues to grow, it is essential to have designated areas for development to avoid overcrowding and preserve the environment. The break serves as a buffer zone, preventing urban sprawl and allowing for controlled growth in designated areas. This ensures that the region's unique character and charm are not lost due to overdevelopment.</p> <p>Thirdly, the Northern Inter-Urban Break has cultural significance for the traditional owners of the land, the Kabi Kabi and Gubbi Gubbi people. It holds great spiritual and historical value, as it was once used as a trading route by the indigenous people. By</p>

	<p>preserving this break, we can honor and respect the local culture and history of the region.</p> <p>The Northern Inter-Urban Break is vital for maintaining a balanced ecosystem in the Sunshine Coast region. The break acts as a habitat for various wildlife species, including endangered and endemic animals. It also helps to maintain the region's water supply by protecting catchment areas, ensuring a sustainable source of clean water for both humans and wildlife.</p> <p>Clearly, the Northern Inter-Urban Break is a critical aspect of the Sunshine Coast region, providing numerous environmental, cultural, recreational, and economic benefits. Its preservation is crucial for maintaining the region's unique character and promoting sustainable development for future generations. As such, it is essential to continue protecting and preserving this break for the well-being of the region as a whole. So, we must take the necessary steps to conserve it and raise awareness about its importance within the community to protect this precious natural resource and ensure its longevity for the benefit of all.</p>
<p>Do you support it's protection?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>New Planning Scheme</p>	<p>The Sunshine Coast Council is currently in the process of developing a new planning scheme that will replace the current Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014. This new planning scheme which currently sits with the State Government and will play a crucial role in shaping the region's future.</p> <p>The main purpose of this new planning scheme is to set a clear vision for the Sunshine Coast in 2046, which means that it will have a planning horizon of 25 years. This vision will act as a guide for future growth and development in the region, ensuring that all decisions are made with the long-term goals and aspirations of the community in mind.</p> <p>The new planning scheme will also help to address some of the key challenges facing the Sunshine Coast, such as population growth, climate change, and sustainable development. By setting a clear vision for the future, the council will be able to make informed decisions that will ensure the region remains liveable, resilient and sustainable for generations to come. In addition to setting a vision for the future, the</p>

	<p>new planning scheme will also guide growth and development in a way that aligns with the community's values and priorities. This includes promoting economic growth, protecting the environment, and preserving the unique character of different areas within the region. A key focus will be on creating well-connected, walkable communities that offer a high quality of life for residents.</p> <p>The new planning scheme will also aim to balance the needs of residents with those of businesses and other stakeholders, ensuring that development is not only sustainable but also beneficial for the community as a whole. This will be achieved through extensive community consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders, including developers, businesses, and environmental groups.</p> <p>Overall, the Sunshine Coast new planning scheme will play a crucial role in shaping the region's future by setting a clear vision for 2046 and guiding growth and development in a sustainable, community-focused manner. By doing so, it will help to ensure that the Sunshine Coast remains a desirable place to live, work and visit for many years to come.</p>
<p>Will you uphold the Community Planning Priorities?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Climate and Renewables</p>	<p>To achieve zero net emissions, the Sunshine Coast Council needs to take a series of key actions that address different aspects of reducing carbon emissions. These actions can range from simple to complex, but they all play an important role in reaching the goal of zero net emissions. The following are some key actions that the council should consider implementing or expanding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a comprehensive climate action plan: To effectively tackle the issue of carbon emissions, the council needs to have a clear and comprehensive action plan in place. This plan should outline specific strategies and initiatives that will help the council reduce carbon emissions across different sectors such as energy, transportation, waste management, land use, and more. 2. Increase renewable energy usage: Transitioning to renewable energy sources is crucial for reducing carbon emissions. The council should invest in renewable



	<p>energy infrastructure such as solar panels, wind turbines, and hydroelectricity to replace traditional fossil fuel-based energy.</p> <p>3. Promote sustainable transportation: Encouraging the use of public transport, cycling, and walking can significantly reduce carbon emissions from transportation. The council should also consider implementing policies that incentivize the use of electric or hybrid vehicles.</p> <p>4. Implement energy-efficient measures: Simple actions such as switching to LED lights, using energy-efficient appliances, and implementing building codes for energy efficiency can have a significant impact on reducing carbon emissions in the long run.</p> <p>5. Invest in green spaces and tree planting: Trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, making them essential in mitigating the effects of climate change. The council should invest in creating green spaces and tree planting initiatives to absorb carbon emissions.</p> <p>6. Educate the community: The council should educate its residents on the importance of reducing carbon emissions and ways they can contribute. This can include hosting workshops, distributing educational materials, and involving schools in sustainability programs.</p> <p>7. Collaborate with businesses: Businesses are also major contributors to carbon emissions, so it is crucial to work together with them to reduce their carbon footprint. The council can provide incentives for businesses that implement sustainable practices and offer resources for those looking to make the switch.</p> <p>By implementing these key actions, the Sunshine Coast Council can effectively reduce its carbon emissions and work towards achieving zero net emissions. However, it is essential to remember that this goal requires ongoing efforts and cooperation from all stakeholders to make a significant impact in the fight against climate change. It is crucial for the council to continuously review and update its strategies to stay on track towards reaching zero net emissions - regular monitoring and evaluation of progress should also be a key action in the council's plan. By taking these actions, the Sunshine Coast Council can lead by example and inspire other communities to follow suit in the global effort to combat climate change.</p>
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Do you support Nature based Solutions for climate resilience?	Yes
Sunshine Coast values	<p>The Sunshine Coast region is renowned for its rich cultural and economic heritage. However, with increasing development and urbanization, there is a growing concern about preserving the unique identity of this region. As a result, there has been a push towards protecting the cultural and economic values of the Sunshine Coast region. One way to protect these values is by promoting sustainable tourism practices. This involves educating tourists about the cultural significance of the region and encouraging responsible behaviour while visiting. By doing so, we can ensure that tourism activities do not harm or exploit the local communities and their traditions. Another way to protect these values is through land use planning and development regulations. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council has implemented policies to control urban sprawl and preserve areas of cultural importance. This includes protecting Indigenous heritage sites and traditional land uses.</p> <p>The community plays a crucial role in preserving the cultural and economic values of the Sunshine Coast region. By actively participating in local events and supporting small businesses, we can contribute to the sustainability of the region's economy. By valuing and celebrating diverse cultures within our communities, we can promote inclusivity and respect for different traditions.</p> <p>There is a need for ongoing research and documentation of the cultural and economic values of the Sunshine Coast region with a focus on Indigenous cultural sites and history.</p> <p>Collaboration between government, local businesses, and community groups is also essential in protecting these values. By working together, we can develop sustainable strategies that balance economic growth with cultural preservation.</p> <p>Finally, it is crucial to involve the traditional custodians of the land, the Jinibara and Kabi Kabi peoples, in decision-making processes. Their knowledge and connection to the region are vital in ensuring that any development or changes align with their cultural values and beliefs.</p>

Do you support the use of non-lethal shark deterrent methods in our oceans?	Yes
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 environments, economic prosperity, social stability and wellbeing, equity and access, education, cultural and recreation opportunities.	Yes