**Top 5 Election Priorities for the Sunshine Coast 2020**

This is a critical time for Sunshine Coast and all regions.  Covid-19 is and will be a significant risk and drag to all economies and we need to have a razor-sharp focus and agreement on what needs to be prioritised at a regional level, to preserve our economy, businesses, jobs and communities.

We have new councillors in both regional councils and a Queensland State Government election in October 2020. In the interim we need to work together – 3-tires of government and business – to do what needs to be done (working within Federal and State Government guidelines) to come out of this difficult period in as good a shape as possible.

SCBC will seek to bring government and business together to work collaboratively on developing and implementing a targeted Recovery Plan for The Greater Sunshine Coast Region.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **State Priority #1**Address the State’s poor economic performance and implement a clear plan to improve its economic rating to a Top 3 performer (measured against all Australian states), by the end of CY 2023. | **Local Priority #1**Establish a Covid-19 Recovery Taskforce (3 tiers government and industry) to identify and drive strategies designed to stimulate and expedite regional recovery and economic growth disrupted by Covid-19 impacts. |
| **State Priority #2**Tax reform across industries to support uplift in economic activity particularly in the property industry which accounts for nearly 12% of state economic activity and 49% of state and local taxes. | **Local Priority #2**Cut red tape and reduce costs to business - council charges and processing time taken for all local government approvals – to fast track operationally ready projects to assist during the Covid-19 recovery. |
| **State Priority #3**Release an integrated regional transport strategy for Sunshine Coast region by the end of 2020 covering changes due to Covid-19 impact. | **Local Priority #3**Work with state and federal governments to agree transport priorities, cost requirements, splits and funding commitments so that all tiers of government and the community are on the same page regarding what transport infrastructure will be delivered regionally, over the next decade. |
| **State Priority #4**Commit State Government funding to deliver duplicated rail and North Coast connect projects and associated public infrastructure initiatives for Sunshine Coast region. | **Local Priority #4**Provide clarity around the funding options and support by state and federal government for North Coast connect projects and light rail as the preferred Mass Transit option. |
| **State Priority #5**Unlock economic activity through large regional infrastructure projects and introducing targets for regional resourcing for these projects. | **Local Priority #5**Unlock economy activity through expedient planning and approval processes and prioritising local resourcing for major and large projects. |