

Local Council Election 16 March 2024 Mayoral Candidate Statements*

Sunshine Coast Council

Michael Burgess

Rooted in Community, Driven by Integrity

My journey is deeply entwined with the Sunshine Coast, not just as a resident but as a community member who has lived and breathed the challenges and triumphs of our region. Alongside my wife, I built a business from the ground up, understanding the value of hard work, resilience, and ethical practices. These experiences have grounded me in the realities of what it takes to foster a thriving community.

With a background in mathematics, I approach problems with logic and precision, ensuring decisions are based on facts, not fiction. My career as a business owner has taught me the importance of optimism, but it's my analytical skills that ensure a healthy dose of scepticism in leadership.

Championing the Old-School Values: Honesty and Transparency

In an era where politics often feels disconnected from the people, I pledge to bring back the old-school values of straightforward, transparent governance. The Sunshine Coast deserves a leader who speaks plainly, listens earnestly, and acts with the community's best interests at heart.

Our Vision: Prosperous, Sustainable, and True to Our Roots

The Sunshine Coast is at a crossroads, and the path we choose now will define our future. I am committed to steering our region towards a future that respects our unique lifestyle and environment, backed by a sustainable and prosperous economy. This vision is not just a promise; it's a plan backed by honest, pragmatic leadership.

For the People, By the People: Engaging the Community

As Mayor, I will prioritize open, honest communication with the community. The establishment of a Citizen Committee will ensure that your voices are not just heard but are a driving force in decision-making. We will dismantle the opaque practices of the current council and replace them with a governance that is as clear as our Sunshine Coast skies.

Tackling Real Issues with Real Solutions

I have watched our beloved region grapple with the consequences of decisions made without proper foresight or public consultation. My administration will focus on practical, realistic solutions to the challenges we face, from creating sustainable jobs to managing tourism impact, always with an eye on preserving our lifestyle and environment.

Restoring Trust in Local Government

The disillusionment with the current council stems from a disconnect between its actions and the community's needs. I promise to bridge this gap, bringing leadership that listens, understands, and acts with integrity. With my business acumen and commitment to old-school values, I will ensure that our council is a body you can trust and be proud of.

A Call to Action: Let's Revitalize the Sunshine Coast Together

This election is more than just a political race; it's a choice between continuing down a path of opaque governance and embracing a future of transparent, honest leadership. Join me in this critical journey to revitalize the Sunshine Coast, ensuring it remains a vibrant, beautiful place to live, work, and play.

Immediate Actions for a Trustworthy Sunshine Coast

Upon election, my focus will be on:

- Establishing a Task Force for Economic Future Planning with community input.
- Implementing cost-effective, transparent council operations.
- Addressing Traffic and Parking with practical, inclusive solutions.
- Reevaluating current projects for true community benefit.
- Creating a Citizen Review Committee for accountability and transparency.
- Recovering and redirecting funds from stalled projects efficiently.
- Responsibly managing tourism to benefit our community and environment.

Rosanna Natoli

Working for You. I am listening.

The Sunshine Coast Region has seen many changes over recent years . . . some good, some not so good.

The growth that is coming our way is an INCREDIBLE opportunity! We must harness this to ensure we get the infrastructure we need to support this growth. We must make sure all levels of government understand that growth without the infrastructure to support it is unacceptable.

10 POINT PLAN

Cost of living.

I acknowledge that cost of living pressures are impacting us all. I promise to act with empathy and encourage a culture of care and understanding while looking to **limit costs** to ratepayers. Our young people and seniors must be considered, and families must be able to afford to live.

Housing.

Let's focus on housing affordability and availability both to rent and to buy. We need a range of solutions to meet our diverse population needs, including housing types and price options. We should explore tiny homes on suitable properties, and modular housing opportunities – and engage with community for new and innovative solutions.

Infrastructure before development.

Our lifestyle is impacted every day because the Sunshine Coast is lacking infrastructure. For decades, we have missed out on **our fair share**. Council has accepted the State Government's push for increased population growth for years, without demanding the infrastructure to support it. We must stand up now.

Better public transport.

We need better public transport options for now and the future. We must deliver passenger rail to Brisbane which also operates as a commuter from Maroochydore to Kawana, Caloundra, Aura and Beerwah. The duplication of the track to Nambour is important, so long as the heritage values of our railway towns are preserved.

We need a network of clean, green buses connecting all of our communities east and west, north and south, with convenient routes and regular travelling times.

Transparent, accountable decision – made with integrity.

I will work tirelessly to restore community trust to the role of Mayor and the entire Council organisation by being transparent and accountable. I will demand community consultation is meaningful and listened to. I will demand Councillors and executive management commit to meeting the expectations of the community.

Back to basics – Rates Roads Rubbish.

The shift away from maintenance, operational works and basic Council services has been happening over time, and the effects are now becoming increasingly obvious. We need to do better in maintaining our infrastructure, roads, footpaths, parks and the basic services which Council delivers.

Our unique lifestyle and environment.

As a community, we need to agree on a defined vision for our future, and then require the Council to support it.

By identifying what makes us unique, we can implement **better planning** directives for future population growth that enhances what we have, not 'transforms' it. No Gold Coast development here. Promote continued economic growth – maximising Olympic benefits.

We must continue to build on key strengths in both urban, rural and tourism economies, region wide. Partnerships with TAFE, UniSC and the Innovation Centre must be key drivers of growth.

The Olympics offer us the ability to secure legacy infrastructure for our region. We need to work together with all levels of government and stakeholders to make this a reality. I have already been meeting with leaders to ensure our message is clear: we can and will work together to achieve this for the Sunshine Coast

Promote economic growth-maximising Olympic benefits.

As a region, we must continue to recognize the importance of diversity in our industries, building on key strengths in both urban and rural economies. Our stellar tourism industry must be supported, region wide. Partnerships with Tafe, the University and the Innovation Centre must be key drivers of growth.

The key to our future will be defined in the lead up to the Olympics and through our ability to secure legacy infrastructure for our region. We need to work together with all levels of government and stakeholders to make this a reality. I have already been meeting with leaders to ensure our message is clear: we can and will work together to achieve this for the Sunshine Coast

Controlling the costs of Council.

We must identify where excess spending can be cut to provide the best value for money. A review of council services will identify where the priorities lie. Cut down waste. A Corporate Refresh of the structure should be undertaken.

Restoring community focus.

I intend to refocus the Council on developing a service-oriented approach with the Sunshine Coast community at its heart. Common sense and a 'yes' attitude must prevail. We must also support our **volunteer, cultural** and community-service organisations as well as the **arts** and **sporting** groups across the region.

Jason OPray

"As the next Mayor of the Sunshine Coast, I will make sure that the gains made from the last 12 years of leadership are built upon so that we can truly deliver a Sunshine Coast with a heart."

My plan for the future of the Sunshine Coast

Protecting our lifestyle

The Sunshine Coast does not want to be the Gold Coast. We need to keep our uniqueness and what makes us a special part of Queensland. As Mayor, I will make sure that as we head towards record levels of population growth, we protect the lifestyle that people come to the Sunshine Coast to enjoy. From our beaches to greenspace - it all needs protection.

Building on our Strong Economy

With an economy of \$21 Billion today, projected to rise to \$33 Billion by 2041, as Mayor I am committed to meeting and exceeding the projections. Our region needs a Mayor with a plan to deliver higher-paying jobs so our families can afford to stay and live on the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast needs to keep putting itself on the world stage.

Delivering for the Hinterland

Delivery for our hinterland is something that is vital for our future as a region. I want to be the Mayor that ends the divide between the Coast and the Hinterland that makes up our region. The differences between the two parts of the region are what makes us unique, and we need a Mayor that understands it and has a plan to activate the differences so that we have a brighter future.

Connected Sunshine Coast

One of the most controversial proposals of the last decade has been Sunshine Coast Light Rail. It does not work for our region and this Council has lost the people on the concept. We need to bring the community together on public transport. There are better technologies for our region, and we need to pursue them. We need to connect the Coast north to south and east to west.

Housing Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast has seen massive population growth since 2012. With developments like Aura capturing public debate, the issue of affordable housing is something that needs to be dealt with. Under my leadership, I want the Sunshine Coast Council to be a leader in partnering with other levels of government to deliver on housing affordability.

Accessible Sunny Coast

The next period of leadership on the Sunshine Coast requires us to deliver a Coast with a heart. For me, this means keeping the coast as accessible as possible. As someone who is close to people with disabilities, I want them to be able to experience this great part of the world as much as anyone else. Accessibility goes to the core of why I want to deliver a Coast with a heart.

Keeping our kids active

With the 2032 Olympics coming, the temptation will be for everyone to focus on the new Stadium and new Indoor stadium we have secured through this Council. However, we need community sports to be the real winners from the legacy of the 2032 Olympics. Our kids are the future of our community and no matter where you live, your kids deserve the best facilities possible.

Greening up the Coast

Over the last decade, the Sunshine Coast has developed an environmental record to be proud of. The council has a plan for net-zero emissions by 2041 in place now. Furthermore, the Council has already delivered initiatives to plant more trees, cool down homes and ensure that we protect our critical ecosystems. We must always protect the green heart that makes the Sunshine Coast.

Modernising the Coast

Embracing an increase in Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and expanding the presence of EVs within the Sunshine Coast Council fleet is a step towards a sustainable future. We are showing that when we talk the talk on technology and the environment, we are walking the walk. We are currently working through a plan to roll out the infrastructure and make sure it works long-term.

Wayne Parcell

Your non-aligned independent Mayoral candidate from The Hinterland, for the whole Sunshine Coast

"A vote for me as an independent Mayor is a vote for CHANGE THAT MATTERS TO YOU."

Wayne's life has not been one of privilege, but it has been one of resilience and determination. Growing up in housing commission in Brisbane's southside - in an environment of domestic violence - Wayne had a challenging upbringing that focussed his attention. From age 15, in addition to his optimism and resilience Wayne developed a deep passion for service to the community to make a difference so that others could be what they could see. Undaunted by the unknown and keen to learn about the wider world, in 1975 at the age of 16, Wayne's part-time jobs funded his solo travel for six weeks to the UK, Europe and Hong Kong. As the first university graduate in his family, Wayne understands ambition and hard work.

With the support of numerous individuals in his life, legal education and career, he transformed his life and is now ready to pay it forward. Wayne wants to drive change that brings benefit to other people – now it's time to pay it forward.

At 64 years young, Wayne's career spans more than 40 years of public and private sector experience. Wayne's combination of skills and experience are hard to match. With 30 years of experience as a solicitor specialising in immigration law, in his own business and then as the Global Immigration Partner in a global consulting firm.

Wayne was awarded the Public Service Medal in 1996 for his outstanding service to Australia in the Queen's Birthday Australian Honours List. Wayne's Commonwealth Government experience from 1982 to 1997 included taxation, defence, intelligence & security and immigration in Australia and overseas; Wayne worked closely with a range of national and international government agencies, government ministers, senior bureaucrats, diplomats, the leadership of the ACTU and industry leaders.

Wayne has a long history of Board membership of not-for-profits and charities, including services to support homeless LGBTQI+ young people. More recently, Wayne is a Founding Director of The Rangebow Festival and its parent charity, acclaimed for its creativity, community spirit and economic impact. The near derelict Montville tennis courts are now a thriving community asset of immeasurable value due to Wayne's vision in galvanising community support. Wayne served as Vice-President, before being elected as President, of the Montville Village Association.

Wayne describes himself as an "economic conservative with a social conscience – these fundamentals are not mutually exclusive". "We need to explore new solutions to the challenges facing us from urban congestion, housing affordability and the squeeze on our natural environment. When we talk about the council's \$1billion annual budget we need to engage everyone on the issue of social impact whereby council investments generate measurable social and environmental outcomes in addition to a financial return.

An outcomes-based approach will bring together all levels of government, service providers, investors and communities to tackle a range of social issues."

PLATFORM

Independent

"Ultimately, I will be answerable to the people of the Sunshine Coast, not to a political party HQ and not to any donors. In March 2023, I resigned from LNP membership after just 12 months, because the party's values around social justice did not resonate with mine. It had been almost 40 years since I had resigned from the Qld Young Liberals after which I was not aligned with any political party. My adult life has been spent in pursuit of my passion of service for better."

Fair for All

"Everyone needs a champion they can rely on who, like me, believes in diversity, inclusion, sustainability and reconciliation – those values are intrinsic to sound decision-making and equitable outcomes for everyone. From 2005 when I started living in The Hinterland, I have appreciated the economic and cultural diversity of the entire Sunshine Coast region. It is fundamental to community engagement and delivery that there is recognition of the distinct communities, their differences and their contribution within our region."

Purpose

"My life's purpose has been in service to people, through my work in government administration, policy development and service delivery, and in small and global businesses. My overseas work in complex international issues between governments was amongst the most enlightening and invigorating of my life; this enabled me to bring new perspectives and experience to my work in Australia. My career was successful because it was diverse in every respect. Now is the time to bring my legal skills and unique life and career experiences together to benefit the Sunshine Coast community."

Ashley Robinson

Ashley is the only REAL candidate for Mayor. He knows how a successful business operates, but is also deeply aware of, and has a lifetime's involvement in the needs of Sunshine Coast community.

6 Real Reasons to vote for Ashley 'TUGBOAT' Robinson.

1. Real Honesty
2. Real Transparency
3. Real Business Experience
4. Real Willingness to Listen
5. Real Care
6. Real Community

Policies

Small Business

SMALL Business is a crucial component of future economic growth on the Sunshine Coast. There are currently 35,000 small businesses in our owned by local families.

The Coast's population is expected to increase from 360,000 to 500,000 by 2041, while our Gross Regional Product sits at \$20.96 billion – up from \$13 billion in 2013 – and is expected to hit \$33 billion by 2033.

Small Business is an integral component of that growth which is expected to realise 100,000 new jobs by 2033.

I have operated small businesses, and I'm comfortable managing people.

My life has always been based upon the principles of honesty, integrity, open frank communication and good old, no-frills hard work.

If elected I will be accessible to all sectors of the community and adopt a hands-on approach to working with small business operators, mums, dads and families ensuring that existing small businesses survive, prosper and grow.

I am very much aware of the suffering experienced by small business during recent roadworks and public infrastructure upgrades.

I intend to work closely with our Economic Development team to ensure the continued attraction of new business to our region.

It is essential that we always engage local contractors where possible when outsourcing Council work.

Public Finances

A COUNCIL that I lead will work diligently to ensure that not a dollar of expenditure is wasted. In every business that I've managed I've treated the company's funds as if they were my own, making sure that nothing was spent unnecessarily, and that I always got value for money.

Council spending is no different. At Budget time my Council will deliver effective spending of rates for every Sunshine Coast resident. My major goal is to ensure that rates are kept as low as possible – hopefully with no increase at all, but if that's not possible, then certainly no increase above CPI.

One of the first things I do after being elected mayor will be to call for a full review of Council's financial position. Until that is known it's irresponsible to go on about spending large sums on new initiatives.

But I will focus on the Council's legacy projects, nominating any anti-competitive behaviour and with a view to achieving economic utility on the Coast.

My Council will only borrow to fund lasting public assets, and we'll borrow to fund other projects only if they are able to generate sufficient income to pay for themselves. Competition policy will continue to be applied when Council competes in the private market.

Councillors and candidates have come up with some novel approaches to Council finances. Under my leadership, no idea will be off the table if it leads to cost-of-living relief for Sunshine Coast residents.

Planning & Development

BY 2041, there will be 500,000 people living on the Sunshine Coast. Our region is no longer a quiet, holiday retreat – it's a thriving, dynamic city which is clearly attractive to many, many Australians.

While growth is inevitable, it is important that we manage it, for the sake of the region, and for our children and grandchildren.

My goal, as mayor of the Sunshine Coast, is to ensure future development is sustainable. In other words, to ensure that projects, policies and investments provide immediate benefits without sacrificing environmental, social and personal health in the future.

My Council will implement policies to ensure that future development on the Sunshine Coast is sustainable, protects our wonderful environment and ensures the lifestyle we love remains for future generations to enjoy.

I do not support high rise development beyond current limits. But I do believe that limited areas of increased density, as long as they are properly planned and built with setbacks sufficient to enhance the built environment, not clutter it.

I will support the new Planning Scheme now being developed, and I will listen carefully to expert advice from community groups and sector interests during its design and implementation.

Mooloolaba Foreshore Revitalisation Project

I AM a strong supporter of the Council's plans to revitalise Mooloolaba's foreshore, improve facilities for beachgoers, and increase access to the beach for everyone. And I acknowledge that a great deal of research and consultation has already gone into the project.

I also understand, and acknowledge, everyone's desire that the project be carried out in a timely enough manner to prevent disruption over more than one summer holiday period.

But we get only one chance to deliver a project of this nature, and I believe we should take the time to get it absolutely right.

I'm not convinced that the welfare of retailers, beachgoers or tourists during the construction phase has been adequately considered, I'm aware of public concern about the seawall, and I'm not happy that proposed construction seems to be encroaching onto the beach.

If I'm elected mayor, I will call an urgent summit to consider these issues. And I'll put a strict deadline on the discussion and decision-making process. I'm not about delaying this project – just getting it right.

Creative Arts on The Sunshine Coast

I'M FRUSTRATED at the number of talented, creative Sunshine Coast residents forced to leave our region to further their careers in the creative arts industries. I want them to be able to follow their dreams right here.

My vision is to invigorate the region's creative landscape. I want to encourage filmmakers, artists and television producers by implementing a simple, standardised permit application process, a local liaison for effective communication, and subsidies to encourage local talent.

I will expand the Regional Arts Development Fund, with specific funding categories for film, visual arts, music and dance, thereby ensuring diverse participation.

My Council will establish a creative hub in Caloundra, promote awareness of existing facilities, and support the Sunshine Coast Screen Collective in developing a studio.

I will develop a robust communication strategy for Council-supported initiatives, facilities, and industry opportunities that exist in the local community, so everyone is aware of what is available and happening.

And I will consider employing somebody with creative arts expertise, ensuring my Council is equipped to make informed decisions.

Finally, I will prioritise collaboration, foster local talent, and insist on clear communication. I want to make the Sunshine Coast an inclusive and vibrant arts community and transform our region into a thriving hub for creativity.

Melinda (Min) Swan

A new era of leadership. As Mayor, Min will bring strong and certain leadership to our unique region.

I commit to being the leader the Sunshine Coast needs in a critical era in our history.

I am no stranger to leading our region, influencing and nurturing many business and not-for-profit communities across the Sunshine Coast to be more effective and have greater impact.

As a prominent businesswoman and well known as a community connector, my solid business background, strong community focus and passion for the future of the Sunshine Coast already places me at the forefront of the success of the region.

With the Sunshine Coast firmly planted on the world stage in the leadup to the Olympic and Paralympics Games in 2032, the next four years are critical to balance the needs of the local community with the opportunities that exist for growth, especially in infrastructure, transport, accessibility and diversity.

As Mayor, I will activate the entire Sunshine Coast community from coast to hinterland to build a connected and adaptable future for our region.

Clear vision

Developing a clear and certain plan for our future and a powerful voice for our region.

Pride in our region

Working together to develop a sense of belonging and pride as we present our region to the world.

Community voice

Listening to differing viewpoints and collaborating for creative outcomes.

Unified & vibrant communities

Celebrating our unique localities as jewels in our crown and investing to help them realise their full potential.

Council accountability

Fostering public confidence, where residents feel heard, and the Council team feel respected.

Strong governance

Building a solid foundation of strong economic, social and environmental governance to grow prosperity and protect our region.

Noosa Council

Nick Hluszko

Experienced Leader. Positive Difference.

I am running for Mayor because I am devoted to Noosa and believe that my experience, qualifications, passion, and energy can lead and guide our community through the challenges and opportunities we face today.

My platform focuses on improved management, a fair river strategy with the State, urgent infrastructure for population growth, and advocates for cost-effective, transparent Council management with accurate budgeting for quality resident services.

"My decision to run for Mayor is based on the belief that I can improve Noosa Council's financial and operational governance. Residents deserve transparency, effective budget management, and honest services. I'll collaborate with the State for strategic river and asset management. It's time to unite the community and stop dividing it".

As a dedicated executive, my journey began as a 21-year-old truck driver with Mobil Oil. Over two decades, I climbed the ranks to a global management role in the USA. I further excelled as the General Manager of YUM Restaurants International, Eurasia, overseeing over 4000 staff, and served as the CEO for major retail brands in Eurasia, as well as the CEO of one of Eurasia's largest cinema chains.

I hold a Bachelor of Business and a Master of Business Administration from Monash University, with additional studies at Harvard, UNSW, and INSEAD. My commitment to Noosa extends locally, where I've

been deeply involved in various roles, such as President of the Noosa North Shore Association, Chair of the Noosa River Stakeholder Advisory Sub-Committee, and contributions to the Council Climate Change Round Table, Teewah and Cooloola Working Group, Rural Fire Brigade, and as an oyster grower for the NICA Oyster Project.

AS MAYOR I WILL WORK TOWARDS

Better Management

An efficient, well-managed Council controlling bureaucratic costs and imposing only the very minimum rates and levies at a time when far too many are struggling with the cost of living and interest rates. This will guarantee a larger percentage of ratepayers' money for services, maintenance of our parks, gardens, reserves and improving infrastructure and help to keep our Noosa 'special'.

A Sensible Noosa River Strategy

The proposal to lock-up the Noosa River for a Conservation Park, put forward by some current Noosa councillors is not the solution for the Noosa River, or our community, and is a total overkill. However, we must be vigilant to ensure that the health of the Noosa River is not compromised and that our coordinated efforts focus upon sedimentation and pollutant entry into the river and its catchment.

My priority is to clean up the river by actively working with the State Government to implement the approved anchoring, mooring and live-aboard vessel recommendations. The Noosa River is State Government controlled. We need to partner with them to develop a strategy and to get already available funding. We do not need to use ratepayer money! There has been misinformation about the state and quality of the Noosa River. For the last 21 years, the State Government has confirmed the river quality is good to excellent.

I want to ensure that access to the Noosa River is fair for all, in a sustainable way.

An Initiative-taking Plan for Noosa's Infrastructure

I believe that we need to stop putting our heads in the sand when it comes to infrastructure. While I oppose the State Government's mandated 18,000 additional people in the Noosa Shire over the coming years, I believe that Noosa must be realistic about this and accept the impact this will have upon our existing infrastructure.

I believe that if we do not prioritise infrastructure such as public transport, roads, parking, and boating access urgently, residents' existing problems will continue to get worse. Council has spent very little on infrastructure over the past few years. We already have serious problems. The additional population will rapidly diminish our lifestyle if we don't fix these problems now.

Strong Leadership

Successful organisations build good cultures, accurately plan for future needs, develop a can-do attitude, foster transparency, and communication, and invest in their staff. We need a cost-effective, streamlined management team working together in a good environment with defined goals and accountable for their results.

Ingrid Jackson

A Mayor who will fight for the people of Noosa Shire.

Ingrid has a track record of taking a strong stand for Noosa residents, for transparency and accountability, and for getting things done. In spite of opposition by fellow councillors, as a councillor (2016-2020) she succeeded as a solitary voice because the community got behind her and she never backed off.

Policies:

Delivering the Noosa Plan vision

Noosa Council decisions and actions to be grounded in the 20-year vision of the Noosa Plan and in constant assessment of benefits for the community.

Transparency excellence

Council will as much as possible be open for scrutiny and foster transparency and accountability as part of its commitment to the community.

Biosphere community, economy & nature in harmony

Council to facilitate a Noosa Biosphere working group to reconfigure the existing Noosa Biosphere model so it takes on the more balanced approach envisioned by UNESCO of resilient community and thriving economy in harmony with the natural environment.

A Noosa River for all

The Council will act in good faith in reviewing and then implementing the Noosa River Plan which should cater for the reasonable expectations of all river users.

Transport & traffic solutions

It's urgent to put the Transport Strategy and Cycling and Walking Strategy on track. A special case will be made for Hinterland public transport and improved access to medical and higher education facilities in Maroochydore and the Sunshine Coast university hospital precinct.

Valuing local business & jobs

Facilitate a robust Shire economy focused on relevant industry sectors and job creation by actioning and resourcing Council's Economic Development Strategy and Unit and working with business to achieve outcomes.

A start made on affordable housing

Implement the Council's housing strategy and employ measures at its disposal to identify land and housing providers to construct affordable housing.

Responsible and respectful behaviour

An effort will be made to change the Council culture by insisting on respectful behaviour by Councillors, ceasing their weaponisation of complaints to the State agency, and proper adherence to the legislation and Standing Orders.

Health & Wellbeing prioritised

The Council will prioritise Noosa residents' health, medical needs and wellbeing, including by enabling construction of medical facilities in Coastal and Hinterland areas.

John Morrall

A visionary leader for Noosa's future

John Morrall, with his visionary approach, promises to bring a fresh perspective to the leadership of Noosa Council.

Whether it's protecting the environment, reconnecting the community from coast to hinterland, fuelling business growth or promoting sports and community involvement, John's wealth of experience stands behind his commitment for change.

1. Commitment to Noosa's natural environment

John is committed to striking a balance between growth and conservation, while protecting our natural assets. His vision includes promoting eco-friendly initiatives to ensure that Noosa remains a haven for both residents and nature enthusiasts. The river, in particular, is the vein that connects the ocean to the hinterland and must be protected by fostering effective relationships between State government and local stakeholders. He also recognises the community desire to review the Shire's waste management processes and procedures and is in favour of the reinstatement of kerb side collection (hard rubbish).

2. Reconnecting Noosa Shire from the Water to the Hinterland

John recognises the need to listen to concerns from all residents and ratepayers across our Shire. He envisions a Noosa where every member of the community feels connected, regardless of their location.

He recognises the specific issues facing our hinterland communities and is committed to addressing these issues with a commonsense approach. By fostering a sense of unity and shared identity, John aims to revitalise the community spirit that has been integral to Noosa’s charm.

3. Fuelling Business Growth: A Sustainable Approach for Economic Prosperity

Understanding the importance of a thriving local economy, John emphasises a balanced and sustainable approach to business growth. With his business experience and skill, he will support local entrepreneurs and business owners and promote innovation. John aims to create a business-friendly environment that not only generates economic prosperity but also aligns with Noosa’s commitment to environmental sustainability.

4. Sport, Music and Community Involvement

John recognises the importance of sporting, music and cultural events in our Shire, particularly for our young people. He has the connections to build a stronger music presence which will bring people together. He supports the integral role of sports and community involvement in fostering a healthy and vibrant society. He pledges to support sports facilities, recreational spaces, and community programs that encourage physical activity and social engagement. By promoting a culture of inclusivity and participation, John aims to enhance the overall well-being of our community.

John’s comprehensive vision for Noosa encompasses not only the protection of the environment but also a commitment to community, sustainable business growth, and active and engaging lifestyles. His approach reflects a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing our Shire. As the mayoral election approaches, voters have the opportunity to choose a leader with a fresh and forward-thinking vision for Noosa’s future.

Frank Wilkie

ACCESSIBLE. RESPONSIVE. EXPERIENCED.

Frank has a proven track record of putting residents and our environment first.

Frank Wilkie gained his understanding of the Noosa Shire communities as a journalist and editor for local and regional newspapers from 1996-2007.

“Even then, the focus was on understanding local issues and helping residents, community and business groups achieve their aims and objectives,” Frank says.

“Being a councillor involves making decisions on behalf of the community but always as an extension of a collaborative, service-focused approach and independent of any party-political membership or ideology.

Frank stands for

STA Review and Smart Development

Vigilance against over development, Reducing STA impacts in neighbourhoods, making sure Noosa stays Noosa.

Traffic Solutions

Innovative strategies for parking relieve with residence the priority.

Responsible Environmental Management

Evidenced-based efforts to protect our natural assets, forests, beaches, waterways, and wildlife.

Housing Solutions

Focussed initiatives for affordable living and community support.

Balanced Tourism

Noosa is a community first. Managing peak period influx in a way that respects Noosa’s lifestyle, environment and community identity.

Seizing Opportunities

Leveraging the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to secure what we need: sporting and community facilities upgrades, improving all-abilities access.

Fostering Economic Diversity

Supporting the 700 small businesses that support many residents' families, diversifying the economy and job prospects through innovative projects.

Effective Services, Responsible Budgeting

Delivering quality services, infrastructure and facilities, while keeping rates low.

**Candidate statements and information have been sourced directly from each candidate's website or Facebook pages.*