

# Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Action Group Inc. (MTAG)

## March 2024

### Divisional Councillor Candidate Questionnaire

As a key advocacy groups on the Sunshine Coast, we are seeking your views on public transport and housing densification in the region. Please be advised your responses will be collated and made public as we believe all voters should be aware of your position on these two key issues prior to voting. No response will be taken to mean you agree with the following:

1. The current Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) Southern Sunshine Coast Public transport strategy and their decision to proceed with Rapid Bus Transit in a dedicated lane along our coastal strip.
2. The current Sunshine Coast Regional Council plan to house the large majority of the future population growth out to 2041, in the Coastal corridor between Maroochydore and Caloundra.

Name of candidate:	David Law	Date:	1 February 2024
Division contesting:	Division 10		

## Section 1: Transport

- 1 Do you think two public transport spinal networks (Heavy Rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore and a Mass Transit system from Maroochydore to Birtinya) with feeder networks running to them, is the best public transport system for the region?

YES/NO Yes

- 2 If NO, and you are elected, will you advocate to TMR for a different Sunshine Coast Public Transport strategy?

YES/NO Yes

If YES what?

The transport solutions in Q1 are necessary and I agree with them as a part of the solution. Even though I answered yes at Q1. BUT you have not included the long overdue Nambour rail duplication. Nambour to Brisbane in one hour has been promised prior to the CAMCOS corridor and is an essential element of the Public Transport Network for the Sunshine Coast. If re-elected I will continue my campaign for the rail duplication to Nambour and supporting bus networks to connect to the whole region.

- 3 Do you support a Rapid Bus Transit system in a dedicated right of way along our coastal corridor?

YES/NO Yes

- 4 What will you do to improve public transport now?

Response:

I will continue to use public transport to prove what is possible and advocate that others do the same. I will continue to advocate for active transport options and public transport. I will continue to lead by example and use both forms of transport.

- 5 What do you think should be the priority for better public transport in the future?

Response:

To get people to actually use public transport we have right NOW. Implement Think Change. Then increase frequency and the operational hours to support the evening economy. This then reduces the number of car journeys which reduces congestion on the road network. In turn reduces need for more roads,

## Section 2: SCRC 2024 Draft Planning Scheme

6 Do you support the current plan to put the large majority of new arrivals out to 2041 within the Coastal Corridor? (Maroochydore to Caloundra)?

YES/NO Yes

7 What does high-rise mean to you (how many storeys)?

Response:

Q6. The current planning scheme 2014 that has an enterprise corridor along the coastal strip. Most people come to live beside the beaches, and this is where they will continue to choose to live. Therefore the planning scheme should continue to reflect this. Furthermore there should not be any increases to the urban footprint and Beerwah East must be commenced by the State to accommodate impending growth. Beerwah East is planned to be properly connected to public transport.

Q7. Heights As per the current planning scheme.

8 Do you think housing densification should occur along the Heavy Passenger Rail Corridor rather than the Mass Transit Coastal Corridor?

YES/NO Yes

Explain why?

The densification should occur nearby all transport routes and infrastructure. So the answer is both yes and no.

It is logical to provide accomodation where the transport solutions are provided along with other services. It is logical to provide transport solution where the accomodation and people are already. This includes the mass rapid transit and any other solution. For example provide a fast rail on the existing rail network to Nambour and Gympie and this enhances options for new housing in the existitng railway towns, noting that this is not about green field development but enable the current urban footprint and logical in fill. Most people who come to the region want to live in the coastal corridor which is the reason that all the services and main public tranpsort networks are in the coastal enterprise corridor as per the planning scheme.

In well planned centres people live where the services are and it is easy to move around. If people live a distance from services then this results in more car journeys and congestion.

9 If you are an existing Councillor, did you vote in favour of the current draft 2024 Planning Scheme?

YES/NO Yes

10 If you are elected, will you vote to review the draft 2024 Planning Scheme, in particular the densification of the coastal corridor?

YES/NO Yes

11 As a Divisional Councillor, what will you do to ensure we do not become another Gold Coast?

Response:

Build understanding and awareness of the Biosphere and the environmental uniqueness of the hinterland including the Dark Sky designation and implementation of the Zero Emissions Strategy. Provide better active transport options and infrastructure to reduce the number of

vehicles. Ensure that the planning scheme continues to reflect the Sunshine Coast values and the planning scheme is followed.

**12 Do you think the current planning decision making process is too lenient toward developers, especially in regard to site coverage, set backs and density?**

YES/NO Yes

Why?

It appears too easy to go beyond the outcomes of the planning scheme and the planning environment court also seems to favour over development of sites.

**13 Do you think all Development Applications should require Council to notify all adjoining neighbours?**

YES/NO Yes

If YES, what will you do to try and make this happen?

Yes, but I think that applicant should notify not council.

More land uses should be impact assesable but not all, we are in a housing crisis and homes should not get stuck in process.

**14 As a Divisional Councillor, what will you do to achieve better development outcomes for the region and your Division?**

Response:

I will continue to have the Yellow Desgin book used as a guide for designers and home builders. I will advocate for homes built in a way to be responsive to the environment and minimise power costs to maintain the home. I will continue to advocate for sustainable development in locations that are near infrastructure that support sustainable living options.