

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.

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| Name of candidate: | Peter Walsh | Date: | 2 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 Sunshine Coast is more than the coastal strip. The Hinterland currently has poor levels of public transport and roadways. I am seeking to see a broader bus services that covers the entire Sunshine Coast region not just the heavy rail (or the current State Government Bus system). I also support a reduce fee or free public transport system in part or fully. A trial may see if there is a strong desire to use Public Transport.

- 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:

Covered bus shelters and other necessary infrastructure at all bus stops on the sunshine coast. inc improved pathway for better accessibility.

Free public transport trial across the coast to gauge need.

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

Response:

Dual tracks to Nambour. Fast transport (Bus or rail) Beerwah to Maroochydore and along the coastal strip (particularlry Caloundra to Maroochydore). Bus lanes for key paths along the coast and network out to the hinterland.

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 No

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

Response:
Higher than 10 storeys.

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

YES/NO No

Explain why?

There are many communities on the sunshine coast that can accommodate this growth. Nambour, Aura and Beerwah are such areas. However, infrastructure is the key. There is no point increasing population if the infrastructure is not there. The growth needs to be sustainable. There are many other ideas that could be used such as subdivision of large rural blocks and the like. I acknowledge that council must comply with State Government growth targets therefore there is a need for the state government to support the required infrastructure. Basically, - no infrastructure - no growth. There needs to be a balance between growth and maintaining what makes the Sunshine Coast what it is.

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

YES/NO

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:

I would work with other divisional Councillors, local State and Federal members to develop a balanced team approach that ensures that the Sunshine Coast does not become another Gold Coast. Have regular meetings with residents to advice of plans that did not fit. By not having an political or personal agenda I believe that I can seek to find common ground that brings the best outcomes to the coast and our way of life. I believed that there are many way to resolve state government requirements. It is seeking ideas from multi stakeholders, this could include some rural residential blocks allowed to subdivide. But this requires infrastructure to be in place prior to development. I support the need to protecting the green spaces south and north of Sunshine Coast and within the areas of the Sunshine Coast.

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?

New developments will always have impacts on existing footprint. But it is the

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| | <p>role of council to make the best use of the available land - particularly taking into consideration the negative impacts on the current community. These impacts must be managed so that it limits the hurt. I also believe that we must fix the older towns in the hinterland to bring them up to current standards - footpaths, drainage, road etc. Again infrastructure first.</p> |
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13 Do you think all Development Applications should require Council to notify all adjoining neighbours?

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| YES/NO Yes | <p>If YES, what will you do to try and make this happen? Make it a requirement - it is just general respect.</p> |
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14 As a Divisional Councillor, what will you do to achieve better development outcomes for the region and your Division?

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| <p>Response: Be a representative that listens, understand the view and needs of the community. Encourage and empower local residents to express their concerns to both council and the State government. Engage regularly with the state member to ensure community views are understood. I will push for infrastructure particularly in the older areas of the Hinterland. Be a voice that supports the Sunshine Coast way of Life. Support the maintenance of our green spaces and environmental sensitive areas.</p> |
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