

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:	Mark Gilbert	Date:	21 January 2024
Division contesting:	Division 4		

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 No

- 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?

Heavy Rail along the existing allocated corridor on the other side of Kawana Way with bus services feeding the stations.

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

YES/NO No

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

Response:

Review usage of current public transport systems and assess the need in consideration of whether the community would use the proposed solution and the impact of the solution would have on the residents along its route.

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

Response:

Electric or Hydrogen fueled busses based on need and use cases without dedicated lanes linked to heavy rail. A fast train to Brisbane would be desirable but I don't think it would be financially viable in the foreseeable future.

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:
4 levels and above

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?

You must have infrastructure to move the increased number of people to and from work, schools, etc and the heavy rail will service those along its route as well as those who work in Brisbane.

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 will vote with the community I represent on all issues.

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?

I think housing blocks are getting too small which increases site coverage and I believe there should be a minimum of two vehicle spaces for every apartment as the overflow ends up parking on the street clogging the roadways in some cases blocking the streets for emergency vehicles and others virtually making them one way each way.

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?

Neighbours need to know to be able to give their perspective to the approval process.

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

Response:

I will truly represent the community and work to return the off leash areas for dogs and their owners to Point Cartwright and work to protect other off leash areas across the coast.