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## 2024 State Government Election Candidate Questionnaire

The Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc. (OSCAR) an umbrella group for resident and community groups in the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Local Government areas (LGAs) has a tradition of seeking the views of candidates for State elections on Local Government issues that are partially or wholly the responsibility of the State Government (by way of funding or legislative control).

Your responses, in full, will be published on the OSCAR website for the benefit of our members and the wider community.

We appreciate the fact that you are very busy at this time but we would value receiving your responses on the issues we have identified by October 16. Many questions can be answered with a simple Yes or No but the opportunity is there for you to expand your response.

We welcome individual responses from all candidates. Those of you who are members of the same political party may submit a collective response if preferred.

<b>Candidate</b>	Melody Lindsay
<b>Electorate</b>	Nicklin
<b>Party</b>	Legalise Cannabis Queensland Party
<b>Date</b>	11/10/2024

## State Planning Issues

1. Will you commit to ensuring there is statutory recognition and protection of the existing regional inter-urban break, between the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay Regional Councils (including Halls Creek)?

I am fully committed to utilizing my position as an MP to provide support for ongoing initiatives and advocate for more robust environmental legislation.

2. (a). Will you support the Blue Heart project on 5000 ha of the Maroochy floodplain as a critical response to climate change?

The Blue Heart project is of significant importance, and it is crucial to prioritize the protection of our waterways.

- (b) Will you ensure that funding from the State's Land Restoration Program is continued and is available to landowners within the Maroochy floodplain?

As an independent voice in Parliament on the crossbench, I would have the opportunity to engage with all sides of government to advocate for the necessary funding to be provided.

3. As the Planning Act includes forms of planning and development that fall within the scope of "development" in the Economic Development Act, if elected, in the interest of consistency across state legislation, will you commit to amending the Economic Development Act to ensure that the ecological sustainability principles in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Planning Act are incorporated fully into the Economic Development Act and applied as intended by the Planning Act?

It is evident that there is a need for Queensland to enhance its environmental legislation.

4. The State Government has established a State Facilitated Development (SFD) process to "deliver affordable housing". It allows the state to ignore and override local planning schemes, local councils and the community and removes the right of appeal to the Planning and Environment Court.

Recently the State Government declared an SFD in Noosa Shire in opposition to Noosa Shire Council, its Planning Scheme and against Community Expectations. At its September General Meeting OSCAR member groups voted unanimously that:

*OSCAR calls on the Government, the Opposition, and all standing Candidates to commit to repealing the SFD legislation within 6 months and Rejecting or Suspending all current Applications/designations.*

Will you commit to repealing the SFD legislation and reject or suspend all current applications/designations and undertake negotiations with Councils and the community.

I have been informed and have acquainted myself with this matter to a certain extent, but I feel that I need to gain a more comprehensive understanding. I do have some reservations regarding the project, particularly in light of the fact that it was approved without a full understanding of the local area, and seemingly based solely on the availability of amenities. I am committed to seeking guidance from the community on this matter and will certainly be open to engaging in discussions and negotiations.

5. In relation to the finalised Sunshine Coast Airport Development Scheme finalised by EDQ on Friday 27 September 2024: will you commit to the stated objective of "no worsening for existing communities around the airport", by guaranteeing that ALL infrastructure (road and drainage) will be in place in time to manage non-aviation development impacts?

I have limited knowledge about this issue apart from the information provided to me by the Sunshine Coast Environmental Council. As a member of parliament, my decisions will be informed by the community and independent resource. I am dedicated to the goal of ensuring that there is no negative impact on the current communities surrounding the airport.

6. Given the significant and diverse implications of Climate Change for this region and the State as a

whole, what emissions reduction and renewable energy targets and associated timeframes do you commit to for Queensland, and what detailed plans do you have to achieve those targets?

LCQ's objective is to bring attention to alternative sources of resources that are currently overlooked. We advocate for the reduction of bureaucratic obstacles in the Hemp industry and the exploration of the numerous potential applications of hemp, which include absorbing CO2, serving as building materials, requiring less water than other crops, having a short growth cycle of 100 days, offering a substitute for plastics, and being biodegradable.

## Social and Affordable Housing

7. What do you see are the issues underlying homelessness on the Sunshine Coast and what strategies will you implement in the next term, if elected?

I have personally faced homelessness due to financial difficulties following a tragic loss. During that difficult time, I found limited support from the government and community centres due to resource constraints. This experience made me realise the need for greater resources and support for individuals in similar situations. I strongly believe that housing should be recognized as a fundamental human right. It is essential to address the housing needs within our communities before extending help to others. In the words of Mother Teresa, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."

8. How will you seek to facilitate greater availability of affordable housing and improve the abysmally low amount of social housing on the Sunshine Coast?

Yes

## Infrastructure

9. The delivery cost and capacity of the proposed Direct Rail Project are publicly debated between parties.
- a) By 2032, how far are you committing for the direct heavy rail line to go, and where will the stations be located?

I can not answer this question with full confidence without all the necessary information.

b) How can we be confident that you can deliver this project in time and on budget?

I can not answer this question with full confidence without all the necessary information.

10. Will you commit to reviewing Public Transport timetables for the Sunshine Coast from the hinterland to the Nambour Hospital, Sunshine Coast Airport, Peregian Springs and other locations across the Coast currently with hourly services?

Yes. We rely heavily on our transport in the hinterland of Sunshine Coast, it would be a benefit for our community to have more public transport and rely less on own transport.

11. Will you commit to ensuring that Active Transport is provided progressively across the Sunshine Coast and, in particular, will you campaign for State funding for the Nambour to Coolum Trail and the Mapleton to Maleny trail as a landmark Olympics Legacy projects for the Sunshine Coast?

Yes, I grew up in Mapleton, my family had no car. It was hard for us to get of the mountain, I understand how much some people rely on public transport. Being on the crossbench I would be able to lobby all sides of government to get the needs for my community.

12. Do you agree that heritage, natural environment, cultural values and the values of the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Biosphere designations must be acknowledged, respected and taken into account in any major new infrastructure projects to protect the character of our villages and towns and unique fauna, for example, fauna friendly underpasses/overpasses?

Yes

13. Seqwater’s Water Security Program 2023 (WSP2023) sets out a 30-year plan to ensure we continue to maintain high levels of water security for South East Queenslanders.  
What do you feel is the best approach to ensuring water security for the Sunshine Coast given the continuing high rates of population growth and the implications of Climate Change?

I do not have enough information to answer this question with confidence, I would rely on Community groups such as the Sunshine Coast Environmental Council for guidance.

## **Local/State Government Reform**

14. In the interests of consistency, will you support the State funding of Local Government Elections under a similar model to that of the State Elections?

Yes, I believe that is fair.

**Thank you for taking the time to respond to our questions. Responses will be posted on the OSCAR website as part of our “one-stop shop” for elections.**