

2016 COUNCIL ELECTIONS – QUESTIONS

Mayoral Candidates:

1. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the position of Mayor and what skills and experience would you bring to fulfil this role?

Formally , the Mayor , being a Councillor, has the same roles and responsibilities as all the Councillors. These can be found at Section 12 of the Local Government Act .

The Councillors' job is to honestly, openly and impartially make decisions, as a group, to set the Council's principles , policies and plans to ensure the best possible outcomes within the law for the present and future benefit of the whole region.

The Mayor however has extra responsibilities and these can also be found within Section 12 of the Act.

I would summarise those extra responsibilities as:

Running the meetings;

Instructing the CEO and Senior Executive Officers in accordance with resolution, policy and principle of the Council;

Preparing the budget (obviously in consultation), and;

Representing Council.

The skills and experience I bring are:

Strong leadership, excellent listening and proactive approach. Having 21 years of banking history and 23 years of running my own I have an intimate understanding of how a business works, how to run a business and how to maximise staff participation and create an environment of high morale.

21 years with the NAB – promoted to branch manager

After leaving the NAB I purchased Tin Can Bay Hardware and operated it for 15 years. This business grew from 2 to 15 staff and was sold in 2008 so my wife and I could move back to Innisfail.

My wife and I purchase Larsen's Newsagency in 2008 and continue to operate the business.

I also undertook a role as manager of Innisfail Hardware where I oversaw the fundamental changes to modernise the operation.

I am solution and relationship focused and these principles have proven to be the foundation of my success.

I am:

- President Innisfail Brothers Rugby League Football Club
- VP Innisfail Lions Club
- Past president Innisfail Chamber of Commerce and currently Senior VP
- Board member of Brothers Leagues Club
- Chairperson of the Cassowary Coast Economic Development Inc. An initiative of the Innisfail Chamber under my leadership – came in 4 years ahead of original plan

However, at least as important as that experience is my absolute heartfelt commitment to bring about change within our region to create wealth, employment, provide economic and environmental sustainability and to do all this in the full light of public view with effective community engagement.

2. What strategies would you consider implementing to improve the efficiency of the CCRC workforce?

I intend to ensure that the Council's structure, in terms of its workforce, is as efficient as possible and is on the permanent road to improvement.

The structure will support the Council and be accountable to it and the community.

Full reporting structures will be put in place so that progress towards Council's goals can and will be regularly measured through committee and communications structures.

"Runs on the board" will be measured and analysed and the staff will be in no doubt that Council (with robust community engagement) will be setting goals and determining strategies.

3. What do you think could be done to ensure the CCRC executives are accountable for 'stuff up's' in their department?

The CEO and Senior Executive Staff will be exposed to full enquiry from the Council and will be in no doubt of Council's expectation of excellence

in their performance and in the performance of those whom they supervise.

Performance will be actively reviewed and measured and officers will be held to account (of course in a lawful and fair way) for any unsatisfactory performance.

4. Are you prepared to examine and change the system of performance evaluation of the Executives?

The Chief Executive Officer's performance must be measured by law at least annually.

I and my Council will determine the most appropriate criteria for this review and its frequency.

The Chief Executive Officer will be held responsible and accountable for the performance of staff measured against Council's goals and priorities.

5. Do you think the current system for awarding contracts is effective and if not how do you think it can be improved?

Awarding of contracts is heavily regulated under legislation. That being said however, the Council has quite some discretion in determining its own procurement (or purchasing policy).

My team and I have already developed a fully compliant draft purchasing policy which is ready for public scrutiny and, with the approval of the people, implementation.

The most important part of the policy is:

Quote: In accordance with Section 104, Subsection 3, Item c of the Act, Council wishes to foster the development of competitive local businesses and industry in the Cassowary Coast region as part of the process of making its purchasing decisions.

To this end, Council may accept a tender or offer from a local supplier in preference to a comparable tender or offer from a non-local supplier even if the tender or offer from the non-local supplier has been assessed

as more favourable in terms of one or more of the assessment criteria applied (including but not limited to price), so long as it is clear that the selected local supplier can meet Council's requirements at an acceptably high standard and bearing in mind Cassowary Coast region's specific standing and identity.

Where price, performance, quality, suitability and other general evaluation criteria are comparable, the following local-preference advantages may be considered in evaluating tenders and offers from local suppliers:

- i. creation of local employment opportunities;
- ii. more readily available servicing support;
- iii. more convenient communications for contract management;
- iv. economic growth within the local area;
- v. benefit to Council of associated local commercial transactions.

6. Will you support a 'Green Cemetery' for Mission Beach?

In principle –Yes. However it would need to fully investigated and be supported by the majority of ratepayers.

This would be tied directly to our "Community Engagement" position statement"

7. Would you support a "no plastic bag policy" for the Cassowary Coast?

As per Q6 above

8. If elected, what would you do to help support and sustain the unique natural environment of Mission Beach?

My Group is committed to environmental sustainability and this is evident and indeed directly referenced in all our relevant platforms. Moreover, my Groups commitment is designed to be influenced by the very active community engagement strategy we've developed. In this way we can ensure that decisions towards support and sustenance of the environment here will be predicated by virtue of the community's view.

9. Scenario: "As a tourism destination Mission Beach makes a significant contribution to the Cassowary Coast economy. In order to attract visitors to stay and hopefully to return, the respective villages that make up Mission Beach need to look attractive and welcoming. Visitors have often commented that Mission beach looks untidy and tired, with overgrown entrances, weed inundation on footpaths and beach/parkland in need of weed control and more regular mowing."

Given this scenario and considering that Council works within a tight budget, what strategies would you implement to improve this situation?

We need to take, and have pride in our region and in collaboration with other state agencies and landowners we would implement the following-

Better practices, better allocation of resources and significantly improved efficiency.

10. A research survey recently conducted by the MBCA indicated that a large majority of members are opposed to the Perry Harvey Jetty/Overtopping Breakwater design, which is meant to improve recreational and commercial boating safety.

What are your views on the suggested alternative, which involves the consolidation of all boating facilities at Clump Point and if elected, would you support such an alternative?

I will not support the "Overtopping Breakwater Design"

I have grave concerns as to the structural integrity of the Perry Harvey Jetty and believe that-

-it doesn't provide safe all weather mooring

-it should be fully repaired at NO cost (under warranty) to the ratepayers.

I have spoken with members of Cassowary Coast Safe Boating Association and Mission Beach Boating Association who believe that

the best possible result for Mission Beach is the upgrade/extension of the boat ramp facility.

Benefits to Mission Beach are-

- Safety – design would allow safe boating conditions in nearly all weather events
- Safe refuelling and embarking & disembarking facility
- Commercial & Recreational fishers have agreed to share the facility
- Economic – Plans would allow for up to 4 commercial operators to utilise the facility thus providing fee incoming to council and attracting tourists to the area that would support local business activity
- Funding is approved.

As part of our Masterplan, Development and Community Engagement position statements we would ensure that the facility would meet Social, Cultural and Environmental concerns.

I believe that this is the best long term option and that Mission Beach should have the best facility provided to take them into the future