

> Candidate Notes MBCA "Meet the Candidate" function.

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> Background

> I have lived at Mission Beach since 1979 (moving here with my parents,
> Ruth and David Pike), other than for a 3 year period when I worked in
> SE Qld, where I met my wife of 34 yrs, Kerri, married, and came home to
> Mission to settle and raise kids.

> We have 8 children, all reared on tourism money earned in Mission
> Beach and the Cassowary Coast, with 4 kids still at home.

> I was P&C President at MB State School for some 3 years, in that time
> my team achieved the schools Multi Purpose Court, (still currently the
> most popular piece of sporting infrastructure in Mission Beach).
> I was foundation President of Mission Beach Junior Soccer Club, and
> remained president for some 5 years. I am proud to say that the club
> is still working well. I have also contributed my commercial boats and
> time through the years to many community groups and events, helping
> Tully Rotary with their "Take a kid fishing " over some years. Most
> recently, after being approached by Queensland Water Police, I took on
> the sobering job of coordinating the local boating communities search
> for Fozzie, I thank all the people who gave of their time in this
> difficult search, we tend to look after our own in the maritime industry.

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> I am the ONLY councillor in the history of either the old Cardwell and
> Johnstone Shires, and more recently Cassowary Coast Regional Council
> to come from a pure tourism background, with expertise (and awards)
> achieved in my River Rat Wildlife Cruise business, and in my current
> fishing and reef charter business, Hooked Up Fishing Adventures. I
> understand tourism at the coal face. With that in mind I requested,
> and received the Tourism Portfolio in our current council upon my
> election. Since that time I have been diligent in learning how
> structural tourism works, put simply, how we "plug into" the wider
> state, national, and international tourism campaigns and initiatives to attract visitors to our region.
I have learnt well.

> I have attended significant workshops and conferences on councils
> behalf in my 4 year tenure and now feel confident that I have the
> expertise to really assist our local tourism industries build.

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> My commitment to our local environment is wholehearted (I even rode
> here tonight generating zero carbon emissions whilst enjoying our
> spectacular scenery). I am currently assisting Terrain NRM and the
> Cassowary Recovery Team (CRT) in developing strategies to mitigate Cassowary road kill.
> I am absolutely certain that in years to come that the Cassowary, our
> pristine forests, islands and our outstanding section of the Great
> Barrier Reef will become major tourism attractions, and great drivers
> for our local economy. Put a solid economic value on that bird, that
> forest, those islands and that reef and collectively both their and
> our futures are assured, a win win situation.

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> I have engaged well with service and community groups within Division
> 3, and have made some great friends along the way, the volunteer base
> in Division 3 is nothing short of remarkable and needs acknowledging.
> I understand day to day issues facing families, the elderly, and
> businesses throughout my division very well, I've lived those issues.
> A small bit of community work I personally do - when I ride early in

> the morning, any fresh dead wallaby road kill (the ones that are not
> mincemeat) I drag off the road into the bush, I have done this for some years now.
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> If re elected I intend to continue to pressure council over its asset
> divestment policy, currently there are too many non
> productive/obsolete assets (in reality they are liabilities) sitting
> on councils books. As we have to fund depreciation and maintainance
> etc for these surplus assets, they act as a handbrake on council
> achieving new contemporary assets, assets that communities could
> really use. Simply speaking, no different from any family budget, we
> need to rid ourselves of the old before we can get the new. A strong
> council needs to get serious about removing these surplus assets from
> its asset register. I have the strength, if elected I commit to
> "swinging the knife", it will be at times unpopular but it must be
> done if we want to progress our region. The first workshop I will
> request if elected will be in relation to councils asset divestment
> policy, we need to get real about this. I challenge other Councillors and Mayoral candidates to
commit to do the same.
> Thanks for listening.