

Tim Burns - Division 3 Candidate



The Beach Matters Group is a community-based advocacy group with close to 10,000 members in our social media platforms and email database. It was formed in 2020 to protect and preserve the Sunshine Coast beaches, beachfront and the beach lifestyle.

We have members in every division of the Sunshine Coast, as a result, we would like to ask you the following questions to gain your views on these current issues relative to members, our beaches and all those who enjoy them.

Please reply email with your answers by midnight on the 19th of February to be included in our showcase of candidates. We will post the replies in full in the Beach Matters Group, and also email them to our database on Tuesday the 20th of February.

Thanks for your time in completing these, and we wish you all the best in the upcoming election.

Best wishes,
Rach Bermingham
President
The Beach Matters Group

PERSONAL BEACH USE

Q. What is your favourite Sunshine Coast beach? A hard choice- top 3 are Currimundi, Moffis and Shelley

Q. How often are you able to get there to enjoy some leisure time? Daily

Q. When you go to the beach, what activities do you enjoy on the beach? Surfing, Spearfishing/snorkelling

Q. Have you ever taken any activity to protect and preserve the beach? If YES, please explain how. Yes, beach clean ups.

PERSONAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Q. Are you currently involved with any community group? YES / NO

If YES, which groups and what has been your involvement and/or contribution over the past year?

Disable surfers Sunny Coast- act as Team Leader on surfing days. WindanSea Boardriders as a member. Just finished chairing a couple committees at Meridan State College at end of 2023 after 10 years.

ISSUE 1: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

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Q. Do you feel the current community engagement process and surveys provide accurate and authentic community feedback? YES / NO

If NO, what changes would you make to the community engagement to ensure community and stakeholder feedback was better instigated, managed, and assessed for greater community advocacy on projects?

Yes and no- it depends on who is planning and delivering the engagement. Engagement at council is conducted by the team who is responsible for the project. There is advice or direction given from the Engagement team at council and via the Excellence in Engagement Framework that is recognised by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2), but it is up to each project to determine what they do. Therefore, some engagement is exceptionally well done and others not so.

Q. Would you consider establishing 2 permanent community reference groups:

1 coastal

1 hinterland

made up of local representatives from groups in these areas and interested residents to meet with council and management quarterly to provide input and feedback on local issues that may affect council planning? YES / NO

I'm not sure about that. There are a myriad of community reference groups already engaged across council for a range of things and these can play a useful role in representing views of community. Further to that, OSCAR is a strong advocate for local community resident organisations across the coast. There are others too, like Beach Matters or MTAG for example. Lastly, local councillors can be a helpful conduit for residents along with existing engagement opportunities.

ISSUE 2: BEACH WASTE, LITTER, MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you believe there is an issue with the amount of rubbish and waste on our beaches? YES / NO- currently no. However, I also appreciate that rubbish on beaches is influenced heavily by tides and swell etc, not just land based activity.

Q. Do you believe the Sunshine Coast Council is doing enough to keep our beaches free of waste and rubbish? YES / NO – I believe so, because currently, the beaches I attend are looking really good.

If NO, what actions will you take, immediate and on-going, to return our beaches to a clean state for residents, wildlife and marine life?

Q. As the Sunshine Coast now relies heavily on tourism, would you support the Council becoming a 7-day-a-week organisation to provide community support, beach maintenance, cleaning, and availability to include weekends, holidays and public holidays where we see the most need occurring so our beaches are clean, safe, accessible, and presentable before residents and tourists wake up each day? YES / NO

There are many aspects of council that is already 7 day a week services, particularly in the areas of cleaning, parks work, customer contact etc. I'm content the current service is sufficient.

ISSUE 3: FUNDING / BUDGET FOR BEACH CARE

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

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Q. Do you believe that funding directed to the care and maintenance of our beaches and surrounding vegetation is sufficient? YES / NO

If NO, what actions will you take to ensure adequate funding is available and directed to the departments that provide the services necessary to ensure clean and healthy beaches?

I have no idea what the budget is for this so can't comment, but the work being conducted is of a high quality from what I can see.

ISSUE 4: BEACH INFRASTRUCTURE / PLANNING

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you agree the Shoreline Erosion Plan and Healthy Coast Management Plan should be incorporated into the new Planning Scheme Plan to ensure consistent and collaborative planning and design? YES / NO I'm not across these docs but certainly alignment and incorporation makes a lot of sense.

Q. Do you believe the proposed Mooloolaba seawall is correctly designed? YES / NO

If NO, would you support a review and redesign of the proposed Mooloolaba Seawall to address beach loss and other issues raised by community and business stakeholders?

I have no idea, I'm not a coastal engineer.

Q. Do you believe the roads and entrances to our main patrolled beach entrances could do with natural beautification and be greener with more mature trees, shrubs and ambient lighting to make them more welcoming, warmer, and inviting and enhance the COASTAL beachside experience over the harder infrastructure we've seen recently in placemaking? YES / NO

Probably depends on where you're talking. A number of the beaches I attend, are great in this respect. However, the more trees the better and continual improvement in public amenity is absolutely important within budget limitations.

Q. Do you have any known conflicts of interest along the beachfront from Coolum to Shelly Beach? YES / NO

If YES, can you please provide more information about any specific projects or developments?

No.

ISSUE 5: BEACHFRONT TRANSPORT AND PARKING

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you believe the proposed mass transit route adequately services all Sunshine Coast residents and commuters? YES/NO

If NO, what actions will you take to ensure the mass transit route meets resident and commuter needs?

Q. Do you think beachside carparking is essential to retaining the Sunshine Coast beach lifestyle and culture? YES / NO

Q. What are your thoughts on this rapid bus transit route?

From Caloundra along Kawana Way stopping at Meriden Plains, then Along Kawana Way, stopping at SKUH servicing the health precinct, then

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Along Kawana Way, stopping at the Aldi/Coles servicing the shopping precinct, then

Along Kawana Way, stopping at the Sunshine Coast Stadium servicing the

sporting/entertainment precinct, then

Along Kawana Way, stopping at the proposed Kawana Industrial housing area, Kawana Island, then,

Along Kawana Way, stopping at Brightwater, then

Along the Sunshine Motorway, stopping at Sippy Downs to service the education precinct (Uni, Chancellor, Stella Maris), then

Along the Sunshine Motorway, stopping at Mountain Creek/Glenfields, then

Along routed through to the back of the Maroochydore CBD via the Camcos line to service the business precinct?

10 stops instead of 16, making the entire travel time far less than the current proposed route and also completely connecting the main services for commuters like health-shopping-education-business.

AGREE WITH IT OR DISAGREE WITH IT? Explain why.

I've provided responses to MTAG for this, which they will share in due course. Cheers

ISSUE 6: CONSERVATION

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you believe Sunshine Coast Council is providing adequate protection for the critically endangered animal species visiting or residing on our beaches or in the beach environment?

YES / NO

If NO, what actions will you take to ensure further protection and ensure long-term survival?

I'm impressed with the intention, focus and energy directed to protecting endangered species including turtle, shore birds etc. I'm unsure what next steps should be taken to improve protections though.

Q. Do you believe the new Planning Scheme addresses necessary lighting protection for our nesting turtles and migrating birds? YES / NO

If NO, what actions will you take to ensure new developments, renovations and infrastructure incorporate the necessary conditions consistently and without exception, as well as public council-managed lighting?

I don't know, I've not seen the revised draft plan yet so can't comment.

Q. Do you believe there should be more monitoring and stronger consequences for the poisoning and damage/erosion of trees, vegetation, and dunes along our coastal dunes? YES / NO

I would like to see strengthening of this.

ISSUE 7: PLANNING SCHEME 2024

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you support high rise/high density development along Nicklin Way? YES / NO

Not sure of your definition of high rise/high density. But I'm supportive of densifying areas such as Nicklin way to the tune of 5 stories in particular hubs or nodes. We need to consider services, transport, distance travelled to access, parking etc.

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Q. Do you support high rise/high density development along the Buddina/Warana beachfront? YES / NO – no I don't support any new high rise development along the beach front. I prefer a graduation where high rise/higher density is away from the beach around existing corridors or travel or urban areas.

Q. Do you support high rise/high density development along the Alexandra Headland beachfront? YES / NO – no more than what is already present along Alex and Maroochydore etc.

Q. Do you support high rise/high density development in suburbs and neighbourhoods where there currently isn't any? YES / NO – medium density yes.

Q. Do you support Council changing the zoning from low density where it currently is along the beachfront, to higher density in the new Town Plan? YES / NO I don't know what the new town plan says yet.

Q. Do you believe the Planning Scheme represents the wants and needs of the community? YES / NO – I don't know, but the community is broad on the coast, so it will represent the needs and wants of many and not those of others. The challenge is to find the best common ground that will see a positive future that we've been able to shape

If NO, what will you do to ensure the Planning Scheme does meet the community's expectations?

ISSUE 8: PROTECTING ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

(NOTE: while this is not a beach-specific issue, community members who actively use our beaches also actively use our current sporting facilities. There is concern about the potential loss of these facilities that currently provide a place for grassroots and community-based sporting activities and the green space they offer, so we would like to understand your position on this).

Q. Do you believe the Olympic Indoor Stadium should reside at Kawana? YES / NO

If NO, which location is more suitable to protect and retain the current fields and facilities for long-term use by the community?

In my mind it makes sense because of the sport focused area. I appreciate though the impact this will have on clubs like the Kawana Dolphins and I would love to see Council thoroughly support the club in any move that needs to be undertaken. I note that this stadium is under review as is all Olympic venues, so we'll need to see what comes of that too.

Alister Eiseman - Division 3 Candidate



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Best wishes,
Rach Bermingham
President
The Beach Matters Group

PERSONAL BEACH USE

Q. What is your favourite Sunshine Coast beach?

Kings Beach Caloundra – Where I used to holiday with family prior to moving to the Sunshine Coast.

Q. How often are you able to get there to enjoy some leisure time?

Not enough!

Q. When you go to the beach, what activities do you enjoy on the beach?

I have done beach cleans and enjoy beach walks.

Q. Have you ever taken any activity to protect and preserve the beach? If YES, please explain how.

I have participated in beach cleans and clean up Australia Day activities on Sunshine Coast beaches.

PERSONAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Q. Are you currently involved with any community group? YES / NO **YES**

If YES, which groups and what has been your involvement and/or contribution over the past year?

**President Kawana Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Caloundra City Private School
Board Director Uniforms 4 Kids Charity
Regional Advisory Committee RACQ Life Flight
Member Caloundra Chamber of Commerce
Member Young Chamber of Commerce
Clean Up Australia Day Volunteer
Friends of the Caloundra Gallery Member**

ISSUE 1: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you feel the current community engagement process and surveys provide accurate and authentic community feedback? YES / NO

A: NO

If NO, what changes would you make to the community engagement to ensure community and stakeholder feedback was better instigated, managed, and assessed for greater community advocacy on projects?

A: Raise issues with community earlier and seek feedback prior. It is important our community drives the future of our community and has their voices heard.

Alister Eiseman - Division 3 Candidate

Q. Would you consider establishing 2 permanent community reference groups:

1 coastal

1 hinterland

made up of local representatives from groups in these areas and interested residents to meet with council and management quarterly to provide input and feedback on local issues that may affect council planning? YES / NO

A: **YES - It would be important that should this happen they do work closely because we are still one Sunshine Coast community.**

ISSUE 2: BEACH WASTE, LITTER, MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you believe there is an issue with the amount of rubbish and waste on our beaches? YES / NO

YES – All storm water drains lead to waterways on the Sunshine Coast and lack filtration so excessive rubbish is ending up on beaches and in our waterways.

Q. Do you believe the Sunshine Coast Council is doing enough to keep our beaches free of waste and rubbish? YES / NO

If NO, what actions will you take, immediate and on-going, to return our beaches to a clean state for residents, wildlife, and marine life?

No, there needs to be an increase in budget and staffing for beach and parks maintenance across the cost.

Q. As the Sunshine Coast now relies heavily on tourism, would you support the Council becoming a 7-day-a-week organisation to provide community support, beach maintenance, cleaning, and availability to include weekends, holidays and public holidays where we see the most need occurring, so our beaches are clean, safe, accessible, and presentable before residents and tourists wake up each day? YES / NO

YES, our beaches and parks must be maintained for our tourism industry and for our local residents. Populations growth and growing tourism numbers are meaning we need more attention and resources on our beach maintenance.

ISSUE 3: FUNDING / BUDGET FOR BEACH CARE

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you believe that funding directed to the care and maintenance of our beaches and surrounding vegetation is sufficient? YES / NO

If NO, what actions will you take to ensure adequate funding is available and directed to the departments that provide the services necessary to ensure clean and healthy beaches?

NO – This requires a full review. We need to make sure that the investment is there in our parks and beaches to maintain the liveability of our region.

ISSUE 4: BEACH INFRASTRUCTURE / PLANNING

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you agree the Shoreline Erosion Plan and Healthy Coast Management Plan should be incorporated into the new Planning Scheme Plan to ensure consistent and collaborative planning and design? YES / NO
Yes, there should be no development in known shoreline erosion areas.

Q. Do you believe the proposed Mooloolaba seawall is correctly designed? YES / NO

If NO, would you support a review and redesign of the proposed Mooloolaba Seawall to address beach loss and other issues raised by community and business stakeholders?

No, following feedback from the community I believe the plan should be brought back to the new council to endorse. I am also mindful that businesses in Mooloolaba have had a very tough few years with COVID, Brisbane Road redevelopment and the Brisbane Road carpark, all of which has had a serious impact on the businesses in Mooloolaba. I believe there is legitimate reasons to delay start of construction to allow businesses to get “back on their feet” prior to commencing 18 months’ worth of construction.

Alister Eiseman - Division 3 Candidate

Q. Do you believe the roads and entrances to our main patrolled beach entrances could do with natural beautification and be greener with more mature trees, shrubs, and ambient lighting to make them more welcoming, warmer, and inviting and enhance the COASTAL beachside experience over the harder infrastructure we've seen recently in placemaking? YES / NO

YES – I fully support green spaces and shaded areas to enhance the liability of our region.

Q. Do you have any known conflicts of interest along the beachfront from Coolool to Shelly Beach? YES / NO

No, I have no conflicts of interest.

If YES, can you please provide more information about any specific projects or developments?

ISSUE 5: BEACHFRONT TRANSPORT AND PARKING

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you believe the proposed mass transit route adequately services all Sunshine Coast residents and commuters? YES/NO

If NO, what actions will you take to ensure the mass transit route meets resident and commuter needs?

No, I don't. It is very expensive and takes capacity out of our road networks which are already beyond capacity. I would like to see the transport levy used to boost public transport usage in the short term to remove traffic of our roads and transition residents from car dependence to public transport. I believe Heavy Passenger Rail is key to delivering a long-term public transport system for the Sunshine Coast that can move large amounts of residents on a corridor that is already owned and won't remove vehicle capacity on roads such as Nicklin Way.

Q. Do you think beachside carparking is essential to retaining the Sunshine Coast beach lifestyle and culture? YES / NO

Yes, Locals that live on the Sunshine Coast want to retain the ability to drive and park at the beach easily to maintain the liveability and lifestyle of the Sunshine Coast.

Q. What are your thoughts on this rapid bus transit route?

From Caloundra along Kawana Way stopping at Meriden Plains, then

Along Kawana Way, stopping at SKUH servicing the health precinct, then

Along Kawana Way, stopping at the Aldi/Coles servicing the shopping precinct, then

Along Kawana Way, stopping at the Sunshine Coast Stadium servicing the sporting/entertainment precinct, then

Along Kawana Way, stopping at the proposed Kawana Industrial housing area, Kawana Island, then,

Along Kawana Way, stopping at Brightwater, then

Along the Sunshine Motorway, stopping at Sippy Downs to service the education precinct (Uni, Chancellor, Stella Maris), then

Along the Sunshine Motorway, stopping at Mountain Creek/Glenfields, then

Along routed through to the back of the Maroochydore CBD via the Camcos line to service the business precinct?

10 stops instead of 16, making the entire travel time far less than the current proposed route and also completely connecting the main services for commuters like health-shopping-education-business.

AGREE WITH IT OR DISAGREE WITH IT? Explain why.

I agree with this. I have said publicly as part of my commitment to public transport that I would like to see a service like this, more direct bus services that make it more appealing to the community to swap their personal vehicle for public transportation to and from work and to recreational activities.

ISSUE 6: CONSERVATION

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you believe Sunshine Coast Council is providing adequate protection for the critically endangered animal species visiting or residing on our beaches or in the beach environment? YES / NO

If NO, what actions will you take to ensure further protection and ensure long-term survival?

I am unsure on this; I would like to see further details on this and also investigate ways we can better protect endangered animals.

Q. Do you believe the new Planning Scheme addresses necessary lighting protection for our nesting turtles and migrating birds? YES / NO

Alister Eiseman - Division 3 Candidate

If NO, what actions will you take to ensure new developments, renovations and infrastructure incorporate the necessary conditions consistently and without exception, as well as public council-managed lighting?
The new planning scheme is confidential and hasn't been released yet publicly. However, I would fully support the planning scheme providing stricter guidelines around lighting protection. I believe all buildings on beachfront areas should have lighting conditions as part of their approval conditions. This should be followed up by compliance audits and driven by body corporates in these areas. I am a big supporter of "Turtle Time" and ways we can make protecting our wildlife a unique difference in what we do on the sunshine coast.

Q. Do you believe there should be more monitoring and stronger consequences for the poisoning and damage/erosion of trees, vegetation, and dunes along our coastal dunes? YES / NO

Yes, stronger consequences for actions should absolutely be implemented. There should be education supplied plus awareness that fines and penalties apply to deter anyone for destroying our natural assets.

ISSUE 7: PLANNING SCHEME 2024

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

Q. Do you support high rise/high density development along Nicklin Way? YES / NO

No – I have continued to oppose high rise and densification along Nicklin Way. Existing residential street should not be impacted by any significant change as part of the new planning scheme.

Q. Do you support high rise/high density development along the Buddina/Warana beachfront? YES / NO

No – I do not support high rise or densification anywhere along the coastal corridor between Point Cartwright and Caloundra.

Q. Do you support high rise/high density development along the Alexandra Headland beachfront? YES / NO

No

Q. Do you support high rise/high density development in suburbs and neighbourhoods where there currently isn't any? YES / NO

No

Q. Do you support Council changing the zoning from low density where it currently is along the beachfront, to higher density in the new Town Plan? YES / NO

NO

Q. Do you believe the Planning Scheme represents the wants and needs of the community? YES / NO

If NO, what will you do to ensure the Planning Scheme does meet the community's expectations?

No – It will be critical the new council is open and transparent during the community consultation phase to ensure the community is well informed. This is the largest change ever proposed for the Sunshine Coast, planning for an additional 219,000 people by 2046. I will not support densification of the coastal corridor and I think we must be very careful of plans for infill developments. Critically, we must push back to State and Federal governments to ensure we have the investment in roads, public transport, and other infrastructure to handle this population growth in the right way.

ISSUE 8: PROTECTING ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

If you answer yes and no to any of the following, please explain your answer clearly.

(NOTE: while this is not a beach-specific issue, community members who actively use our beaches also actively use our current sporting facilities. There is concern about the potential loss of these facilities that currently provide a place for grassroots and community-based sporting activities and the green space they offer, so we would like to understand your position on this).

Q. Do you believe the Olympic Indoor Stadium should reside at Kawana? YES / NO

If NO, which location is more suitable to protect and retain the current fields and facilities for long-term use by the community?

More planning needs to go into this to not disadvantage our grassroots community organisations that currently call the stadium grounds home. Any Olympic infrastructure must have a lasting community benefit and should not disadvantage any local organisations. I believe these clubs have been left out of consultation with the future plans with very little detail on where they would move to and how that would impact families currently utilising the facilities at Kawana. I.e. how children would get to Meridan Fields or Honey Farm Road that currently ride, walk or scooter to the Kawana location.

Kym Willing - Division 3 Candidate

Did not respond to the Beach Matters Survey