

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTIONS – SEPTEMBER 2008 CANDIDATES' ANSWERS TO COASTWATCHERS QUESTIONNAIRE

Leslie BRAMAN (Group F – Chris Kowal's team)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council's plans and policies?

If a need exists, policies and plans might require review and modification. Policies are there to be adhered to. If we open the door to one exception, it opens the gate to others. I don't believe that any development applications should be approved that don't conform to the Council's plans and policies.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

I have been very involved in our local group of Clean Energy for Eternity and was the Coordinator of the Broulee Beach Human Sign "Lifesaving Energy" in 2007, which brought over 1000 people onto the beach in pouring down rain and gale force winds. In addition, I was the local coordinator for ten Eurobodalla Shire schools in July 07 to form human signs, each promoting the message of the children's concerns about climate change.

We just have to look at what is happening around the world to see some of the effects. We are not immune to it locally and must be prepared, especially with knowledge and preservation of vulnerable coastal land. Clearly, any new developments proposed for vulnerable locations close to water level should be subjected to the tightest scrutiny.

Would you support a "no go" area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

I would definitely support a "no go" area for development for three primary reasons:

- 1) Preservation and conservation. If we don't preserve much of what we have remaining, our natural resources will be gone for good.***
- 2) Tourism. Visitors to our shire come for the coast, the natural beauty. We need to maintain our coast, and especially some of the more vulnerable areas, for our important tourism industry.***
- 3) Global Warming. Climate change is happening. Sea levels will continue to rise.***

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire?

Definitely. The coastal dunes are an essential part to our coastal environment. While some dunes will naturally be moved by from heavy seas and winds, it is important to

protect them from non-natural effects of human abuse. Stabilisation will in turn help prevent the natural erosion from having sometimes-disastrous effects.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Definitely, but I would actually hope we could achieve it sooner than 2020. It is essential for not only our Shire, but for the whole world. 2020 will be upon us soon. Global warming is a reality that we must acknowledge is happening and we must do everything in our power to try to work against its effects. Buzzwords about climate change are everywhere – there are few sceptics left. It's moved from something that one "should" do to something that one "must" do.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

- 1) Governmental (including local Shire) rebates, rewards and incentives***
- 2) Conservation in all areas (work, home, school, social...)***
 - Find out how much your emissions are, at home and work.***
 - Reduce your emissions***
 - Offset remaining emissions.***
- 3) Education***
- 4) Support solar / wind power initiatives***
- 5) Selling excessive solar power back to the grid for profit***

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

When people work hard on behalf of the community only to be shot down and made virtually ineffective, those guilty will always have to wear the burden of what they have done. However, karma doesn't necessarily help to compensate for the abuse done. Landcare has suffered a vast amount, which hopefully is not irreparable. While a formal public apology might only be tokenistic, it would be a first step. In addition, a public praise for those who were harmed by the damage done, would be of benefit – perhaps a plaque in their honour to be in a publicly visible spot in Council. Council should also actively promote Landcare. Ultimately, action will speak more loudly than any apology.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes. So far, I've received a hefty sum of \$0.00. I am aware that the salary is nominal as a councillor; I am not running for money. If I am personally offered any money, I will try to ensure that the money comes from a reputable and trustworthy source with similar beliefs.

Elizabeth COOK JP
(Group B – Gary Smith’s team)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

Other than extenuating circumstances, (ie disaster or emergency planning after a tsunami or cyclone) I can’t see any reason to approve an application that has not undergone proper process, planning & policy, and/or effective & extensive community consultation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

I believe the scientists are correct in their predictions on climate driven sea level rise and all coastal councils are on notice to take necessary steps to prevent damage to infrastructure.

Any new developments on the coastal fringe must be scrutinized by council & staff, and follow recommendations from State & Federal Government, as well as Environmental Defender’s Office & other peak bodies qualified to give advice & direction.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas?

Why/Why not?

Yes, a no-go area eg fragile wetlands & mangroves should be mandatory in any decision making re a development. These areas are vital for biodiversity of marine & aquatic life, are rapidly disappearing with previous developments, and should be protected.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

All river mouths and beach areas should be protected, and no building other than Life Saving Clubs & related infrastructure eg boatramps, should be allowed in these areas. In highly used tourist beach areas, care should be taken to ensure minimal damage to dunes and the implementation of plantings & dune stabilization are recommended. Boardwalks on entry to beaches have been successful in “funneling” of people & protecting sensitive dunes, and keeping vehicular use to a minimum has also had an impact.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Yes, I support this aim, and by creating new policies on an “as needed” basis that can be acted on to reduce energy consumption, and to implement renewable energy projects.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

We can lead by example by committing to the targets and supporting efforts of business, schools and local communities to do the same, via grants, education & awareness. All new building works within Council’s works & facilities could include these targets if appropriate.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

ESC needs to learn from prior mistakes in undoing Landcare work, supporting the local volunteers who have had training & experience, and NOT listening to a few loud voices. The Landcare movement has suffered and needs support in restoring confidence in the valuable & vital works being undertaken, to preserve & protect in & around coastal communities.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

As part of a team of Eurobodalla Community Independents, we have a firm policy on NOT taking any developer donations, and declaring ALL funds raised & spent in campaigning.

Keith DANCE (Independent)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council's plans and policies?

Where variations are minor and common sense clearly shows that it is required. Changes made must not disadvantage the current or potential future owners. There are some occasions that the planning structure has not foreseen which require change. All planning documents by nature are fluid with some instances requiring modification to adjust to changing circumstances. Changes to planning is difficult requiring government approval therefore to change planning documents is not taken lightly.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

That depends on which predictions turn out to be correct or none of the above! Should an extreme level be reached then areas like Bateman's Bay CBD could be under water as well as much of the coastline whereas a small rise will have a minimal effect? Man throughout history has had to adapt and will no doubt continue to do so into the future. If we must retreat from the existing coastline then so be it. If it happens then life will go on and no doubt we, or our great grandchildren will have to adapt.

Would you support a "no go" area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

Planning policy already has identified such lands, i.e. 7a wetlands, with the appropriate development restrictions. The State Government sets these regulations.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire?

Again these lands are defined and protected under State Planning instruments. Councils must adhere to such policy documents and cannot vary such planning legislation without Ministerial approval. If sea levels rise to extreme levels where would one determine where the new dune lines are to be set?

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (i.e. achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020? Why/Why not?

Why do we focus so much on electricity when in fact the planet has 1.6 billion people without access to electricity. The problem is not simple and goes much deeper and I think will get worse. The planet will by 2050 have an extra 3 billion humans living on it with the most populace nations by then consuming at a level that we now enjoy. If that occurs the challenge to feed, clothe and supply the consumables that the world populace demands will be huge.

Technology will be the only solution to the energy problem and if nothing else the climate change debate has moved this process to a higher gear. The current drive to produce much better solar systems is not before time as this country has a huge potential to exploit the sun's energy.

We need to be careful to not get caught in tokenism for example fitting out surf clubs costing \$20,000 to save a power bill of around \$800 per annum.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

Mass-produce new technology that will encourage the use of more efficient use of the planets resources, however this goes way beyond Local Government 's charter.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

Simply bring the community along with you. If ALL the community is aware of what the Landcare movement is proposing to do and you can then enthuse the community to embrace the movement then you solve the ageing membership as well as attracting the required funds either by sponsorship or government funding.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

I can do that now. I will self-fund this as I did the last by election. I raise the other question. Why is it that the Labor, Liberal and the Green parties can raise huge amounts of funds and have the audacity to claim that the elected members of those parties are not influenced by those donations? What a load of garbage!

Peter FATCHES (Group H – Alan Morton’s team)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

It would have to be a stand alone development with exceptional design qualities. It should have the approval of neighbours and not impact on their amenity in any way, ie loss of view, overshadowing, etc. Otherwise they should conform to council plans and policies, like everybody else.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

I think in Eurobodalla it’s time to rethink approvals for development in low lying areas close to the ocean – eg Barlings Beach development. People obviously don’t want to buy expensive blocks like this, close to the ocean. Barlings Beach development is in receivership.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas?
Why/Why not?

Yes. (see above)

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

Yes. Also unique coastal bushland.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Yes. Because it’s time to end the talk fest and start doing something now not when it’s all to late.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

Government building should set the example with solar power, wind power just like Mathew Nott has done with surf clubs. More government money for the public for new homes which use alternate energy and converting existing homes to alternate energy.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

Obviously stand by the volunteers who devote their time for Landcare projects and not sell them out for the first selfish resident who thinks they might lose some of their view – eg Long Beach fiasco.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes !

Pam HAMORY (Independent)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council's plans and policies?

No circumstances could justify the approval of a development application that does not conform to council's plans and policies.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

There are observable effects locally from climate change, a rise in sea level and storm surges. By using the records of the weather patterns, sea rises and storm surges strategies in conjunction with the existing Displan could be formulated. From these strategies planning, development and implementation would be inclusive of any potential threats to residents of the Eurobodalla.

Prevention of settlement and encouragement of green belt buffer zones would soften the onslaught of any violent weather or catastrophe.

Would you support a "no go" area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

I do support "no go" areas for development in vulnerable coastal areas and would like to extend the "no go" on a cyclical basis to foster recovery, regeneration and or rehabilitation of the vulnerable coastal areas as well as the hinterland.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

I have supported formal protection of coastal dune systems for many years, even though we lost the battle for Barlings Beach. In council I would like to see a long term plan with short term management strategies not only for the dune systems but the estuaries and escarpment as they all have a role to play and are closely inter related if not inter dependent for their survival. By doing this not only will the Fore dunes be safe guarded but the hind dunes and land form would be stabilised. This would also mean the cessation of indiscriminate logging of the forests or drainage of the swamps, that will impinge on the dunes from the land ward side making them more vulnerable to any oceanographic disturbance.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 20/20 (i.e. achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 20/20?

Why/Why not?

I only support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 as it is better than nothing. I anticipate that there will be a flurry of activity in about 2018 to achieve this goal as part of an election campaign.

I would prefer the 50/50 by 2013 and then to lead the country in energy reductions while utilising renewable sources.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

I would support any audit on government or semi-government organisation to monitor and reduce their energy wastage. When this has proven to be successful with public money I would be researching and then installing the most cost effective forms of renewable sources of energy. Following this success allowing a 5 year time frame I would encourage the council to support the community with their installation of energy saving devices and/or generation to be fed back into the grid. No doubt building and development guidelines would also need to have energy efficient components in their policies and that would need to be endorsed by the councillors so I would certainly be pushing for these changes and their implementation.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

Having only been involved on the ground as part of the Landcare Group for the tributaries of Race Course Creek, yet know of the other wonderful work done throughout the shire, I was unaware that Council was sabotaging the efforts of the fund raisers. I would certainly lend my support as a councillor to encourage the injection of enthusiasm while consulting with the officers involved with the projects as to the ways in which a resurrection could take place in the programmes to not only attract funding but more participation and support.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

My funding will not exceed \$1000 so no agent has been appointed. Being a member of the Greens I concur with their policies of open and transparent governance so will not accept large political donations from any corporation or vested interest groups, hence my donations have come from private individuals and I insist that they do not give over \$50. All money is receipted in the electoral receipt book and will be accounted for after the elections. Should there be any short fall in my expenses then I will be covering those costs.

Chris KOWAL (Group F – Chris Kowal’s team)
Councillor and Mayoral candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

Planning schemes and policies are designed to set a vision for the future, they are usually products of exhaustive processes and are expensive to produce. It’s hard to imagine that there could be development proposals put forward that may, while not conforming to the planning rule book, offer significantly better outcomes for the health of the community and health of the environment, and provide better strategic planning outcomes. For the DA in question to be supported there would have to be very sound science based advice supporting the proposal, there would need to be a very strong case provided as to why this case should be treated as an exception to the rule, it would need to be for the public good, it would need to be for the good of the environment and it would need wide community support and it would need to pass all the abovementioned criteria.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

The local effects of climate change are likely to be significant. Scientific models of likely scenarios show we will see in south east Australia sea level rises, more extreme weather events, changes to rainfall and increase in average temperatures. Coastal and estuarine areas will likely see greater erosion events, changes to estuarine vegetation systems. There may be sea water penetration in low lying coastal areas that are particularly exposed and vulnerable to inundation as a result of storm surges.

In our region we have already experienced an average temperature rise of 1 degree over the last 100 years. This trend of increasing average temperature when aligned with decreasing rainfall scenarios means there is increase risk of bushfire.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

Yes, certainly there is no case for allowing any new developments in vulnerable coastal areas. One of the big planning challenges in dealing with vulnerable coastal areas is that there is already varying levels of existing development in these areas. Governments at all levels in consultation with communities need to identify what existing assets there are that are appropriate to protect and how strategic retreat from these vulnerable areas will be done.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

Absolutely, yes. An intact dune system with a fully intact native vegetation cover is our best, economical and responsible protection against the impacts of severe coastal storms.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020? Why/Why not?

Yes, to reduce our demand for fossil fuels is environmentally responsible whether we had global warming or not. For the same reasons to derive our energy needs directly from the sun is more efficient and in a solar rich country like Australia is sensible and responsible.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

To achieve this target will require actions across a wide range of areas. As a Shire we are well placed in already having a Greenhouse Action Plan that identifies a strategic approach.

Some of the actions required are continued support for the range of incentives changing to solar technologies; energy audits for home and business; planning instruments that support environmentally sustainable and efficient approach to town and landscape planning; education programs that targets changing attitudes and behaviours around our patterns of material and energy consumption. The challenge is that global warming has been and is happening and we need action now.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

The benefits and advantages that volunteerism and the spirit it brings to Council are enormous. As you maybe aware this spirit, that is the lifeblood of the Landcare movement, has faced significant challenge and needs strong commitment from a new Council so that the Landcare community can continue to build the sense of place that is the Eurobodalla. Landcare projects are the product of a very rigorous consultation processes and are informed by 'best practice' science based advice, they are also guided by management plans and policy, they are also signed of at the highest levels within Council. The most important action to restore enthusiasm is to support approved management plans and policies.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes.

Andrew Mc PHAIL (Group B – Gary Smith’s team)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

There are no circumstances that justify approval of non-complying developments

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

These are critical issues - must be addressed immediately. ESC must develop a strategic plan and protect the coast line accordingly.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas?
Why/Why not?

ABSOLUTELY - development equals devastation particularly in sensitive areas, coastal areas and areas of cultural heritage and significance.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

ABSOLUTELY !

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020? Why/Why not?

YES - climate change is the most critical issue confronting society.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

A strategic plan and support of a comprehensive ETS in parallel to and ESC based scheme supporting local issues and incentives

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the

enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

Credibility, action, documentation and measured outcomes. Monitor and develop policy and procedure to facilitate processes.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

CERTAINLY !

Alan MORTON (Group H – Alan Morton’s team)
Councillor and Mayoral candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

Nothing justifies the approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and Policies. Unfortunately some matters are decided by the planning minister Mr Sartor, without thought for our shires residents.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

Climate change is a huge issue and we must as a united community work towards protecting our sensitive coastal areas with forward thinking. This can be achieved by adhering to our strict planning objectives and embracing energy efficient alternatives.

Once again it is clear that planning is the key issue to ensure safety and beauty of our coastlines. I believe consultation with the relevant Authorities ie. Weather bureau, SES, Emergency Services, is vital to effectively warn the community of the imminent danger of tidal surges and major storm events.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas?
Why/Why not?

Yes, because vulnerable coastal areas need to be protected for our future.

If areas have been scientifically identified as vulnerable and/or of cultural significance development should not be considered.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

I believe that we must firstly define the word ‘formal’. It is clearly evident that storm & tidal surges are affecting our coastal dunes, but what protection is adequate? Rock walls, vegetation barriers or indigenous grasses. That is why I will converse with local experts in the field and listen to the concerns of the community.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020? Why/Why not?

Yes.

Because the community are united in their concerns re; global warming and effects that carbon emissions are having on the environment. This community is forging ahead with ideas and solutions, this is clearly evident by the gradual acceptance to change by our community as a whole and throughout the country.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

****By further promoting the positive outcomes that can be achieved for our next generations.***

****By making recycling more cost effective and accessible.***

****By extensive education especially within our schools and universities.***

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

I believe we must all agree mistakes have been made in the past and move on. If we unite we can achieve, however, if the past is continually revisited, it prevents the community as a whole from moving forward and will continue to further divide communities.

Landcare will continue to attract funding due to the quality of work and the benefit it provides to our community.

I believe consultation is the key issue to success. We need to move forward by actively communicating in an open and transparent manner to benefit all concerns of our community members.

This Shire recognises, and is very proud of its volunteers. Many hours of time, effort and knowledge is provided to the community and worthwhile projects have been completed and will continue to the mutual benefit of the community.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes, I can reveal my funding sources to you now. I have not accepted any donations of any sort towards my election campaign. I am fully self funded and proud of that fact.

Graham SCOBIE and team (Group C)
Councillor and Mayoral candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council's plans and policies?

Moruya East Village is such a project. I support this venture as it is an appropriate use of the site and a much needed boost to the local economy. The State Government is approving this project which does not fully comply with Council's Moruya Structure Plan.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

Well, I've grown potatoes through the winter for the first time in 27 years in Moruya so something is definitely going on! We need to limit development on land that is likely to be subject to ocean inundation or storm surge. My flyer also points to the need to fight for our fair share of carbon credits from the State Forests and National Parks that make up more than 70% of the Shire's land area.

Would you support a "no go" area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

Yes, because it is vulnerable! Protection is warranted not only for the coastal area itself but also for the human habitation that may well be inundated by rising sea levels in the future, thus making Council possibly liable for legal redress.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire?

Yes.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Yes, because climate change will be one of the most pressing issues facing all local government areas in the world! For example, my campaign flyer indicates that I will be refusing a Mayoral vehicle if elected and riding my bicycle to work at Council. We also need to replace all Council vehicles with more fuel efficient models when due for replacement and also make all ESC buildings energy neutral by installing solar power over the next 4 years

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

One suggestion I have is to establish a renewable energy display centre at Surf Beach instead of selling the 4.8 hectare site to Bunnings. This would not only give residents and visitors to the Shire an opportunity to see a renewable energy home in action but could also attract like-minded industries to the Shire. This would focus on the need to restore much of the damage done by the Batemans Bay Bypass and also give Landcare groups across the Shire a focal point.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Campaign is totally self-funded and campaign spending budget is on my website:
www.scobie.com.au

Gary SMITH (Group B – Gary Smith’s team)
Councillor and Mayoral candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

If open and genuine community consultation results in majority acceptance, and any environmental impacts are properly addressed, I would consider a D/A on its merits.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

I am concerned about the effects of global warming (called climate change by Bush). Recent best advice indicates we could suffer a sea level rise from 200mm to 900mm here. Storm surges will impact more. Low levels will be at risk , stormwater systems will need redesign, infrastructure will need protection and salt water may damage low farmland. I support regional as well as local planning to lessen future impact.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas?
Why/Why not?

I would support additions to existing buildings in vulnerable areas if no legal liability to council or community. Most vulnerable areas already have development and I would support protection of those areas with government funding. I would support 'no go' for development in vulnerable undeveloped areas. Agriculture would be OK.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

Yes, absolutely. (I would support approved pathways and surf viewing platforms in suitable areas)

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

As a member of Clean Energy for Eternity, I accept the need to reduce energy use and therefore support the ESC 50/50 by 20/20 target.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

We should be working together on a national, state and regional basis.

Locally, we can support basic in-house actions like low energy light globes, switching off power to computers, tv etc when not in use, especially overnight . Discourage air conditioner use except in extreme temps or adjust the setting and wear suitable clothing. Encourage use of solar & wind energy, use gas fueled vehicles, especially council car fleet. Better building design and building standards for materials. Encourage public transport. Lobby to retain forests as carbon sinks rather than use for low value wood chips.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

As a previous member of Eurobodalla Landcare Management Cttee, I would, if elected, give total support to the Landcare movement and acknowledge that it provides huge volunteer on-ground works to maintain our natural environment. I would encourage funding applications to government.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes. I have already undertaken in writing not to accept donations from developers with strings attached.

Fergus THOMSON (Independent)
Councillor and Mayoral candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council's plans and policies?

It is difficult to pre-judge what DA could justify this approval. In many cases where we have black and white sometimes for some unforeseen reason there has to be a shade of grey.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

Climate change appears to be affecting agriculture and food production and as that is my livelihood I am having to adapt my farming practices to accommodate that change. Council will need to take this into account eg not build a hospital at Broulee.

Would you support a "no go" area for development in vulnerable coastal areas?
Why/Why not?

The insurance industry will play a major role in determining what development occurs in vulnerable coastal areas. If the insurance is unobtainable or too expensive it will be a determining factor. The legal process will also be a major player. If Council refuses a development and is supported in the Courts then Councils will be better placed to say no.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

No. By saying yes we could see the same anger that surfaced in Long Beach being replicated in other coastal areas..

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Council has already recognized the need to go down that path. The target figures may change as knowledge grows

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

I cannot predict what the next generation of government at any level will adopt or where energy savings will come from. What is certain is that we all have to make

savings.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

I believe the Long Beach issue was largely a one off issue. There is a better understanding now of the need to communicate between Council and Landcare planning to ensure that the directions both parties are heading in are well understood. Hopefully we have learnt a valuable lesson from an unhappy incident.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes, any notifiable donations will be declared if requested.

Mark WILLIAMS (Independent)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council's plans and policies?

Councils plans and policies have all been made/written by unelected council officers and approved by a revolving door of mayors and councilors who have had no interest in public opinion. "Yes Minister" has been the norm. A complete revamp of building codes is required. All significant developments (more than a block of 4 units) should be subjected to a plebiscite of adjoining property owners. Majority rules.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

Very worried. While dealing with the macro aspects of climate change is the province of federal and state governments, local government must take up the challenge at the micro level. Those who take action to reduce their carbon footprint should receive incentives regardless of income. Those who don't should either be stopped or made to pay.

Would you support a "no go" area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

Yes. Too many vulnerable areas have been handed over to developers simply to satisfy demand for "spec" blocks, eg Barlings Beach. State government has mandated protection for Bengello Beach,* however many other areas also need protection.

(* CWs note – the state government has NOT protected Bengello but Council has signed a Voluntary Conservation Agreement for about a third of it.)

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

Yes. Rising sea levels and storm surge make this a priority. Developers should not gain access to any more waterfront land. More than 90% of the population would be opposed to "Batemans-gatta" or "Noosa Haven". Again majority rules.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Yes, mainly by connecting houses to solar power. Some hydro electric generation may be possible. This will be difficult in view of the bureaucratic control of council. Currently about 75% of rates are consumed by council wages. Without significant staff cuts (achievable through natural attrition) it is most unlikely the targets can be achieved without rates increases (which the state government will not allow.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

Further to the above, council staff numbers should be cut from the current 450 to about 300 over a 10 year period (retirements and resignations) Further some council land in urban areas should be sold off for affordable housing (balloted, and developed by Euroworks). No further council land to be handed to developers.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

Landcare groups to be given council grants. Funds to come from funds generated by sale of council urban land.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

I will not accept one cent from anyone. There is no such thing as a free lunch. I have a number of volunteers who will work for nothing.

Megan HOWIE (Group F – Chris Kowal’s team)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

None – plans & policies are there for a reason & should be adhered to at all times.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

I believe that there should be no new coastal developments permitted within areas likely to be impacted upon by sea level rises & storm surges.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

***Yes – 1. climate change
2. scenic amenity
3. retention of natural landscape & biodiversity***

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire?

Yes.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Yes, I believe that it is very important to act on a local level to reduce carbon emissions.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

Firstly, the Council should lead by example. It needs to do energy audits on all its operations and then do refits to minimise energy consumption. Better public transport, better public education. Offer initiatives & support the protection of forests that store carbon.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

- 1. Apologise**
- 2. Encourage regular meetings of Council & Landcare groups**

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes.

NICK SUMMERS (Independent)

Councillor and Mayoral Candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council's plans and policies?

I would assess all proposals on their own merits. For me to consider variations to Council's plans and policies, there would need to be demonstrated, real community and/or environmental benefits. I would not approve variations that are solely for the profits of a few profit motivated individuals.

I will not look favourably upon proposals that reduce or whittle away at our community and public lands, I am not in favour of the destruction of important native animal habitat for business reasons. I am not in favour of massive industrial style projects in this area.

I would be in favour of variations that can demonstrate significant community need and that fulfil the highest of environmental standards. I would depend largely on extensive community consultation to help decide a position on any contentious proposals.

My main criterion for these decisions would be to consider if such proposals fit in with the concept of the 'Nature Coast'!

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

There are many low-lying areas on the South Coast that are be under threat of damage due to sea level rises. Broulee, Tuross, Narooma and other areas are already starting to notice these effects with additional storm damage mitigation works being needed. Council needs to actively support and promote initiatives such as dune rehabilitation and stabilisation.

The current Council showed how out of touch they are when they approved the removal of the volunteer Landcare dune stabilisation project at Long Beach. Council needs to understand the importance of these projects and actively support them, not flip-flop when a few self-interested individuals complain. I am a very keen supporter of forward thinking organizations like Landcare and Coastwatchers.

As climate change kicks in, Council will need to be very active in developing policies and strategies to combat these climate effects. We may need to move to more community focussed food, transport and accommodation strategies. Council will be a

leading light in these circumstances. We need Councillors who understand this and who aren't frightened to make some very difficult decisions in the future.

Councillors need to understand that our water quality, the stability of our coastline and our quality of life depend largely upon the health of the trees and forests in this shire. We need Council to actively oppose the stupidity of industrial logging in our local native forests. Native forest woodchipping is an ongoing concern for this shire and must be stopped, now. Council should be lobbying both State and Federal governments for an immediate end to these costly, needless and damaging practices. Dozens of dangerous log trucks every day does not fit the Nature Coast image, to say the least!

Finally, I believe that this next term of Council provides a wonderful opportunity for the shire to become a leading light for alternative and 'soft' technologies that we can develop and market to the world, if we elect a team that has the best interests of the shire at heart!

Would you support a "no go" area for development in vulnerable coastal areas?

Why/Why not?

I support sensible limits to industrial and residential developments in our shire. There are many projects that have been approved in the past, which are completely inappropriate in my opinion. Barlings Beach springs to mind.

All coastal areas are vulnerable, so I would examine each proposal on its own merits, and while I am not a big fan of compulsory restrictions, (I favour a community consultation and education approach), there may be areas that will need the strongest of protections for the good of the whole community and of the environment.

An environmentally aware Council would have to be doing a lot more to engender trust and understanding, if it were to go down the path of compulsory access restrictions.

I would rely heavily on advice from Council's environment team, public consultations and interested organizations such as Coastwatchers before making any broad scale decisions. Otherwise we may well have a self-defeating division in the community like with the Marine Park which was largely due to poor community consultation and cheap political point scoring, in my view.

None the less, I am in principle, in favour of further effective catchment and coastal protection.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

Yes. Undamaged coastal dune systems are now so rare, that we have to strongly protect and improve them, as a matter of urgency.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020? Why/Why not? If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

Yes. We could, and should, be world leaders in energy savings, recycling, alternative technologies and other low footprint strategies. Herein lies our opportunity to put the shire on the map and bring income into the shire. A progressive Council will seize these opportunities with both hands and actively support these moves.

Council can do a lot more within the organization to be ecologically efficient and needs to demonstrate, by example, the opportunities available to businesses and households. Council also needs to do more to educate the public about the benefits of these strategies. There are a lot of options that need to be considered and put into place. Many parts of the shire would suit wind, solar and other power generation. However, I am not in favour of large-scale industrial power generation, by whatever means, in this shire.

The single most important, (and cheapest to put in place), energy saving measure is, without doubt, reducing waste and our reliance on traditional sources of power. Major improvements in efficiency and considered reduction of power and fuel use are the simplest and easiest ways to achieve the 50/50 outcome.

Additionally, huge carbon savings could be made in one fell swoop if we were to immediately stop the large-scale industrial logging of our publicly owned native forests. It has been estimated that as much as 20% of NSW's carbon emissions could be saved, in a moment, if we were to close the, (unprofitable for the public), Eden woodchipping operation.

A progressive Council would be strenuous in advocating for this to happen sooner rather than later! There would be many additional environmental and economic benefits and savings by the immediate closure of the chipmill, and, a move to a more strategic, ecological understanding of our native forest resource.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

I will make it very clear that I certainly support Landcare and other effective environmentally interested groups.

If we elect a like -minded Council, it will be easy to repair this unfortunate damage by allocating Council resources to assistance with projects, funding and grant applications, as Council has done very well, in the past. If we elect a bunch of 'smash and grab'

bozos, then it will be very difficult to restore the shire's reputation, which has taken a battering in recent years.

Council needs to publicly recognise the wonderful work of volunteer groups like Landcare a lot more and could be doing more to support awards and grants which allocate funding, recognition and useful awards to the most effective environmental projects and team leaders.

Council needs to work in co-operation with Landcare and others to effectively inform and educate the public, with extensive local consultation and promotion, about the benefits to be gained by ongoing environmental works and projects.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes. My entire campaign funding comes from donations from individual members of the public.

I do not accept donations from political groups, organizations or developers. I do not accept donations that have strings attached, favours offered or promises made. All of my funding will be fully declared to the Election Funding Authority and made available for public perusal at any reasonable time, before, during and after the election.

If you have agreed with my comments in this questionnaire and would like to help, please consider making a donation to my campaign. To find out more about my election campaign, my policies or my funding, visit my web site at www.nicksummers.com.au

Michael JOHNSON (Group E – Allan Brown’s team)
Shire Wide Action Group
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

First you would have to define what conforms to Council’s plans and policies and who is interpreting that conformity.

My personal experience is that these plans and policies are so loosely written that you can put any interpretation on them that you want and the past council management and elected representatives did. In that case it becomes a matter of who you know and what you are prepared to do to get the plans approved rather than whether they are worthy of approval.

At present the Council’s plans and policies are such that the only plans that seem to conform are project home type of developments which will inevitably lead to the shire looking like Campbelltown or Canberra, which big parts of Batemans Bay already do.

The circumstances to justify would include that the neighbours did not object, that the development, for the major part, conformed and the areas of concern were largely unavoidable due to site conditions and that the development is in keeping with the look and feel of the existing developments in the area.

The belief that “one size fits all” policy is just a bureaucratic wet-dream that has never worked and never will.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

My view is that the effects of climate change, predicted sea level rises and storm surges will be disastrous for the world if the predictions are correct. I believe that all of us can make changes that, added up, will put less strain on the environment and I think we should all make that effort irrespective of climate change or not. We should do it in a spirit of compassion and with an eye to the future of our children and their children.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

I would support “no go” areas for development in vulnerable coastal areas because they are vulnerable coastal environments. I believe anything vulnerable needs protection by it’s very definition.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire.

I would support protection of vulnerable dune systems while supporting the right of every Australian to enjoy our beautiful coastline responsibly.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020? Why/Why not?

I would support any reasoned measures to reduce energy use as I believe that the wasteful use of energy is wrong, morally, anyway. I believe that all of us, including the shire council, has a duty to take no more than we reasonably need to use and that we should use every technological tool at our disposal to accomplish this.

Renewable energy is logical and attainable and should be treated as a challenge to rise to. We committed to putting a man on the moon and returning him to earth at a time when we could barely leave the earth's atmosphere. We are capable of doing anything that we put our mind to.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

By encouraging our best and brightest minds to take up the challenge and stop encouraging them to be greedy, money-hungry corporate slaves.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

I would encourage Landcare groups to become more informed, themselves, of the community's feelings and fears. I would encourage Landcare groups to take a greater part in informing the community of their goals and the justification of their methods and to be more flexible in their approach to the community.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

I'll reveal it now. Self funded.

Mark FLACK (Independent)
Mayoral candidate only

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council's plans and policies?

This would depend on the individual circumstance. Be that protecting foreshore lands or a possible revision of the building code for an area such as Moruya's main street, with a view towards a 'heritage accent'. Having said that, environmental impact must remain upper most in consideration to all developments, especially projects of a significant nature.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

In the medium to short term, very very serious. Consideration should be given to increasing the AHD, or base height of ground floor living space for one. Since manning a polling booth in 1980 for the Nuclear Disarmament Party, the continued destruction/degradation of our global environment has worried me greatly!

Would you support a "no go" area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

I would consider such legislation, but it must again be considered on a case by case basis. I firmly believe that some areas should be protected from any developmental scarring. This relates back to caring for an environment that nurtures us.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire?

Yes I do, with emphasis on those areas most at risk. This should be under taken with clear guidance/ support from related & or existing advice mechanisms. Expertise is the answer here. There has to be a planned/organized approach to any dune protection, other wise I fear it will fail. Local government support for such a scheme I would consider a core issue.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Yes I support the 50/50 by 2020 proposal because I firmly believe that Governmental organization should be leading the way, shining a light forward on this most pressing of matters. If we don't look after the environment that nurtures us, everything else will

***become secondary! What better place to start than the shire building.
Achieving the target***

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

Partly through education, some part carrot & stick. We need to implement a broad range of incentives for the wiser use of fossil based fuels. A redirection in the use of motorized transport, smarter building use /design & a realization that for every action there is a reaction! I also think that local small business can be targeted to meet this challenge as well. I see a future with independent power supply/ generation, water recycling & a base power load spread across solar, wind & ocean generation. Of course in an ideal world, diminishing the global influence of the oil companies would be a step in the right direction.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

Difficult question, but by identifying & tackling the underlying ESC problem of poor resource management in a council that I was Mayor, would naturally enough go hand in hand with assisting, guiding & consulting with local land care groups/ bodies & the like. Encouragement can be a powerful tool. Support even stronger.

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

I am overwhelmingly self funded.

Gabi HARDING (Group F – Chris Kowal’s team)
Councillor candidate

PLANNING

What circumstances do you think justify approval of a development application that does not conform to Council’s plans and policies?

For such a DA to be supported there would have to be very sound scientific based advice supporting such a proposal. There would need to be a very strong case put forward as to why this proposal should be treated as an exception to the rule. Approval of such a proposal would need to be for the good of the environment and it would need wide support from the community. It would need to pass all of the mentioned criteria.

CLIMATE CHANGE

What are your views on the local effects of climate change, predicted sea level rise and storm surges?

The local effects of climate change are likely to be significant. The scientific modelling shows more extreme weather events, changes to rainfall, sea level rise and increase in average temperatures. Coastal areas are likely to see greater erosion and changes to coastal vegetation systems. Considering that a large part of our shires’ population is situated within the coastal zone it is of great importance to do all we can to avoid these model outcomes.

Would you support a “no go” area for development in vulnerable coastal areas? Why/Why not?

Yes, there is no case for allowing any new developments in vulnerable coastal areas. One of the big planning challenges in dealing with vulnerable coastal areas is that there is already varying levels of existing development. Governments at all levels together with communities need to identify the existing assets that are appropriate to protect and how strategic retreat from these vulnerable areas will be done.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Coastal dunes are the interface between the ocean and land. Do you support formal protection of all coastal dune systems in the Shire?

Yes. An intact dune system with a fully intact native vegetation cover is our best, economical and responsible protection against the impacts of severe coastal storms.

ENERGY USE

Do you support the ESC commitment of 50/50 by 2020 (ie achieving a 50% reduction in energy use and of the remaining energy used, 50% to be renewable by 2020)? Why/Why not?

Yes, to reduce our demand for fossil fuels is environmentally responsible. Meeting our energy needs from renewable sources such as solar power is much more sensible and responsible.

If so, how do you think we should be seeking to achieve this target?

This will require action across a wide range of areas. The existing ESC Greenhouse action plan that identifies a strategic approach is a good first step. There needs to be continued support for a range of incentives including changing to solar technologies, energy audits for shire homes and business, planning instruments that support environmentally sustainable and efficient approach to town and landscape planning. Education programs that target changing attitudes and behaviours of our residents.

LANDCARE

How do candidates intend to repair the damage done by the previous Council and restore the enthusiasm and ability of Landcare groups to attract funding for their projects?

Our volunteers are one of our greatest assets. We need to ensure that they are not taken for granted and/or dismissed. A strong commitment from the new council to show support to a knowledgeable group such as Landcare is vital for the partnership to move forward. The most important action to restore enthusiasm is to support approved management plans and policies

SOURCES OF ELECTION FUNDING

Will you reveal your funding sources to us 7 days before the election?

Yes.