

Received from Mr
Ermacora 27/8/09

AB

Original returned to
Mr Ermacora at his
request AB

Platform Summary

Our platform includes:

- "Triple Bottom Line" decision-making - based as much on environmental enhancement as on sound economic development and social justice;
- Sustainable population growth and tourism that is sympathetic to existing lifestyles and values;
- Valuing and protection of the natural environment through sustainable practices and waste minimisation;
- Promotion of prosperity, innovation and productivity as an integral part of a healthy society;
- Equitable access to adequate and affordable housing, health, education, transport and child care facilities;
- Initiatives which provide greater opportunities for income generation and self determination for youth;
- Council taking a leadership role on the issues of climate change and renewable resource management;
- Effective and inclusive consultation processes leading to meaningful community input into Council decisions;
- Effective governance with integrity and trust, in the best interests of the whole Shire, rather than simple advocacy for special interest groups;
- Strategic leadership and a focus on policy formulation and planning, rather than on the "micro-management" of operational matters;
- The fullest possible information disclosure and transparent decision making processes;
- An efficient local council providing timely, "user-focused" services and quality community facilities;

Insert logo

Our Sustainable Future

The local government party with the long term outlook

Policy Platform

2008



Introduction

This document outlines OSF values and presents a set of guiding principles relating to eight policy areas. It intentionally takes a big picture “template approach” rather than setting out detailed objectives, strategies or targets.

Together, these principles are intended to provide a framework against which OSF decision-makers, candidates and elected councillors develop their own particular position in relation to current issues and future challenges within our Shire.

<OSF Vision Statement>

“A socially resilient and economically viable community which, in partnership with a highly professional and accountable council, ensures ecological sustainability and cooperative solutions to community issues based on mutual respect”.

Preamble

In conducting its own affairs, developing policy and supporting endorsed candidates and elected councillors, OSF and its members will demonstrate community leadership through commitment to ethical behaviour based on the following values –

Humanity	We will behave with tolerance, integrity, mutual respect, compassion and good humour to all within our community
Collaboration	We will cooperate with all levels of government and the community to achieve ethical, inclusive, and reality based solutions
Equity	We support individual and group access to consistent and transparent information sharing, consultation and decision making
Accountability	We are responsible for our words and behaviour
Sustainability	We seek economic, social and environmental development and protection which provides best possible outcomes without jeopardising intergenerational equity
OSF seeks a Council	which supports our community through
Stewardship	Responsible management of community funds and assets including natural assets, for this and future generations
Organisational Performance	Provision of sustainable systems, structures and facilities that serve our community and which support staff to deliver a professional and efficient service
Innovation	Active seeking of new and better ways of doing their professional and administrative work
Community Access	Facilitated community consultation and information sharing which ensures informed and responsible stakeholder understanding and participation
Safe Environments	Protection of the health, safety and welfare of our community, our environment and council staff

#1 Social Equity and Cohesion

To develop and sustain a resilient, self sufficient and collaborative community with access to an appropriate range of services and facilities such that our quality of life and well-being is enhanced. A key element of this is support for volunteers and their work within the community.

We support –

- A culture of respect amongst the Shire's diverse community which engages with, acknowledges and includes people of all ages, backgrounds and capacities;
- Equitable access to adequate and affordable housing, health, education and child care facilities;
- Bonding and bridging processes which allow people with polarised views to reach balanced outcomes;
- Alternative settlement strategies such as intentional communities, eco villages and whole-of-life housing initiatives;
- Youth focused initiatives which provide greater opportunities for income generation and self determination through community involvement;
- An adequate and affordable local public transport system;
- Adequate provision of sporting fields, recreational spaces and community facilities.

#2 Enhanced Eco Systems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

To ensure sustainable natural resource management and protection of eco systems. They are intrinsic to our health as individuals and as a community at both the micro and macro levels.

We support –

- Leadership and initiatives that build awareness and action on the issues involved in climate change at a local, state and national level;
- Minimising the negative impacts of climate change, especially the impacts of extreme weather events on people and communities which are less able to cope;

- Council taking an active role in the “Cities for Climate Change Program” which involves council in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in all its activities;
- Council taking an active role in reducing the impact of oil prices on the community;
- Recognition of State of the Environment reporting as a basis for future sustainability and enhancement strategies;
- Use of incentives and regulation to minimise non renewable resource usage eg energy efficient subdivision, building design and construction, and net nil waste generation by human habitation;
- Agricultural practices which repair, support and enrich the earth;
- Integrated water cycle management which places true value on the resource, minimises use and returns clean waste water to the environment;
- Reduction of solid waste through re-use, recycling and other net waste strategies;
- Industrial and economic activity which supports and contributes to the nil waste targets;
- Enhancement and repair of existing eco systems, in collaboration with Land Care and similar groups, so that our bio diversity is protected and its future secured.

#3 Sustainable Economic Development

To promote prosperity, innovation and productivity as an integral part of a healthy society whilst recognising that such activities must not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

We support –

- A prosperous economy providing the opportunity for income generation (not merely “jobs”) for all, at the level they choose to work;
- Locally produced products and services, particularly those that reduce the amount of oil used for transport, including grower and local craft markets;
- An economic climate which encourages socially responsible investment and generates quality work and non-exploitative pay and working conditions;

- Environmental, social and economic accountability ("Triple Bottom Line" accounting);
- The promotion of innovation and priority support for economically viable, home grown and home based enterprises eg through the establishment of incubator workshops and mentoring programs;
- A proactive approach to the attraction of "clean/green" and high tech industries that support creativity, innovation and diversity;

#4 Sustainable Population Growth And Tourism

To achieve a level of population density and tourism activity which is sustainable from the point of view of natural resource management, community cohesion and economic well-being.

We support –

- "Carrying Capacity" of the natural and built environment as the critical indicator in land-use planning and management;
- "User pays", low scale, well managed tourism focused on high yield rather than volume;
- Sustainable population growth and tourism where it is sympathetic to existing lifestyles and values eg complementary health, recreation and creative arts businesses;
- Strategies to limit population and tourism growth which exceeds infrastructure or environmental capacity;
- The recognition of past ecological damage and the need for environmental repair as a condition for future development;
- Land-use planning which directly involves the community at the lowest, local level in determining its own future eg through Local Area Management Plans (LAMPS).

#5 Balanced Infrastructure Development

To achieve a balanced approach to infrastructure development so that it contributes in measurable ways to the social, ecological and economic betterment of its localised and the wider community.

We support -

- Council decisions that are based as much on environmental enhancement as on sound economic development and social justice;
- Complementary development which gives due consideration to agricultural land, settlement needs and the natural bush;
- A comprehensive review of Council's infrastructure to assess its vulnerability to extreme weather events because of climate change;
- The development of business partnerships between local government and business to generate income for social and economic infrastructure;
- Pedestrian friendly environments and alternative strategies to the prevailing car culture, eg rail services and improved public transport;
- The application of best practice principles in the provision and maintenance of local infrastructure.

#6 Cultural Identity and Heritage

To enrich and develop Byron's culture as an expression of its history, values, customs and practices as a community that defines us as a distinctive group, past, present and future. Important elements of this culture include

- identity and sense of place
- creativity and innovation
- conservation and sustainability
- capacity to embrace change
- acceptance and diversity
- access and opportunity
- co-operation and integration

We support

- Recognition of our indigenous, traditional and 'new settler' heritage and lifestyles;
- Recognition of Byron Shire's distinctiveness as a national centre for the creative, spiritual and complementary healing arts;
- Promotion of our cultural resources and diversity, in partnership with the private sector and other government agencies, for the benefit of the local economy ;
- Recognition of the role and importance of our villages and town centres as hubs of our communal, social, cultural and business lives ;

- Provision and maintenance of high quality information services including well-resourced and free public libraries, educational and technology centres, in order to promote an informed, involved, integrated and skilled community.

7 Efficient Management

To manage council and community resources, facilities and assets ensuring the highest possible efficiencies of all systems and processes without detriment to intergenerational equity.

We support –

- Continuous improvement and management innovation;
- Equitable staffing structures, systems and processes;
- A culture of facilitation and helpfulness alongside the required regulatory responsibilities;
- Performance management systems which focus on delivery of agreed outcomes;
- Design of systems which facilitate community access to information and decision making process including dispute resolution;
- Quality information gathering, problem solving and decision making systems and processes.

#8 Effective Governance

*To govern with integrity and trust in the best interests of the whole Shire.
Important elements of this include:*

- Accountable ethical leadership that brings about balanced, effective and socially just outcomes;
- Merit based decision making for the benefit of the broader community.

We support –

- Councillors working with trust and collaboration to design the best possible outcomes for the whole community, rather than simply advocating for special interest groups;

- Effective and inclusive consultation processes which are capable of eliciting a broad range of views and meaningful community input into Council decisions;
- Councillors who exhibit strategic leadership and a focus on policy formulation, rather than on the "micro-management" of operational matters;
- Encouraging communities to work collaboratively through their particular issues by providing support for facilitation;
- The greatest possible use of delegation by Council particularly in areas of dispute resolution;
- Full disclosure by Councillors of all interests which may relate to matters before Council;
- The fullest possible information disclosure and transparent decision making processes with regard to Council business.

- copy -

Received from Mr
Ermacora
27/8/09

Original Returned
to Mr Ermacora
at his request.

OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

..... a Byron Shire based party registered with the NSW Electoral Commission

PO Box 600
MULLUMBIMBY NSW
2482
Tel: (02) 6684 1448
E: ermacora@linknet.com.au

Hon. Nathan Rees MP
Premier of NSW
Level 40
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

Declaration issues Section 96K (3) (a) of the Election Funding and Disclosure Act 1981 in 2008 (NSW) (The Act).

I am writing to you on the advice of the NSW Electoral Commission.

On 27 April 2009, the political party Our Sustainable Future provided a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters with regard to the inquiry into the 2008 Local Government Elections. We welcomed this opportunity.

In paragraph 7 we applauded the government and the Electoral Commission for the intention to increase scrutiny of political donations and increase accountability. We also mentioned how onerous it is for "micro" parties who, as little more than community groups, have extremely limited funds to provide a "nil declaration" through a company registered auditor as per Section 96K (1) of The Act. This obligation places a significant burden on those small parties registered under the Local Government Act 1993, both in time and money especially when there is a consistent nil return.

We note, that The Authority may waive compliance with the audit requirements where the declaration contains a statement to the effect that no political donations were received and no electoral expenditure was incurred (S.96K (3) (1)). We understand that this section has not been given effect.

In an effort to both support accountability and provide equitable and less onerous procedures on political parties who attest to a consistent nil return - our suggestion is to - on application, give effect to section 96K (3) (1) of The Act. This goes to the heart of procedural fairness, which is seemingly being denied. If, at some point, an audited

declaration was required - at a reasonable interval - then this would not appear onerous. It would also be equitable.

We hope you will give this due consideration and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Ermacora

OSF President and Registered Officer

25 August 2009