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## OSCAR SUAREZ CANDIDATE DIVISION 5

### Questions and Answers

***What specific initiatives or projects do you plan on prioritizing if elected? How do you envision them to benefit the community?***

I have many areas I would like to improve, generally as I study individual policies, I am finding them to be very ambiguous and not really containing information that is purposeful to residents. In some cases, these policies are being used to enforce rules by way of financial penalty (fines) when they are open to interpretation. I also want to ensure these policies are easily accessible so that residents are able to inform themselves and make best practice decisions and be able to clear up the ambiguity.

***How do you plan to engage with residents to ensure their voices are heard in the decision-making process with council?***

I am prepared to make a commitment to meet with residents every week rotating 4 locations in order that Takura, Toogoom, Dundowran/Craignish and Eli Waters/Urraween residents are able to connect with me. In time this may morph into an advisory committee if residents feel that it would be more efficient and enough differing voices are prepared to work together to advance community concerns and not their own. I will also have a dedicated website that will inform residents what is happening in the council space and can also be used to contact me.

***How do you plan to collaborate with other levels of government and community organisations to address pressing issues facing our region?***

I am a tenacious person and will not give up easily when dealing with other levels of government to ensure that local level decisions are respected by State and Federal government as it should be. I find that currently there seems to be little will in our political circles to challenge political parties, there is too much head nodding and not enough standing by our values. I have never belonged to a political party and believe that party doctrine is a stumbling block to getting the best ideas into the community.

***How do you plan to support small business and entrepreneurs in our region particularly in the wake of recent economic challenges?***

I am happy to support small business by giving them a free platform i.e. my website where they can advertise their business. I have reached out to numerous businesses already but some are reluctant due to the ongoing election and not wanting to be perceived as taking sides. I do not want or expect anything for this service and promised myself that I would support business and community groups in division 5, but also the region as a whole as they provide products, services and employment outcomes to residents across the board. I also think it's important to promote the current initiatives and programs that council already has for example, FCRC Economic Development Team, Hervey Bay Job Ready Program, Fraser Coast Small Business Skills, Open For Business – Buy Local Fraser Coast.

***Can you outline your vision for our region for the next 5-10 years and how you intend to work to achieve it if you're elected?***

I want to protect the charm of our region and the very reason most of us have moved here in the first place. I want all development to be sustainable and have a focus of leaving old growth assets in place for future generations and the amazing wildlife we currently have. I want policy to reflect that if you want to develop our region that you listen to the existing resident's wishes and that you are prepared to pay for the infrastructure you require for said developments. Moving forward we need to ensure that the footprint is minimized environmentally and we as existing rate payers are not left with the bill.

Yours Sincerely

*Oscar Suarez*

Oscar Suarez