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DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL
CANDIDATE 2020

26th December 2019

My most significant goal for 2020 is to successfully become a Douglas Shire Councillor, and I aspire to serve that position to the best of my ability.

Achieving bite sized, individual goals under the pillars of tourism, business and families, all of which are underpinned by ensuring water security, managing our pristine environment and promoting communication will, I hope, roll together to meet that aspiration.

Tourism

The greatest goal I would like to kick in tourism is ensuring we can continue to differentiate ourselves from all other destinations. With the successful awarding of Ecotourism Australia's ECO Destination Certification, our region is the envy of all others, particularly given we are the proud custodians of the gateway to the Daintree Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef. However, as significant as these two beauties are (and their preservation is pivotal to our tourism offering), they are not all our Shire has to offer, and by ensuring private tourism businesses are supported through basic council functions including maintenance of local roads and paths, public health, continued support for new tourism offerings such as the botanical gardens, walking and biking tracks, indigenous, agri and ecotourism, we will have the most diverse and unique offering in Australia. No other destination can promote travel to a World Heritage rainforest via a solar ferry, and I would love to maximise the business and tourism opportunities for the newly acquired Daintree block.

Business

The Douglas Shire, although heavily reliant on tourism, is not just about tourism. One of my goals is to support the economic development of private assets in the public interest, particularly the Mossman Mill, Botanical gardens, Crystalbrook Marina and new agricultural opportunities – some of which are already beginning to reap rewards, some of which will reap rewards in 12 – 24 months time.

Upgrading the Shire's business kit, contracting and employing locally where possible and continuing to access record grant funding for various projects, will assist in strengthening our business community confidence.

Families

Families come in all shapes and sizes, so my goal is to ensure Council is solidly delivering services to our diverse Shire through the regular maintenance of parks and playing fields, library services, the installation and upgrading of equipment suited to our tropical lifestyle such as a children's water play facility, and the continued and expanded offering of community services and activities for all residents which fosters positive social interaction and health.

It would be fantastic to explore the option of offering the Active8 program north of the river and consider additional programs for engaging our senior residents in fun and social fitness and community programs.

Of course, we still need to prioritise collecting everyone's garbage and keeping our urban centres clean and tidy!

Water

An important personal goal is to champion new ideas for the management of our water security. I would like to look into the option of either an additional or upgraded water treatment facility with the technology to treat grey water to the level required to use on parks, gardens and sporting fields, helping to both beautify our public spaces making them green to the tourist eye and ensuring our drinking water will last far longer.

I also believe we can nudge the State Government to extend the Water Tank rebate to include the Far North, not just the South East!

Communication

Communicating with approximately 11,700 residents is challenging, however to pursue the fulfilment of this goal, I aspire to be visible in the Shire and participate in as many diverse community activities as possible (cooking – excellent, sporting – suspect), ensuring I am accessible, approachable and available to listen.

Based on current feedback, I would also introduce the concept of new engagement strategies including mobile council meetings and/or rotating meeting times, and the further development of three key community consultation platforms - face to face, social media and print.

Ultimately, I aspire to be the best public servant I can and meet not only my personal goals, but those set by the community I represent.