

Officer: Michael Whittaker
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19 January 2018

Att: Greg Smith
President
OSCAR - (Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)
E: president@oscar.org.au

Dear Greg

I refer to your email of 18 January 2018 to Sunshine Coast Councillors seeking information on whether they intend to vote in favour of considering certain matters as Confidential items at the Ordinary Meeting on 25 January 2018. I have been requested to respond on behalf of Council.

Council has not held 126 meetings in the period from April 2016 to December 2017 as has been claimed in your email. I can confirm that Council has held 40 meetings in this time period.


As detailed in my previous email to you 25 September Council has a number of projects and business matters that have significant complexity that requires detailed discussion of a commercial nature. Council must deal with a considerable amount of sensitive information which, if discussed in open session, could provide an unfair commercial advantage to some parties and could ultimately prejudice Council's position on a range of matters – which ultimately exposes ratepayers. These considerations are very real and inform the decisions taken by Councillors when determining whether to consider a report in a confidential session.

The sensitivity of the matters under consideration are taken into account on each occasion in the context of the Local Government Act 2009 prior to Council resolving to consider a matter in a confidential session. To advise in advance of whether a Councillor will vote in favour of considering a matter in confidential session would be pre-emptive of the deliberations on the day by the individual Councillor. As such I have advised Councillors to be prudent in advising of their decision before they have had the opportunity to debate as a group.

I also attach my email to you of 25 September 2017 which sets further information on this matter.

Thank you for raising this matter with Council.

Yours sincerely



Michael Whittaker
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Mayor Mark Jamieson
Deputy Mayor Tim Dwyer
Div 1 Cr Rick Baberowski
Div 3 Cr Peter Cox
Div 4 Cr John Connolly
Div 5 Cr Jenny McKay
Div 6 Cr Christian Dickson
Div 7 Cr Ted Hungerford
Div 8 Cr Jason O'Pray
Div 9 Cr Stephen Robinson
Div 10 Cr Greg Rogerson