



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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The Honourable Cameron Dick
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
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Dear Minister,

RE: Local Government Planning Schemes

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for the Portfolios of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. As community organisations we look forward to working with you to achieve positive outcomes for the community and in this instance the Sunshine Coast community.

I am writing on behalf of a number of significant community and environmental groups on the Sunshine Coast, working in the community interest within the LGA's of Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Noosa Shire Council. The groups are:

- OSCAR (Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of residents), a peak body for over 43 discrete resident and groups across the Sunshine Coast. OSCAR is a not-for-profit, volunteer organisation.
- SCEC (Sunshine Coast Environment Council) is the peak environmental advocacy group in the Sunshine Coast. Established in 1980 it represent over 50 community groups as well as a number of Sunshine Coast businesses and many individuals and families.
- Development Watch is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, volunteer organisation united in their concern for the future of the Coolum area and in holding Council and State Government to account on important development issues.

Representatives from these groups (approximately 6 people) would like to meet with you in relation to their concerns for the integrity of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council Planning Scheme 2014 (referred to as the Planning Scheme 2014). This Planning Scheme is relatively new, having only been completed in 2014. Since its confirmation/Gazettal there have been a number of major amendments made and a major application to "override" the Planning Scheme 2014 is currently being considered by Council. These amendments and applications include significant height changes, proposals to allow development on "flood-prone" land and a current application to override the Planning Scheme has densities and heights suitable to a city CBD, not a coastal village as per the Planning Scheme 2014.

If one was cynical it could be implied that developers and some councillors have decided that it is easier to seek a major amendment to, or to "over-ride" the PS, than it is to submit their proposals to the community as part of the "Making a Planning Scheme process".

The community understands that Planning Schemes are intended to give certainty to both the community and developers. At the moment this is not happening on the Sunshine Coast, from the community's perspective

We understand the time pressures you face but would appreciate a meeting with you, if possible between the 8-13 February or 22-28 February. If it is not possible to arrange a meeting within those days the representatives are happy to meet at your earliest convenience.

The purpose of the meeting is to try to come to an understanding as to how to maintain integrity of Planning Schemes and hence provide certainty to the community in relation to development. We are not anti-development but want to see development that fits within the Planning Scheme 2014.

We can be contacted by both email and phone. Both are listed below.

Yours sincerely
Melva Hobson PSM

Secretary
OSCAR

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PS. You might recall my working with you and the government of the day when I was Mayor of Redland City 2008-2012.