



Department of
**State Development,
Manufacturing,
Infrastructure and Planning**

Our ref: MC18/1058

6 April 2018

Mr Greg Smith
President
Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents (OSCAR) Inc

Email: president@oscar.org.au

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2018 to the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, about re-zoning at the Pelican Waters Golf Course. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

I understand your organisation's desire for greater transparency and community engagement in strategic planning for the Sunshine Coast region, particularly in relation to zoning changes.

The *Planning Act 2016* (the Planning Act) provides local governments with the legislative requirements for making, amending or repealing local planning instruments, such as a planning scheme. A local government may amend its planning scheme in accordance with the Planning Act and the Minister's Guidelines and Rules (MGR). The MGR outlines the procedural requirements of amending a planning scheme, including when the council must carry out public consultation, allowing the community to have their say.

I encourage your organisation to consider lodging a submission during the formal consultation period for any amendments of interest.

I note and acknowledge your concerns about how the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (council) implements its planning scheme, as well as its approach to amendments. The state's involvement is often limited to the provisions of the Planning Act and the MGR. In approving an amendment to a planning scheme, the Planning Act requires the Minister be satisfied that state interests are appropriately integrated.

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In response to your concerns about the actions of council, you may be interested to know that in Queensland, there is a legislative requirement for each local government to implement a complaints management process to improve its accountability and to resolve complaints about administrative actions of a local government. You may submit a formal complaint in writing to council's Chief Executive Officer at Locked Bag 72, Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560 or by email at mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au. Council will advise what action, if any, it intends to take in relation to the complaint.

If you remain dissatisfied with council's response, you may lodge a formal complaint with the Queensland Ombudsman, who may investigate your concerns. Complaints to the Queensland Ombudsman can be submitted by mail to GPO Box 3314, Brisbane Qld 4001, in person by appointment, or by using the online complaint form that can be found at www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au. The Ombudsman's office can also be contacted on telephone (07) 3005 7000 or toll free (outside Brisbane) on 1800 068 908.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Garth Nolan, Manager, Planning and Development Services, Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, on telephone (07) 5352 9710 or email garth.nolan@dsdmip.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Christopher Aston
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