



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

Our ref: MC18/730

03 April 2018

Ms Melva Hobson PSM  
Secretary  
Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents (OSCAR) Inc.  
  
Email: [secretary@oscar.org.au](mailto:secretary@oscar.org.au)

Dear Ms Hobson

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2018 to the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, about the integrity of the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014* (the planning scheme). The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

With regret, the Minister is unable to meet with you at this time. However, I appreciate your interest in the integrity and good governance of local governments in Queensland. As a former mayor, you understand the important role councils play in delivering good planning and development outcomes for their communities.

Last year, the government introduced the *Planning Act 2016*, which continued the performance-based planning system that was established in Queensland in 1998. As you know, performance-based planning seeks to strike the right balance between prescription and flexibility.

It is not always evident when a council drafts a planning scheme that particular development outcomes sought for an area are the best or right for the future. That is why our planning system allows for some flexibility of outcomes, based on the merits of a proposal. However, where a proposed development conflicts with a planning scheme, sufficient grounds must be demonstrated for a council to approve an application. This includes matters like building heights.

Where a proposal seeks to depart from a planning scheme, the public is invited to have their say on these matters. This includes any variation request (an application to override the planning scheme) and any development that is impact assessable. Likewise, any changes to a planning scheme, including an amendment or a new planning scheme, must also be publicly notified.

1 William Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15009 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3452 7100**  
[www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 29 230 178 530

I encourage you to raise your concerns with the council and remain active in consultation processes that arise for development applications and planning scheme amendments of interest.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bolton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Graeme Bolton  
**Acting Deputy Director-General  
Planning Group**