



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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22 August 2018

CEO Michael Whittaker  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Email: [michael.whittaker@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:michael.whittaker@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Whittaker

**Subject: Planning Scheme amendments**

On behalf of the members of OSCAR, please convey our thanks to SCRC officers (Stephen Patey, Damien Frey and Jason Krueger) for their presentation on 3 August 2018 in relation to the current round of Planning Scheme amendments under consideration by Council. We appreciated that this briefing was initiated by council itself and found the session to be very informative. It will assist OSCAR and its member groups formulating a submission to Council re the amendments.

However, the briefing confirmed to those in attendance that these amendments are major in nature and in some instances, once passed, will change the character of parts of the Sunshine Coast. Given the extensive nature of the proposed amendments, OSCAR makes the following recommendation to Council:

- That Council extends the submission time to 90 business days. The proposed amendments are well outside the community-agreed Planning Scheme 2014 and the community should be given sufficient time to respond. Many community groups only meet once per month and gaining consensus on a submission is impossible within a 30 business-day time-frame. Community members making submissions are doing so in a voluntary capacity, within constraints of work and family commitments and with minimal resources. (Note: this extension is something we requested at the 3 August meeting but have received no response to date.)

We do not see that there is any great urgency for these amendments to be dealt with, and the Planning staff gave us no justification for such urgency. Therefore, it would be a significant indication to the community that the Council recognises the frustration being experienced by the community at the pace and complexity of recent Planning Scheme amendment rounds and has listened accordingly, if the submission period was extended.

- That Council makes the amendment documents available in libraries as well as the Council's own Customer Service Centres in the administrative centres in Caloundra, Maroochydore and Nambour. (Note: this is something we also requested at the 3 August meeting.)

OSCAR is also writing to the Mayor and Councillors urging them to take these proposed amendments and engage with their respective communities with clear explanations of the reasons for, and implications of, the amendments so community groups and individuals can better understand their purpose.

We look forward to hearing that the Council has extended the submission timeframe and we urge you to ensure that Councillors are well-equipped to engage with their community on these amendments and have the time to do so.

Again please convey our thanks to the officers who gave of their time to brief OSCAR members and we look forward to a positive response from Council to OSCAR's requests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Smith  
**President**