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29 August 2018

Mr Greg Smith
Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc
PO Box 105
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Via email: president@oscar.org.au

Dear Greg,

PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENTS

Thank you for your letter of 22 August 2018 and your emails of the same date to Councillors regarding planning scheme amendments and the positive feedback regarding the recent briefing that OSCAR received from Council officers. I have conveyed this feedback and thanks to the officers involved.

It is noted that the formal public consultation period for the latest planning scheme amendment package is 6 weeks (30 business days), starting on 30 July and ending on 7 September 2018. Council considers that this timeframe is sufficient for interested persons to make a submission and we do not believe there is case to extend the public consultation period in this instance. In this regard, the following points are made:

- There is nothing extraordinary about the current proposed planning scheme amendment that sets it apart from other scheme amendments.
- The length of the consultation period is comparable to other scheme amendments and complies with the timeframes specified under relevant planning legislation.
- OSCAR and its member groups were briefed at the commencement of the consultation period to provide sufficient lead time to be appraised about the proposed amendment, advise its wider membership and, where necessary, to prepare submissions.
- There is considered to be high community awareness about the proposed amendment and Council has notified directly affected persons early in the consultation process (see further details below).
- Council is not convinced that an extended consultation period will result in an improved community response given that the closing date for the public consultation period has been widely advertised and understood.
- As mentioned at the briefing, it is Council's general practice to receive and have regard to submissions made after the close of the consultation period on a good faith basis.

It is also noted that Council has taken numerous steps to inform the community about the proposed planning scheme amendment currently subject to public consultation. This includes information being available on our website (via the Have Your Say page) and in each of our Customer Service Centres (Caloundra, Maroochydore and Nambour). In addition to this, approximately 7,500 notifications (via letter or email) have been sent to affected property owners and adjoining owners.

OSCAR's request for information to also be provided in our libraries has been noted and is currently under consideration; however, we feel that the avenues already provided are sufficient at this point in time. Council will continue to undertake engagement with OSCAR on our Planning Scheme Amendments, as we have in the past, and foresees that you will take a proactive role in informing your member base accordingly. Your proactive approach to assisting your members and associate members on these amendments will be of great benefit to the community on behalf of OSCAR.

I have also noted your comments and your request to the Councillors that they engage with their communities in respect of the proposed planning scheme amendments. As you are aware, there is a full explanatory memorandum and information sheets available on Council's website that can assist in affording a greater understanding of the intent of the proposed amendments. While I am conscious that it is a matter for each Councillor as to how they engage with community members in their respective divisions, the resources are readily available on Council's website or by contacting Council's Strategic Planning Branch on 5420 8953, should any member of the community wish to seek clarification on specific proposed amendments. Councillors are however, aware of your request to them and I am confident that they will each give it appropriate consideration.

Once again, thank you for your feedback and interest in the planning scheme amendment process. Should you wish to further discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



James Ruprai
Group Executive, Customer Engagement and Planning Services

