

Mail OSCAR

From: Claudia Baldwin <claudiab@westnet.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 27 September 2018 06:15
To: mail@oscar.org.au; secretary@oscar.org.au
Subject: comments re rates and SC social strategy

Hi

I wish to comment on two topics: one is the discussion about rate increases; the other about SCC Social Strategy.

Re Sunshine Coast Social Strategy

I would encourage members to provide input into the SCC Social Strategy, accessed via Council's have your say website

https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/sunshine-coast-social-strategy-2019-2041?tool=survey_tool&tool_id=survey&ts=1537991582#tool_tab

Council is asking how to build a strong community.

You can complete a survey – this includes a question about community consultation about which many members would have a few concerns.

We can't build a strong community if our views are not taken into account.

You can also upload a photo about what your community means to you. They then appear on the website with your caption. Most of the photos so far show community events. Members might have other photos that represent their feelings about their neighbourhood.

The strategy seems to focus on services and infrastructure that Council can provide, but little is mentioned about the importance of local communities and neighbourhoods, a sense of identity and sense of community which involves building relationships within and to your local place. It is this identification with our geographical community that commits us to do battle with Council in so many cases. So I urge individual members to respond to the survey and upload photos that demonstrate your connection to place.

re the Rates issue, since rates are set based on land valuation, the fact that real estate value in this area has increased could account for much of the difference. The land Valuation part of the rates equation is determined by State government. This URL links to the State gov't website re land valuation and also where you can check your own land valuation (although that is usually listed on your rates notice).

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/title/valuation>

So it might be appropriate to get a sense from State gov't to what extent land valuations have increased in different parts of SCC. If the increase can't be accounted for by the increase in land valuation, then Council should explain.

While we need to keep local government accountable for its expenditure, the rates notice is not necessarily the best indicator of a local government's expenditure. It's important to see a transparent budget.

Claudia