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OSCAR
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Dear Melva

ENVIRONMENT AND LIVEABILITY STRATEGY 2017

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast Council I would like to thank you for your submission on the Draft Environment and Liveability Strategy in June 2017. The level of community and stakeholder involvement and interest in the draft Strategy was valuable to the drafting process.

The majority of respondents strongly supported the overall aims of the draft strategy, welcomed the long-term outlook, and supported the integration of current environment and growth management strategies into a single document.

We are pleased to inform you that the final Environment and Liveability Strategy was adopted by Council on 14 September 2017.

A summary of the Environment and Liveability Strategy and key issues raised through the submission process is available on Council's website along with an overview of the Strategy and access to the adopted Environment and Liveability Strategy - Part A: Strategic Directions; Part B: Five-year Implementation Plan, and Part C: Network Plan.

With regard to your specific submission, please find attached a response to the key issues raised.

The adopted Environment and Liveability Strategy positions the Sunshine Coast as a region ready to take action to preserve our outstanding natural assets and valued lifestyle.

We thank you for the detailed submission and look forward to continuing to work with your organisation as we develop the Transformal Actions and implement the Environment and Liveability Strategy.

Yours sincerely



BILL HADDRILL
MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

KEY ISSUE	RESPONSE
OSCAR endorses the concept of an "integrated framework" to "set strategic directions to guide the actions of Council and it's partners".	Noted with thanks.
The strategy document is easy to read and not to bureaucratic, however at it does seem to reflect a "marketing approach".	The final Environment and Liveability Strategy has been externally peer reviewed and undergone copy editing to ensure consistency of style and ease of reading. The content and strategic direction contained in the strategy is significant for the region and needs to be accessible to the community.
The Preface (Paragraph 2) makes reference to a "regional city"	<p>The region's current population of 303,400 (2016) is predicted to exceed 500,000 by 2041. This forecast is consistent with the population growth identified in the recently released South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017.</p> <p>Use of terms including 'emerging regional city' in the strategy recognises that by 2041 the Sunshine Coast will likely accommodate a population that could be classified as a regional city.</p>
Population Growth	In planning for this projected population growth, there is a strong recognition that supporting infrastructure (especially transport) is critical to accommodate growth and ensure our liveability. There is equally strong recognition that the distinct qualities and character of the Sunshine Coast including our community-of-communities is retained, and the natural areas preserved.
The document would be enhanced and greater recognition given to the community if the words "we engage" were added to the Guiding Principle 1 to read.	Agreed. The text 'we engage' has been included in the Principles within the final Environment and Liveability Strategy.
The Part B Five Year Implementation Plan appears to be very detailed and clearly presented.	Noted. The inclusion of Part B: Five-year Implementation Plan has been a welcomed inclusion to ensure successful transition of long-term policy directions into implementation.

<p>OSCAR notes with great concern the concept on <i>page 21</i> under the heading "<i>How the strategy with be used</i>" where it states that it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform Planning 	<p>The Environment and Liveability Strategy seeks to inform planning and decision making including future amendments to the planning scheme.</p> <p>The Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme is a living document and also has a finite life. It will be necessary for Council to prepare a new planning scheme sometime within the next decade and the key policy positions expressed in the Environment and Liveability Strategy will inform that process.</p> <p>Where the planning scheme is silent on a matter, the long-term strategies of council can be referenced for strategic direction. Where the planning scheme does not apply (i.e. Priority Development Areas) then the strategies provide the foundations for developer negotiations.</p> <p>Text was included in the final strategy to clarify the relationship between the Environment and Liveability Strategy and the planning scheme.</p>
<p>The targets proposed by the strategy (with one or two exceptions) are unmeasurable and often meaningless.</p>	<p>Noted. The strategy has been designed with two levels of targets. Part B contains a set of five overarching targets that can be measured on an annual basis. Part A contains one high level target per Theme, these are intended to be measured every 3-5 years and will assist in tracking progress of strategy implementation.</p> <p>The 'Tracking Progress' section in Part B of the final Environment and Liveability Strategy has been expanded to provide examples of the 'indicators of change' that will support measurement of the Theme based targets.</p>
<p>OSCAR would like some assurance from Council that valid and important information and evidence has not been omitted in the integrated strategy.</p> <p>OSCAR seeks advice from Council that plans and actions include those contained within the six relevant strategies which this strategy will supersede.</p>	<p>A full review of the six (6) strategies superseded by the Environment and Liveability Strategy was completed as part of the strategy development process.</p> <p>Integrating six (6) significant strategies into one regional Strategy has provided a very strong platform for implementation, and the integration of natural environment, built environment and how we live in the environment is a strength that the standalone strategies did not have.</p> <p>The key principles, objectives and strategic directions contained in the six (6) strategies superseded by the Environment and Liveability Strategy have been retained in this new Strategy and have been strengthened where considered necessary.</p>