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27 September 2018

Mr Greg Smith – President
Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc (OSCAR)
PO Box 105
COOLUM BEACH QLD 4573

Via email: president@oscar.org.au

Dear Mr Smith

RE: "PARTY HOUSES" ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

I refer to your email dated 28 August 2018 addressed to Council's CEO Michael Whittaker regarding the issue of 'party houses' on the Sunshine Coast. I apologise for the delay in you receiving a response.

As you may be aware, the *Planning Act 2016* (and formerly *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*) contains 'party house' provisions which local governments in Queensland can 'opt into'. Sunshine Coast Council has not opted in to these provisions and is not currently considering these provisions at this point in time.

Council is aware of the increasing prevalence of short-term holiday letting through online platforms such as AirBnb and Homeaway, both domestically and internationally. A Council reference group has recently been established to consider issues, opportunities and risks from online short-term holiday rental platforms for the Sunshine Coast and to identify and implement an appropriate response.

A fundamental part of this review will rely on the outcome from the State Government's review into this issue, which is expected to be tabled with Parliament at the end of this year (see attached media release). It is anticipated that the outcomes of the review, should the review findings be endorsed, will likely encourage a uniform and approach to dealing with a number of the issues arising from short term accommodation letting. Council is awaiting the outcome of the review before determining a final position in this regard.

Please find further comments regarding your specific queries below:

1. Data obtained by Council indicates that there are 2,710 properties listed for short-term accommodation via AirBnb within the Sunshine Coast Local Government Area.
2. Council has received 17 complaints in the 2017-18 year regarding short-term holiday rentals. Compliance action was taken where breaches of Council's Local Laws or the Planning Scheme were identified.
3. Recent discussions with the Queensland Police Service have indicated the issue of 'party houses' is not a significant issue for them within the Sunshine Coast local government area.

4. No specific joint taskforce has been established with Police and Short-Term Accommodation Providers at this point in time.
5. See comments above.
6. Council commissions an independent evaluation of the performance of Sunshine Coast Council's investment in Tourism and Major Events every two years. The most recent evaluation was presented to Council in 2017. The most recent independent evaluation reported that annually, visitors to the Sunshine Coast spend around \$1.7 billion per annum and 79 cents of every dollar spent by visitor's flows through to other sectors of the economy.

I hope this information assists, and if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Richard MacGillivray, Coordinator, Development Audit & Response on the contact number provided above.

Yours faithfully



James Ruprai
Group Executive, Customer Engagement and Planning Services