



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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Member newsletter – 10 March 2019

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*** Local Government Reforms

Key amendments currently under consideration

A recently released Discussion Paper by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs (DLGRMA) outlines a series of reforms designed to strengthen the transparency, accountability and integrity of local government in Queensland.

Proposed changes

The Belcarra Report found that good government requires elections to be held on a level playing field, with equal participation available to all.

Belcarra also stressed the need for complete transparency about who candidates are, how their campaigns are funded, and their interests and affiliations - along with their relationships with other candidates.

The proposed reforms informed by the Belcarra Report and discussions with stakeholders including OSCAR include:

- Compulsory preferential voting;
- Compulsory candidate training;
- Proportional representation in undivided councils;
- Tighter regulation of discretionary funds;
- Changes to mayoral powers;
- Campaign spending caps; and

- Clarification of Conflict Of Interest and Material Personal Interest provisions.

In addition to the proposed reforms in the Bill, the Government is proposing to also make amendments to particular Regulations to further improve council integrity, increase transparency, encourage diversity and ensure consistency in the local government system.

The regulation changes will tighten controls around the issues councils may discuss in closed meetings and ensure resolutions and minutes have enough information for the community to understand why councils have made decisions.

Changes include Councils being required to consult with the community on their budgets.

There will also be stronger requirements on the use of council controlled entities.

The publishing of Councillor Registers of Interest will also be standardised so that the community is better informed about potential conflicts of interests.

How to use this document

The **Discussion Paper** is structured in four sections; before, during, after an election and elected councils. Current and proposed amendments are outlined as well as the reasoning for proposed changes and we would **urge you to read it.**

Engagement opportunities

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring stakeholders are aware of these proposed changes and their impacts.

DLGRMA is available to answer questions on a dedicated phone hotline 07 3452 6747 and [email](#). Live webinars will also be held by the Department, for more information and to register your interest [click here](#).

*** Candidates for March 2010 LG elections

OSCAR will attempt to provide the names of people who declare their candidacy for the 28 March 2020 council elections as we become aware of them.

If any OSCAR member becomes aware of someone declaring their candidacy please let us know.

It goes without saying that listing a candidate's name in this context is for information purposes only and DOES NOT imply support or endorsement from OSCAR.

Confirmed

SCRC

Division 5 – Richard Bruinsma

Note: Cr Jenny McKay has announced she will not be seeking re-election.

Potential

SCRC

Division 9 - Alex Watson

Note: Cr Stephen Robinson has not confirmed whether he will seek re-election at this stage.

Division 10

Note: Cr Greg Rogerson has announced he will not be seeking re-election.

Noosa Council

Note: Noosa is an undivided council so candidates stand for election for the whole LGA.

*** Upcoming events and key dates

16 March 2019

Save Yaroomba's Endangered Waves



18 March 2019

Noosa Council General Committee Meeting

10:00 am at Council Chambers in Tewantin – view [agenda](#).

21 March 2019

Noosa Council Ordinary Meeting

6:00 pm at Council Chambers in Tewantin – view [agenda](#).

28 March 2019

SCR Council Ordinary Meeting

9:00 am at Council Chambers in Caloundra – view [agenda](#).

2 June 2019

WED Festival 2019

World Environment Day Festival is a celebration of our unique environment with live performances, wholesome food, sustainable stall holders, a fun kids program, live art, innovative displays, community and environment groups to meet and learn from, and more activities than you can poke a stick at!

Check out the official WED Fest website [here](#).

WHERE

Cotton Tree Park, Maroochydore

You can see a list of other events that have been posted on SCEC's website [here](#).

*** Current “Have your Say” opportunities - SCRC

Aquatic Centre Surveys

Sunshine Coast Regional Council have engaged the University of SA to independently assess the service levels at some of the Sunshine Coast Aquatic centres. The surveys are designed to ensure the customer experience meets community expectation and the pool managers continue to deliver a high quality industry service.

Available surveys:

- Beerwah Aquatic Centre
- Buderim Aquatic Centre
- Coolum-Peregian Aquatic Centre
- Eumundi Aquatic Centre
- Nambour Aquatic Centre
- Palmwoods Aquatic Centre

The survey will assess how you use your local centre, your thoughts on the service quality, and finally the wellness benefits.

Please complete the [online survey](#) relevant to your local centre by 31 March 2019 and go into the draw to win a month’s pass to the site.

Cemetery Plan 2012-2027

Sunshine Coast regional Council is currently reviewing its Cemetery Plan 2012 - 2027. The Cemetery Plan is a strategic document that conveys Council’s commitment in providing cemetery services to the community.

This review provides an opportunity to plan for the emerging needs of the community, future growth and increased diversity in the Sunshine Coast region.

To help inform the future plan and strategic direction of services, Council is seeking feedback from targeted individuals and groups identified as representing community viewpoints.

Council is proposing to commence meeting with key stakeholders in early March 2019 to offer an opportunity to inform the future plan. These meetings are intended to be hosted as short, face to face conversations.

Where meetings may not be feasible, there is the opportunity to provide feedback by completing this [feedback form](#) and returning it by [email](#).

Council remains committed to delivering cemetery services that are sustainable, inclusive,

respectful of those past and responsive to the needs of current and future generations.

Council has invited OSCAR to meet with staff in relation to this matter; if anyone would like to be part of our delegation please let us know by [email](#).

*** Current “Have your Say” opportunities - Noosa

New Noosa Plan

The New Noosa Plan is the draft planning scheme that will replace the current Noosa Plan 2006. It strives to protect the look and feel of Noosa while providing a blueprint to shape the shire’s growth over the next 20 years.

The New Noosa Plan is the culmination of several years of engaging with the community. A discussion paper in October 2016 provided community feedback and that information has helped prepare the New Noosa Plan.

The New Noosa Plan will facilitate more housing and business choices, continue the place based approach of the existing planning scheme, future transport needs and opportunities for rural enterprises. It considers how we live, work and play in the future. It sets the rules for development including new or changing land uses, subdivision, building works, landscaping and clearing of vegetation and all forms of engineering works.

As required by the State Government, the New Noosa Plan differs from the current Noosa Plan with changes to the structure, zones and land use definitions in particular.

The New Noosa Plan has undergone a rigorous review by the State Government to ensure it complies with the Planning Act 2016, State Planning Policies, South East Queensland Regional Plan and other State interests.

Now is your chance to review the New Noosa Plan and have your say. The draft planning scheme can be accessed [online](#) using Council's ePlan.

Written submissions are welcome up to **Monday 20 May 2019**, 5 pm and may be submitted via the Your Say webpage, by email or post.

Council will consider submissions and make appropriate changes before sending it back to the

State Government for a final review and sign-off from the Minister.

*** **DES Consultation on Mt Coolum National Park**

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has prepared a draft management plan for Mount Coolum National Park. Once finalised, the management plan will replace the existing plan which has been in effect since 1998.

The Mount Coolum National Park draft management plan is accompanied by the Mount Coolum National Park Visitor Strategy and Resource Information document. These documents are available [here](#).

All submissions will be considered when preparing the final management plan. Information about how to prepare a submission is available at www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au.

The closing date for submissions is **Wednesday 13 March 2019**.

*** **New on the OSCAR website**

Previous newsletter archive

[Newsletters](#)

New process for handling Councillor Complaints
[Councillor complaints](#)

State and Council transport policies
[Transport policies/strategy](#)

*** **Useful links/resources**

Have your say opportunities

Noosa

<https://yoursay.noosa.qld.gov.au/>

SCRC

<https://haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/open-consultation>

Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland
[Code of conduct for Queensland councillors](#)

Current E-Petitions on the Queensland Parliament's website

[Current E-Petitions](#)

Note: There are a number of local government related e-petitions that you may wish to support:

Petition 3067-19 - Commission of Inquiry into Local Government Procurements and Contracts
(9 April 2019).

News about Bills and Legislation in the Queensland Parliament where there has been activity in the last seven days

[Current Bills and Legislation in the Queensland Parliament](#)

CCC publications

[Useful CCC publications](#)

Accessing government information from the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO)

[Accessing government information](#)

SCRC Disclosure Log – for material obtained following RTI applications.

[Disclosure Log](#)

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