



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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Member newsletter – 19 May 2019

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*** Local Government Reform update

On 1 May 2019 the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced to the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Economics and Governance Committee who will be conducting an inquiry into the Bill. More information regarding the making of submissions, public hearings and the enquiry in general can be located on the Committee’s website. **OSCAR is currently working on its submission which will be available on the website soon.**

Relevant documents, along with the original information paper, are available on the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs [website](#).

Should the Bill be passed in due course, these reforms will apply to local governments and candidates for the 2020 local government elections.

The DLGRMA is proposing on-going reform which OSCAR will also have the opportunity to comment on.

Deferred changes

- Election expenditure caps
- Full preferential proportional representation in undivided councils
- Public campaign funding
- Handling of councillor vacancies

Changes that have been shelved

- Dual candidacy

Proposed changes to regulations

Amendments to the Local Government Regulation 2012, City of Brisbane Regulation 2012 and Local Government Electoral Regulation 2012 are proposed to occur in multiple tranches during 2019 and will include consideration of:

- Tightening 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;
- Councils being required to consult with the community on their budgets;
- Strengthening the requirements on the use of council-controlled entities; and
- Publishing of Councillor registers of interest will also be standardised so that the community is better informed about potential conflicts of interests.

Tranche 1

- Policy thresholds
- Interest on overdue rates and charges

Tranche 2

- Register of interests
- Apologies and leave of absence
- Agendas
- Minutes
- Closed meetings
- Briefing sessions

- Discretionary funds

Tranche 3

- Controlled Entities
- Sale of land for arrears of rates
- Financial Management

Tranche 4

- Procurement arrangements

***** SC Airport information**

Katrina Wood

Environmental Officer – Community Engagement and Grants
Corporate Services

Department of Environment and Science

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We have received an enquiry regarding PFAS at the Sunshine Coast Airport. I have received some information regarding this matter which we also wanted to share with the group to keep everyone informed together. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has undertaken PFAS biota sampling in the local area near the Sunshine Coast Airport. PFAS was not detected in some samples. Where it was detected, it was well below the human health criteria for seafood consumption.

These samples indicated that there is no human health risk associated with PFAS from consuming locally caught seafood.

The department has been advised by Airservices Australia and Sunshine Coast Council of their investigations into PFAS contamination at Sunshine Coast Airport.

DES was advised that fire-fighting foam containing PFAS was used by Airservices Australia at the airport from 2004 until 2010.

Information about Airservices Australia's investigations at airports around Australia, including the Sunshine Coast airport can be obtained at

<http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/environment/national-pfas-management-program/site-investigations/>

The Sunshine Coast Council completed their PFAS investigation in May 2018, as part of their Environmental Approval granted by DES for the airport expansion.

Council's report indicated that while PFAS is present, groundwater concentrations are below

national drinking water guideline values along the eastern boundary adjacent to residential areas.

DES is currently working with Council to ensure that any PFAS contamination identified as part of the airport expansion project is being managed effectively.

Queensland is a leader when it comes to PFAS management. We were the first Government in Australia to ban firefighting foam containing PFOS and PFOA and we are implementing a policy to phase out firefighting foam containing PFOS or PFOA by July 2019.

Information on PFAS contamination is available on the Queensland Government website at www.qld.gov.au/pfas.

***** Sunshine Coast CBD update**

[Source: Tony Moore, Brisbane Times, 15 May 2019]

Developers are being invited to transform an old golf course on the Sunshine Coast into the region's new city centre after four years of planning.

In one of south-east Queensland's largest urban regeneration projects, expressions of interest are being sought from developers to build a city heart at Maroochydore over 50 hectares.

That land includes \$10 million in underground digital waste and lighting facilities and includes space for retail, commercial and 1390 apartments along waterways.

In 2015, the Sunshine Coast Council put together a company called **SunCentral** Maroochydore to plan the new CBD.

SunCentral was kick started by **Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk in February 2016** and underground waste and infrastructure facilities were added during 2016-17.

"[The new city centre] offers mixed-use apartment precincts alongside planned waterways and parkland," SunCentral Maroochydore chief executive officer John Knaggs said.

"This is a unique opportunity for experienced developers and institutional capital groups to enter into a long-term partnership with SunCentral Maroochydore and set a new benchmark for city centre design and development in one of the fastest-growing regions in the country."

Roads, footpaths, kerbing and landscaping are in place.

It is being built on the former site of the Horton Park Golf Club, which was bought by the Sunshine Coast Council for \$42 million in 2015 and relocated to a nearby site.

SunCentral has since leased some blocks of land in the core commercial area of the new CBD and has guided the civil works and underground infrastructure stage.

The company said it was time to allow private-sector firms to develop the next stage.

Mr Knaggs said SunCentral and the Sunshine Coast Council never intended to develop the “vertical buildings”.

“We don’t fund buildings,” Mr Knaggs said.

“Hence we go to the market to work with those 'vertical' investors and developers on the staging so they can sensibly build up those precincts in the vertical realm,” he said.

“Our role is to intelligently stage those civil works to create those lots.”

The expressions of interest on the next 15 hectares of the site can be lodged until August 30.

On offer are 67,500 square metres of commercial space, 25,900 square metres of retail floor space and 1390 residential apartments.

“We are seeking a long-term set of development partners for the next 10 to 15 years on the next major stages of the project,” Mr Knaggs said.

“It is the private sector’s role as the investor in those buildings which will produce the city centre in its entirety.”

Mr Knaggs said SunCentral expected this year to announce the university or college to be built on site.

Construction on commercial buildings in the first stage – which has already gone to market – was expected to start mid-2019, he said.

“The next three to five years will see significant building on stage 1A,” he said.

An eight-storey commercial property by local developer Evans Long and a two-tower 152-unit residential complex by Brisbane’s Habitat Development Group will start construction soon.

Work will start on the Sunshine Coast Regional Council’s new nine-storey headquarters in the next six months.

The site also includes the landing port for Australia’s newest undersea telecommunications cable.

The Sunshine Coast’s population is tipped to grow from 346,522 to 500,000 by 2036.

*** Councillor Remuneration update

Councils do not set the salaries of Councillors. Rather that has been the role of The Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal. Their 2018 [Report](#) set the following rates of councillor remuneration to apply from 1 July 2019:

Role	Noosa	SCRC
Mayor	\$130,584	\$228,521
Deputy Mayor	\$81,615	\$158,332
Councillor	\$69,372	\$138,745

NB These figures are based on the size of the council and do not include the 12% superannuation contribution or expenses paid to councillors in addition to their base salary.

From 31 December 2018 the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal ceased to exist and its functions have been taken up by two new bodies:

Councillor Conduct Tribunal

The Councillor Conduct Tribunal has been established under the *Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018* which amends the *Local Government Act 2009*.

The Tribunal is an independent body, made up of six members and a president appointed by the Governor in Council. It is responsible for dealing with complaints of misconduct by councillors.

The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs provides administrative and secretariat assistance to the Tribunal to enable it to effectively perform its responsibilities.

The functions of the Tribunal are:

- to hear and decide complaints of misconduct by councillors as referred by the **Office of the Independent Assessor**
- to investigate the suspected inappropriate conduct of a councillor referred to the local government, by the assessor and to be dealt with by the local government

- to make recommendations to the local government about dealing with the conduct.

Local Government Remuneration Commission

To be also established this year under the *Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018* which amends the *Local Government Act 2009*:

Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018
Part 2 Amendment of Local Government Act 2009

[s 18]

Part 3 Local Government Remuneration Commission

176 Establishment

The Local Government Remuneration Commission (the *remuneration commission*) is established.

177 Functions

The functions of the remuneration commission are—

- to establish the categories of local governments; and
- to decide the category to which each local government belongs; and
- to decide the maximum amount of remuneration payable to the councillors in each of the categories; and
- another function related to the remuneration of councillors directed, in writing, by the Minister.

*** Sekisui House Court Appeal update

Member organisations: Please circulate to your members

Many OSCAR members will be aware that, despite a record 9000 objections, in June 2018 Sunshine Coast Regional Council approved a development application by Sekisui House Australia. This intensive residential and hotel development at Yaroomba is significantly greater than any development allowed for by the *Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014* and the Coolum Local Area Plan Code.

This is not just an issue for Yaroomba. Critically, this approval sets a legal precedent for the entire Sunshine Coast area. Anywhere on the Sunshine Coast is vulnerable, particularly older areas with larger allotments, and close to the beach, for example, Coolum Beach, Marcoola, Warana, Wurtulla, Currimundi, Shelly Beach. It means that **anyone** living in a low density, low rise (one or two stories) residential area could have a 25 m (seven storey) apartment block built next door, across the road or down the street. Think about the difference to your quality of life with a 7-storey apartment block next door; what that

means for your breezes, sunshine, privacy and views. And traffic.

Three community organisations are working together to fight this decision. Two organisations, Coolum-based **Development Watch Inc (DW)** and the region's peak environmental advocacy group, **Sunshine Coast Environment Council Inc (SCEC)**, are jointly appealing this decision in the Planning and Environment Court. In addition, the Yaroomba-based community group, **Friends of Yaroomba Inc**, with its subsidiary "**Save Yaroomba**", has joined with DW and SCEC to raise funds to pay the considerable court costs.

The Court appeals were lodged in November last year, legal representation has been engaged and preliminary Court appearances have occurred. We are now at the next critical stage in the process where we have engaged expert witnesses across four key areas – town planning, economic need, visual amenity and marine turtle ecology. The experts' involvement is comprehensive and vital for supporting our case.

We were encouraged by last month's Planning & Environment Court ruling that a service station and fast food outlet at Mudjimba was unlawful due to it being outside the Planning Scheme. Given the calibre of our assembled team and the strength of our grounds of appeal, we believe we have a strong case and are determined to win this Appeal.

Our legal representatives and expert witnesses need considerable time and resources to prepare the best possible case. We must ensure we have sufficient funds to employ them for the duration of the appeal. **We urgently need your financial support to do this.**

The three organisations listed above are together raising funds to pay the cost of the Court Appeal through events, social nights, merchandise sales as well as donations directly to our fighting funds. If everyone who objected to the proposal donated \$50 or \$100, we would have sufficient funds to fight the Appeal, but any donation is welcome. You can donate directly to DW (Development Watch Inc, Bank of Queensland, BSB 124-079, Acc. 2281 0131) or **for further information on tax deductible donations** please contact SCEC on 5441 5747 or <https://www.scec.org.au/>.

For information on progress with the Appeal and fundraisers, watch for regular updates on the SCEC website, Development Watch website <http://developmentwatch.org.au/wp/> and Friends of Yaroomba Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofyaroomba/> or at *WED Fest 2019*, on 2 June at Cotton Tree (sponsored by SCEC).

*** Upcoming events and key dates

22 May 2019

Free Secretaries' Meetup and Workshop

Noosa Council is offering secretaries the opportunity to catch up with, as well as learn from, presenter Leisa Donlan about their role. Includes refreshments. 4-7 pm, Wednesday 22 May at The J. RSVP and find out more [here](#).

Free Online Governance Training- Community Door

You can access free online governance training materials and resources through this [link](#).

Sunshine Coast Coalition of Community Boards

Web: <http://cocb.org.au>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/coalitionvoice

23 May 2019

SCR Council Ordinary Meeting

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

23 May 2019

SCR Council Special Meeting

2:00 pm at Council Chambers in Caloundra – view [agenda](#).

25-26 May 2019

QLGRA Bi-annual Conference



QLGRA
BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE
25 – 26 MAY 2019
TOWNSVILLE & SURROUNDS
GO-HOSTED BY
 Townsville Ratepayers
 Saturday 25 May 2019

Public Forum 9am – 4pm
 CWA Hall on Denham Street, Townsville

Dr Cameron Richards - Professor of interdisciplinary studies with extensive experience in the Asia-Pacific region
 Jason Ward - Renowned anti-corruption crusader
 3rd Guest Speaker – to be advised

Forum Dinner 6pm
 A 335 Flinders Mall, Townsville

ALL participants and friends are welcome to join us on Saturday night for dinner at Cowboys Leagues Club Ltd. Costs at own expense.

Sunday 26 May 2019
Bi-Annual Meeting 9am – 12pm
 CWA Hall on Denham Street, Townsville

RATEPAYERS DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!
 \$25 PER HEAD
PROMINENT GUEST SPEAKERS Q&A
Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea provided.
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL REGISTER NOW!

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Please be advised that QLGRA Inc does not hold public liability insurance cover and your attendance at any QLGRA function will be at your own discretion.

2 June 2019

WED Festival 2019



WED Fest 2019 is almost here! Join us and over 80 stall holders, community groups and plant based food vendors at Maroochydore on 2 June, RSVP [here](#).

World Environment Day is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. Since it began in 1974, the event has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.

Above all, World Environment Day is the "people's day" for doing something to take care of the Earth. That "something" can be local, national or global. It can be a solo action or involve a crowd. Join us this year to fight air pollution.

Raffle tickets are **ON SALE NOW!** With some fantastic prizes on offer, there is something for everyone from accommodation to high end adventure gear.

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

Maroochydore Rotary Park, Cotton Tree

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

20 June 2019

SCR Council Special Meeting

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

20 June 2019

SCR Council Ordinary Meeting

11:00 am at Council Chambers in Nambour – view [agenda](#).

20 June 2019

Noosa Council Ordinary Meeting

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

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

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](#).

Our Resilient Coast. Our Future.

Come and connect with the SCRC at one of our community events

Will the coastline you love be the same in 20, 50, 100 years? Help decide.

The SCRC is commencing the journey to develop ‘Our Resilient Coast. Our Future’, a long-term strategy to better understand coastal hazards, reduce impacts on our coast and communities and enhance the resilience of our coastline over time. If you’re interested in our coast and its future, please be part of our community consultation. Your ideas and input will be a valuable part of our strategy development.

Look out for us on beach foreshores during May and June.

Open house			Pop-ups		
Come by for a range of interactive displays to share your thoughts, try out the wave tank, and chat to the project team.			Come by to share your thoughts, try out the wave tank and chat to the project team.		
When	Time	Where	When	Time	Where
15 May	5 - 7pm	Dicky Beach Surf Club	14 May	12 - 2pm	Nambour Library forecourt
2 June	9am - 5pm	World Environment Day Festival Cotton Tree Park	4 June	4 - 6pm	Outside Maleny IGA
3 June	6 - 8pm	Coolum Surf Club	11 June	11.30am - 1.30pm	Caloundra Council Admin Building forecourt 1 Omrah Ave
11 June	7 - 9pm	Mooloolaba Surf Club			

Can't make it to one of these events? There is still time, go to our [website](#) to find out more.

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

LAST CHANCE - 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.

***** Candidates for March 2020 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 2 – Brady Sullivan

Incumbent: Cr Tim Dwyer, Deputy Mayor

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.

NB If you wish to unsubscribe at any time please [reply](#) with REMOVE in the subject line