

## OSCAR President

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**From:** OSCAR President <president@oscar.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 6 June 2019 11:29  
**To:** 'Sonia Marshall'  
**Cc:** 'Bill Haddrill'  
**Subject:** UNESCO Biosphere workshop on Tuesday, 4 June

Dear Sonia

I would like to thank you for Tuesday's workshop. I found it well-structured and informative.

I particularly liked the use of the table facilitators for the workshop activities; Liz did a great job on our table and I would like you to pass on our thanks to her.

I look forward to receiving the presentation slides and the summary of the comments/feedback gathered from the group activities as soon as possible so I can share them with OSCAR's members. In Bill's concluding remarks he indicated that the workshop feedback challenged "our thinking"; we hope that feedback will be reflected in the outcomes of this process.

OSCAR will make a formal submission to the biosphere consultation but we do not meet again until 27 June so it will not meet the 28 June deadline. I was reassured by comments on Tuesday that it will still be considered by your team.

I believe OSCAR's membership is generally supportive of the biosphere nomination but has some reservations about the Council's motivation for seeking biosphere status. In our view the focus of biosphere status should be on sustainable practices and not simply a marketing exercise.

Based on the current Council's poor record for genuine community consultation on significant projects we also worry that the community, as the Council's principal stakeholder/shareholder, will not have sufficient involvement in the governance of either the nomination process itself or, if the nomination is successful, the ongoing management of the consequent biosphere. We are always concerned when the term "stakeholder and community groups" is used implying, as it does, that the community is in some way separate from stakeholders.

Please note that any criticisms of the Council, on this, and other issues, are directed at its elected officials and not the council's staff who we are well aware act under the direction of the Mayor and Councillors and in our experience do this in a consistently professional manner.

OSCAR looks forward to further engagement with Council on this nomination; we are happy to discuss our views at any opportunity that arises.

Best wishes ... Greg

Greg Smith  
President, OSCAR  
(Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)

T: 0417 577 881

E: [president@oscar.org.au](mailto:president@oscar.org.au)

W: <https://www.oscar.org.au/>

