

## Mail OSCAR

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**From:** Mail OSCAR <mail@oscar.org.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 4 August 2019 18:50  
**To:** 'brian.stockwell@noosa.qld.gov.au'  
**Subject:** Meeting reforms and associated matters

Dear Brian

I am writing to you to ask you to support the Recommendations contained Items 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the SERVICES & ORGANISATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA for Tuesday's meeting and their subsequent consideration in the 12 August General Committee Meeting and then the 15 August Ordinary Meeting where these recommendations will be voted on.

OSCAR members have recently discussed the motions moved by Cr Jackson in June and would endorse the recommendations as noted in the S&O Agenda.

While these recommendations do not support all elements of Cr Jackson's motion of 20 June, we accept that they represent a very practical outcome and one we believe the community will welcome.

For example, while OSCAR would like to see video streaming of all committee meetings in the ideal world, we accept the CEO's rationale for Recommendation E of Agenda Item 5. Our view is that community members who wish to follow significant issues debated in Council can do so via the video streaming of Council's General Committee, Ordinary and Special Council Meetings and the on-going availability of video recording of these meetings for future viewing on Council's YouTube channel.

We are particularly pleased with Recommendation D of Agenda Item 6 as OSCAR has long argued that ratepayers and residents have a right to see how each councillor votes on particular issues without the need for a division to be called notwithstanding the fact that many decisions are in fact supported unanimously. This is the practice in most councils we are aware of including ones that have a much poorer record than Noosa on governance generally. We do not see this reform as undermining the collegial environment that is encouraged in Council's decision making process.

We also appreciate Recommendation E of Item 6 as the opportunity for a public question time is welcome. Obviously there needs to be clear guidelines around such a provision and we look forward to these being developed and implemented in due course.

We believe endorsement of these recommendations will further enhance the Noosa Council's deserved reputation for open and transparent local governance and OSCAR will continue to offer Noosa as an exemplar for good practice within the forums we participate in at local and state-wide level.

It has always been OSCAR's view that councils should strive to exceed the legislative requirements imposed on councils via the Local Government Act and Regulations as well as other relevant Acts and adoption of the recommendations you will be considering over the next week or so go a long way to achieving that outcome for Noosa Council at least.

I will not be able to attend Tuesday's meeting as I will be in Brisbane but due to the foresight of you and your colleagues I will be able to view the meeting's video and look forward to seeing a positive debate.

Best wishes .... Greg

Greg Smith  
President, OSCAR