

OSCAR President

From: OSCAR President <president@oscar.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 September 2019 15:44
To: 'Cr Jason O'Pray'
Subject: RE: Pondered water discharge and closed sessions of Council

Hi Jason

I do understand the regulations re confidential sessions – probably better than most.

I am also aware of regulatory changes that will soon be enacted that will make it more difficult for councils to go into closed session and will require more information to be provided to the community when they do.

I appreciate that you will have a Notice of Motion for the October meeting and look forward to your success in persuading your colleagues to support you in the interests of transparency and open government.

Best wishes Greg

From: Cr Jason O'Pray [mailto:Jason.Opray@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 18 September 2019 11:38
To: OSCAR President <president@oscar.org.au>
Cc: Colleen O'Shea <Colleen.O'Shea@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Pondered water discharge and closed sessions of Council

Dear Greg

Thank you for your email and telephone call seeking the public release of the confidential report considered at Council's Special Meeting on 22 August 2019 on the Alternative Release Methods for Pondered Water on the Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion Project site.

As you are aware, the report was considered in confidential session due to some of the technical and commercial information which it contained, although the resolution was made in public session as required under the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. You will appreciate that given the Council resolved to

consider the report in a confidential session, the report cannot be released unless authorised by Council.

With that in mind – and given the time frame for the lodgement of Notices of Motion for the September Ordinary Meeting has passed – I intend to submit a Notice of Motion to the Council Ordinary Meeting of [17 October 2019](#), requesting Council to release information contained in the 22 August 2019 Confidential Report that would not now be considered to be confidential. My Notice of Motion will also request that the information be released in a format that can be readily understood by the general community, in order to assist residents to understand what informed the decision taken by Council on this matter.

Thank you again for raising this matter with me. I'm doing my best for you mate.

Best regards

Cr Jason O'Pray

Councillor for Division 8

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Sep 2019, at 6:49 pm, OSCAR President <president@oscar.org.au> wrote:

[SCC External Email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Thank for your response Jason.

The CEO has responded to my request saying he cannot release the document (which I knew) but the Council (ie you and your colleagues) could agree to do so.

He undertook to put our request to the Mayor and Councillors so it will be over to you presumably.

Best wishes ... Greg

From: Cr Jason O'Pray [<mailto:Jason.Opray@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au>]

Sent: Friday, 13 September 2019 18:30

To: OSCAR President <president@oscar.org.au>

Subject: Re: Ponded water discharge and closed sessions of Council

Ok mate

Onto it for you

I'll put a request in for sure

See how we go

I'll give you a bell early next week

Have a great weekend

Jas

Sent from my iPhone

On 12 Sep 2019, at 6:35 pm, OSCAR President <president@oscar.org.au> wrote:

[SCC External Email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Hi Jason

Given your positive comments on transparency at Tuesday night's information session I am writing to ask for your assistance in persuading the CEO and your colleagues to make public the report/s that were the basis for the decision in relation to Item 5.3 at the Special Meeting of 22 August.

I have written to the CEO to that effect and it would be great if you could lobby on behalf of the community given your comments on Tuesday which indicated disquiet on your part that the decision was made in closed session. The community should not need to resort to RTI applications to find out what should be in the public domain – ie what has informed Councillors prior to making a decision (and you do not need to remind me that the actual vote is conducted in open session) and what are the options in relation to the costs being borne by the community via rates for the decisions being made.

I was possibly a little unfair on you during the meeting but you did make a claim about your record on closed sessions that needed to be put in context based on actual facts.

As you can see from the figures below, which indicate how often each Councillor has voted against going into closed session, you do have the second best record. Nevertheless it is not something you should be seeking praise for given the actual numbers. 85.9% of all 199 decisions to go into closed session to date have been unanimous. Further, some of you colleagues have **never** voted against moving into closed session which suggests a regrettable failure of Councillors to forensically assess the recommendations from the CEO to do so before exercising your votes.

SCRC Councillor

To August 2019

Jamieson	0
Baberowski	0
Dwyer	0

Cox	1
Connolly	1
McKay	1
Dickson	0
Hungerford	5
O'Pray	16
Robinson	0
Rogerson	21

Best wishes ... Greg

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

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E: president@oscar.org.au

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

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