



16 September 2019

## **OSCAR submission - Historic Cultural Heritage PS amendments**

**OSCAR congratulates and supports the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC)** on all the proposed amendments in the Historic Cultural Heritage amendment. Many councils will not tackle the issue of heritage listing private property and we endorse Council's initiatives in this direction. However we have additional recommendations which we feel will give added protection to the properties listed and avoid "demolition by neglect".

We also propose a program that might support those with individual listings better manage the maintenance of the property in question.

A third recommendation relates to "bringing the listings to life". OSCAR would also hope that engagement with specifically affected individual residents has been, and will continue to be, undertaken by SCRC.

### **OSCAR also supports the submission made by its member group the Palmwoods Living History Society in relation to seeking additional listings under the current amendment and the need for the use of Essential Management Orders (EMO).**

OSCAR understands that the purpose and general effect of the proposed amendment is to *"revise and update the planning scheme provisions relating to cultural heritage, and that the amendment proposes the formal identification of new or modifies local heritage places, character areas, character buildings and local plan elements, as well as the removal of some existing local heritage places from the planning scheme"* (SCRC Information Sheet #1).

OSCAR also acknowledges the work undertaken by the expert team of historians and the framework developed for further identification of local heritage places.

It is pleasing to see additional heritage places proposed and more comprehensive information provided for existing and proposed places in the form of draft Statements of Significance. It is also timely that the story of the Jinabara people in the post contact period has been published in parallel with the *Thematic History of the Sunshine Coast*.

We look forward to the equivalent document being published by the Kabi Kabi First Nation in the future.

It is disappointing however to note that of that of the 21 places removed from the listing 6 had no remaining structures. Council must be more proactive to ensure that properties do not become subject to "demolition by neglect".

OSCAR recommendations:

1. That OSCAR supports in total the recommendations made by SCRC in the proposed amendment.
2. That listing a property be considered as a mutual obligation. Council negotiates with the property owner in relation to an individual listing and that where financial need is identified, Council support the maintenance schedule of a listed property under a system of maintenance grants.
3. That SCRC (in the event of there not being applicable grants currently available), develop a system of Essential Maintenance grants for application under this amendment. Grants to be subject to application processes as apply to other council initiated grants programs.

4. That council implement a policy of Essential Maintenance Orders (EMO) to protect existing heritage places and ensure that properties don't become "demolition by neglect" casualties with their only record being pictures in a history book or on a website.
5. That Council immediately undertake the required steps under State Legislation to become a *Prescribed Local Government*, by regulation to utilise Essential Maintenance Orders, having demonstrated it has the skills and procedures to utilise them appropriately. We understand the Palmwoods Living History society have been advocating for such a move since 2015. (Reference Palmwoods Living History Society submission in relation to this current amendment).
6. That SCRC bring to life the "Historic Cultural Heritage" places of the Sunshine Coast by negotiating with relevant teacher associations, for example the History Teachers' Association of Queensland, the English Teachers' Association of Queensland and the Geography Teachers' Association of Queensland, to:
  - a. Relate and document the Sunshine Coast Historic Cultural Heritage to current history, social studies and social science curriculum.
  - b. Enable and assist the development by the above organisations of units of study and associated field activities based around historical cultural heritage. (OSCAR presumes that there are teachers who are already undertaking such work and maybe prepared to share their work).