

17 February 2020

Ms Melva Hobson
President
Organisation of Sunshine Coast Associations of Residents
PO Box 105
COOLUM BEACH QLD 4573

Email: mail@oscar.org.au

Dear Ms Hobson

I refer to your correspondence of 11 February 2020 to the Chief Executive Officer seeking his response to several questions in relation to the establishment of the Independent Council Election Observer (ICEO) as a result of your dialogue with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) in respect of this matter.

As Mr Whittaker is presently on leave, I am responding to you on his behalf.

According to its website, the role of the ICEO is to "...augment the existing legislated checks and balances relating to local government elections provided by these statutory authorities by investigating written requests from candidates about allegations made on social media and elsewhere." The role of the ICEO clearly relates to matters involving communications by candidates in the local government electoral process.

As the Council administration is not – and should not be – involved in candidate-related matters associated with the local government electoral process, I consider it would not be appropriate to respond to questions in relation to the formation of the ICEO.

You may, however, wish to canvass your questions directly with the elected Councillors and seek their personal responses. Similarly, I would encourage you to pursue any concerns you may have directly with the LGAQ. The Council administration is unaware of what communications may have been undertaken between the LGAQ and the elected Councillors.

On a final note, I can advise that the LGAQ has confirmed that the operations of the ICEO are not funded from member councils' annual subscriptions.

Thank you for taking the time to contact Council on this matter.

Yours sincerely,


Warren Bunker
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER