



**Organisation
Sunshine
Coast
Association of
Residents**

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Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Attention A/CEO

Mr. Warren Bunker

14 April 2020

Dear Mr Bunker/Warren,

Re: Arrangements for start of new SCRC term

At long last an election outcome is drawing near, or one hopes. OSCAR understands that settling the new council in will be challenging in these times of COVID-19.

We note on the Council website that SCRC has an Ordinary Meeting on the 30th April at Nambour.

Given the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place OSCAR seeks your advice as to what arrangements are in place to have this meeting, or whether the government has changed the regulations to allow for council to defer this meeting until May or a later date?

At whatever date the first Ordinary Meeting of Sunshine Coast Regional Council occurs, OSCAR requests that as a matter of urgency SCRC take steps to immediately introduce live streaming at best, or as an interim option, video the meeting proceedings and publish on the Council website.

OSCAR looks forward to working with Council in the interests of the community. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish yourself and the staff well in these untested times and know that you and senior management will have the health and well-being of staff a key priority.

Regards and all the best for the "settling process".

Melva Hobson

President

OSCAR (Organisation of Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)

OSCAR notes that at the Ordinary Meeting tomorrow, Thursday 19 March, item 8.1 re the requested extension to the Integrated Tourist facility at Buderim is being debated. We are concerned that such a topic is being considered while SCRC is in caretaker mode, however we understand that Council has sought advice on this matter.

As you can appreciate OSCAR members are very interested in this item, given our strong stance in relation to respect for the 2014 Planning Scheme. We are very concerned about access for the general public at Caloundra for this meeting. It is our understanding that the proponent of this proposed resort has arranged for a contingent of supporters to be present for the debate, which of course is their democratic right as is the right of other residents to hear the debate in a safe health environment.

Given the public gallery at Caloundra is quite small and in terms of self-distancing under Covid-19 health recommendations not a feasible option, OSCAR is seeking advice as to how this will be handled at the meeting.

Now would be the ideal time to either live-stream or video and post the procedure of tomorrow's Ordinary Meeting on Council's website.

We are asking that either the whole meeting or the debate related to this item be videoed and posted on Council's website. We appreciate that this would require an Urgent Motion from one of the Councillors.

In the interests of transparency of SCRC and concern for the health of interested and regular Sunshine Coast attendees at Council Ordinary meetings, OSCAR urges SCRC to take extraordinary precautions for community health while maintaining transparency and accessibility to council Ordinary Meetings.

We would suggest given the current state of play re the Corona virus that similar arrangements will need to be made for Ordinary Meetings into the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Melva Hobson PSM

President

OSCAR (Organisation of Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)