

Dear.....

On behalf of OSCAR we congratulate you on your recent election to Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) and wish you well for this term of council.

OSCAR looks forward to continuing to work with SCRC on some of its major projects as we have done in the previous term, while encouraging Council to review a number of issues supported by many councillors including during the election campaign:

1. **Transparency**-candidates, now councillors all supported live-streaming of Ordinary Meetings at Nambour, Caloundra and the new council centre in the CBD.

“Forensic” examination of the need for some items to be declared as confidential and how details might be released to the public once the need for confidentiality has passed.

**Financial transparency** – OSCAR has raised this on a number of occasions only to be misunderstood in our intent. This was also accepted by all but one of the respondents to the questionnaire. It is about how financial information is reported. OSCAR does not suggest that officers are not complying with their financial and legal obligations. OSCAR would like to see included in the Annual Report:

- i) Detailed Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for each of the 4 Region Making Projects, i.e. Solar Farm, Maroochydore City Centre, Sunshine Coast Airport Runway and International Broadband Network. By detailed, we mean categories of income and expenses listed separately, not just lumped as revenue and expense. Similarly the Balance Sheet will list all assets and liabilities.
- ii) As is done for the Grants component of the Councillor’s Discretionary funding program, list details of the actual spend, and budgeted amount, by each Divisional Councillor of their Emergent Capital Works and Minor Operational Works allocations.

2. **Planning issues** – candidates, now councillors who responded to the OSCAR questionnaire were very strong in their responses to respecting the Planning Scheme 2014 and do not want to see PS provisions regarding density, site cover, height and parking requirements watered down. Nor did councillor candidates want to see development outside the Planning Scheme in flood-prone areas and floodplains. Further major Planning Scheme Amendments were not supported unless genuine community benefit was demonstrated. One candidate responded that often the “overriding community benefit” term was misused with some “dubious” benefits espoused.

OSCAR is also a supporter of SCRC’s strong stance re maintaining the inter-urban break between SCRC and Moreton Bay Regional Council and no extension to the urban footprint at West Coolum.

3. **Climate Change** – human induced climate change was acknowledged by all councillors with support for declaration of a Climate Emergency supported by actions, by all but one councillor from those who responded to the questionnaire.

OSCAR supports the actions undertaken so far by SCRC, including: the Blue Heart Project; the Solar Farm (although we await the release of the 2018-19 financial report for the Solar Farm); development of the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS); investment in expanding the conservation estate; support for the Land for Wildlife program and the Biosphere nomination.

4. Engaging with the community. During the election campaign the community made it very clear that they did not feel that community views were considered sufficiently, particularly in relation to planning matters.
5. Council culture – following the resignation of the then CEO Mr. Michael Whittaker, the issue of bullying and harassment in council became public. OSCAR seeks a commitment by all councillors, officers, managers and in fact anyone associated with SCRC that bullying and harassment at any level is unacceptable and should be both called out and dealt with.

We wish you well as you settle into the rewarding work as a local councillor and look forward to working with you over the next 4 years. When you take the community on the journey with you will be rewarded with respect and affection.

Yours sincerely,

Melva Hobson PSM

President OSCAR