



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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02 July 2020

Cr Mark Jamieson, Mayor of Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC)

Mr Warren Bunker, A/CEO SCRC

cc. Councillors Divisions 1-10 (SCRC)

Dear Mayor Jamieson, Councillors SCRC and Mr Bunker

**RE: SCRC livestreaming and handling of confidential items at Ordinary meetings**

OSCAR at its June ZOOM meeting noted the positive approach taken by SCRC in relation to live streaming of SCRC Ordinary Meetings during the COVID-19 crisis. The live stream sessions are of a very high standard and can be easily seen and heard on both mobile devices and computers.

OSCAR encourages SCRC to make livestreaming a permanent feature post the COVID-19 closures. Live streaming has demonstrated to community members watching and listening, how meeting procedures are implemented within SCRC and allows them to see councillors in action in this forum. Livestreaming is both an efficient and environmentally sound practice for Council and the community.

OSCAR also noted and acknowledged the changes in relation to confidential items and the way they are now discussed in the Ordinary Meeting with only some attachments being confidential. Transparency has also been enhanced by the release of information as soon as practicable following the decision-making process relating to confidential items.

Given the change in approach, which we applaud, we would suggest that SCRC might also consider an online register of confidential items with the anticipated date of release of the confidential component/decision of the item and an indication when released. OSCAR supports a solutions focused approach to change and process improvement across an organisation.

OSCAR congratulates the Mayor, Councillors and the staff for taking on board community concerns relating to both of these issues and looks forward to ongoing reviews of transparency related issues.

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Yours sincerely

Melva Hobson PSM

President

OSCAR