

The Beach Matters Group

OSCAR

Sunshine Coast - Mass Transit Action Group Inc

25th May 2021

Ms. Emma Thomas
CEO Sunshine Coast Regional Council

emma.thomas@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Dear Emma,

We are writing collectively to provide feedback on the community group round table undertaken on Wednesday May 19th, as part of the Mass Transit Community Consultation process.

Firstly, we would like to state we appreciated the opportunity to present our organization's views. We felt the choice and depth of Council staff who attended was impressive, and we found them to be attentive and engaged in the process. In general, we had the sense most came to the table without bias and with a willingness to listen to what we had to say. We also felt the consulting company Articulous did a very good job of facilitating and summarizing the key meeting points.

Four common themes were put forward at the meeting (please note OSCAR's was in the form of questions rather than recommendations as they are yet to formalize their position):

- 1) Is Density the underpinning driver in the whole Mass Transit Business Case process? If so, should that topic be considered initially as part of the Planning Scheme 2024 development and any decision concerning Mass Transit options analysis deferred until Council's urban land use planning proposals have been released for public comment?
- 2) Is the first stage of 13.6 km along the urban corridor from Maroochydore to Birtinya the stage that will be most effective in addressing congestion issues? From all our community feedback and data we believe it won't be.
- 3) The multimodal corridor (CAMCOS) supported by a flexible green bus system feeding into it, is seen by many in the community as a preferred starting point because of the greater connectivity to the whole region it offers in the short term. During discussion around this topic, James Coutts asked a question about community knowledge of densification along this corridor. We ask council to clarify this comment. What are the densities proposed for various components of the CAMCOS?
- 4) If there are other options preferred by the community such as 3 above, we believe these options should be included in the main options in the recommendations presented by council to the State Government.

The groups' options as presented in the meeting were put forward in the belief that due consideration will be given to these points and the Final Options Analysis report reflective of what the community is saying.

We left however with strong concerns regarding exactly how ours, and other community feedback will be presented and acknowledged in the final Options Analysis report.

When The Beach Matters Group asked at the end of the meeting if Light Rail was found to be an option the community did not want and indeed wasn't in the top 5 most popular options by the community, then we would expect it to be removed from the list of options going forward as it was not what the community wanted, James Coutts replied to Rachael by saying:

"It is not a popularity contest. We will present options that deliver the service required and be sustainable".

This was an extremely concerning comment and again raises the question of how the results of Community Consultation will be presented and impact the recommendations brought before Council in the Final Options


Analysis report? To date this has not been made clear. You will note MTAG wrote a letter to you on May 3rd, asking the same question and they are still awaiting a response.

We believe community views most definitely should have a bearing on the transport services required. These are the people who will ultimately use it and pay for it. As time is of the essence in relation to community consultation on the Mass Transit proposal, we seek a response to this and the other questions asked in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

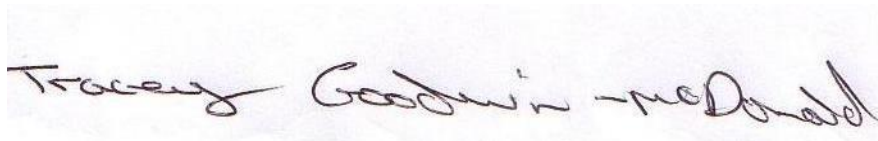
Rachael Bermingham

Rachael Bermingham – President, The Beach Matters Group

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melva E Hobson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Melva Hobson PSM

President, Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc (OSCAR)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Goodwin-McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Tracey Goodwin-McDonald – President, Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Action Group Inc