

Info

From: Info <info@oscar.org.au>
Sent: Sunday, 19 December 2021 8:26 PM
To: 'Tom Jamieson'
Cc: Melva Hobson (president@oscar.org.au)
Subject: Meeting with OSCAR, 17 December 2021

Hi Tom

Thank you for meeting with us on Friday. You were most generous with your time and we appreciate the wide-ranging discussion we had – even if we were guilty of straying at times from the topic that was the purpose of the meeting!

We hope that OSCAR may expect a further and more considered response from the Council to our presentation and subsequent advocacy for a trial of express bus-based public transport services on the Sunshine Coast before we contemplate our next actions. Irrespective of that, we will continue to engage in any Council initiated community engagement on transport matters such as a review of the Active Transport Plan that I think you referred to on Friday.

We accept your advice to “park aside” the Mass Transit Project in the context of our proposal and it reflects our view now the MTP has reached the Detailed Business Case stage. Of course, we will continue to monitor the progress of the DBC in general terms but as a separate issue.

You asked us to put in writing the items we sought further clarification on. We do understand the organisational structure of the Council and know some of these questions technically fall outside your areas of responsibility but we noted your preparedness to follow up on our behalf.

Our main questions that you suggested you would follow up were (and I hope these accord with the notes you took):

- Will the Council have input into the development of the Memorandum of Understanding commensurate with its financial contribution to the DBC (ie equal to that of DTMR)?
- How much input will the Council have into the composition of the membership of the Steering and Technical Working Groups referred to in the Mayor’s letter to the Minister?
- Will the MoU be a public document and will it come back to councillors for an endorsement?
- Can the final version of the Council’s Infrastructure Australia Stage 2 submission be made available in the MTP document library? We see no reason why this document should not be in the public domain in the same way as the Options Analysis itself.

The other issue that came out of left-field during our discussion, and which we would like the Council to consider, is how the community can be included in forums organised by industry bodies like the UDIA, PCA, Chambers of Commerce etc, when Council staff or elected representatives are invited as speakers to provide a Council perspective. Attendance at these forums are often member-only events or have a cost that is beyond the financial capacity of individuals or voluntary organisations.

We acknowledge that industry groups have every right to conduct these events for their membership but believe the Council should require, as a condition of its involvement in such events, an invitation be extended to one or more community representatives to attend at no cost to them – perhaps as guests of the Council. We make no apology for our belief that if Council staff/elected representatives are putting a Council viewpoint at these industry-driven events, the community/ratepayers/residents have the right to know what the Council is saying in these forums.

All the best Greg

Greg Smith
OSCAR Vice President

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