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Warren Bunker | Group Executive
Liveability and Natural Assets Group | Sunshine Coast Council

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Dear Warren

RE: Correspondence to Mr G Smith requesting change to communication process

I note your email correspondence to Greg Smith (included below).

As you would be well aware Mr Smith represents OSCAR on the Council's Transport Community Reference Group and has been identified as the OSCAR spokesperson on transport-related matters including, but not limited to, the Mass Transit Project.

I am well aware of the contents of correspondence that has passed between Greg and Mr Coutts over the last few months and I cannot see anything in that dialogue that could be even remotely portrayed as an attack on Mr Coutts. Mr Coutts has responded to our requests quickly, for which we have been grateful, and has never indicated any concern with the contents or manner of that correspondence. I believe the correspondence has been mutually respectful.

Consistent with advice in a letter from the CEO (20 October 2021 as below) which indicated correspondence on the MTP should be directed to James Coutts we referred our subsequent questions, to Mr Coutts:

If you have any further questions, James Coutts, Program Director, Urban Growth can be contacted on (07) 5420 8095 or at james.coutts@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

If there was an issue concerning Mr Coutts's workload I would have thought a more reasonable approach would have been to advise Mr Smith, or OSCAR itself, accordingly and then we would have directed subsequent correspondence to an alternate email address.

I would be grateful therefore if you could identify the instances where Mr Smith, or OSCAR itself, has attacked Mr Coutts.

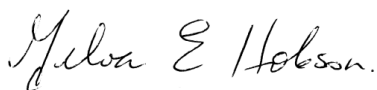
I am also concerned about your comments concerning the MTAG Facebook page. OSCAR is a peak body and MTAG is a member but we have no influence or control over what members publish on their social media forums. You would be aware how Facebook operates and that

we have no control over any individual or group that shares a post from OSCAR's Facebook page on their sites. Therefore may I suggest that you take up with MTAG any issues relating to their facebook site? However, having concern for staff welfare, I would like to know what on the MTAG Facebook pages, you construe as an attack on Mr Coutts. Mr Coutts has been front and centre as the Council's senior spokesperson on the Mass Transit Project and referring to him by name cannot be construed as an attack surely.

However, given your concern for staff which we also share, the OSCAR executive has determined that OSCAR will only make reference to "an officer" in any reporting in the public arena. We currently ensure that all initial formal communication with staff is sent to the CEO with at times a copy to the relevant staff member and then follow the CEO's instructions. We will continue to do so, with the exception of Mass Transit.

OSCAR values its transparency and uses all forms of media to inform the community. We assume that the generic email address you have provided relates to correspondence relating to the Mass Transit Project. As the executive for Urban Growth (which includes the Mass Transit project), should we send all such correspondence to you as well?

Regards



Melva Hobson
President, OSCAR

From: Baylee Casper <baylee.casper@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Warren Bunker
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 11:00 AM
To: info@oscar.org.au
Subject: Correspondence from Sunshine Coast Council

Dear Greg

I am writing to you following your email correspondence with council officer James Coutts and the subsequent posts on the Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Action Group's Facebook page.

I raise my concerns with the individual attacks on council officers, and in light of this, I ask you to direct any further enquiries to scrcmail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

You will receive a response from Council to your subsequent question about traffic congestion costs in due course.

Regards,
Warren

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