



*Recognising and upholding excellence in local*

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**President's Report**  
**OSCAR Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday 24 November 2022**  
**Northshore Community Centre, Mudjimba**  
**David Low Way, Mudjimba, QLD**

OSCAR and its member groups have continued throughout the year to work actively in support of the community of the Sunshine Coast and Noosa across a range of issues at both State and Local Government levels. Again as indicated in previous reports we are very fortunate on the Sunshine Coast that we have so many passionate community members with knowledge and skills equal to and often better than the people with whom we work in both state and local government. If we look across the state I suggest that other LGS's do not have the numbers of active people and groups as here on the Coast.

Our thanks go to OSCAR members who represent OSCAR on various Council and community advisory groups. Active SCRC groups on which OSCAR is represented includes: the Transport Community Reference Group, where Greg Smith continues to represent OSCAR. I was nominated by OSCAR and accepted by SCRC to be on the Planning 2024 Community Reference Group (CRG) (Community engagement). The Planning CRG contributed to the 2024 Preliminary non statutory Community Engagement which ran for 6 weeks.

This community engagement process was an example of excellence in community engagement. Some 8000 people engaged, the report from the process was extensive with both a detailed and shorter summary report and accompanied by SCRC's response. We would hope to see more such engagement processes from SCRC in the future.

This year saw UNESCO endorse the declaration of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council LGA as a Biosphere. A Community Advisory Group (CAG) has been established by Council. Members of the previous CRG were invited to nominate for the CAG. OSCAR supported my nomination for that group. There have been 2 meetings since September 2022, with the third meeting on 29 November. At this point the CAG is finalising processes and membership of the CAG.

We acknowledge the work of member groups Development Watch and Friends of Yaroomba, as they tackled and called SCRC to account in relation to the Sekisui Development Approval in the P&E Court and then successfully in the Supreme Court of Appeal, where the application was referred back to the P&E Court on Matters of Law and now awaiting that judgement.

The Yaroomba/Coolum community and the many supporters across the LGA await with great interest for Judge Kefford's judgement – hopefully within the next month. As I have commented on several occasions this case not only took on the Council and the P&E Court but in the incredibly demanding process built a community. The personal toll this action has taken members of the community has been high.

In relation to TWW, SCRC Councillors refused the Stockland Development Application (despite officers recommending approval) which was then appealed by Stockland to the P&E Court. Led by TWWS with support of a number of OSCAR member groups and community individuals, we supported SCRC in this decision as Co-Respondents. The trial ran for almost a month and was again

incredibly demanding on the Co-Respondents. Judge Everson was not impressed by the Stockland Case and arguments and a month or so after the case concluded brought down his judgement in two words "Appeal Dismissed"!

Stockland have not appealed the decision! We wait to see their next move.

As said in my President's report last year "one of the very clear messages to SCRC and Noosa from the community, as evidenced by the activity in the courts is that poor processes and decisions by LG will garner community action as has happened in the examples above and as we see it happening across other Coast communities. However, good decisions by LG will be recognised and supported by the community.

We enjoy and value the working relationships we have with SCRC but we do not hesitate to call out examples of where our members feel that they have not worked in the community interest.

We value the invitations for briefings by SCRC on key community issues and in particular those related to Planning Matters. We also welcomed the opportunity to make a two hour presentation to SCRC on OSCAR's recommendations re the 2024 PS currently in development. OSCAR has also held 2 workshops re the new Planning scheme, the first which informed our presentation to SCRC and the second where we reviewed the outcomes of the preliminary PS Consultation (ongoing).

Recently OSCAR and SCEC were invited to make comment on an SCRC Policy dealing with Development Application matters and the role of Assessment staff, non-assessment staff, councillors, the community and developers in that process. We await with interest the presentation of that Policy to an Ordinary meeting. Some 7 OSCAR group member's participated in that process - thank you.

With the change of faces at SCRC, bringing both experience and fresh ideas we continue to see greater transparency, fewer confidential items and a greater focus on community engagement. The willingness of officers to meet with and brief community groups is most welcome and we congratulate Council for that. We have had a number of briefings from SCRC, both face to face and online. We acknowledge and thank SCRC for undertaking such engagement.

At a State level OSCAR has been taking a watching brief approach, as part of the Community 6 (OSCAR, SCEC, Surf Rider Foundation Sunshine Coast, Development Watch, Coolool Residents Association and Friends of Yaroomba), in fighting the attempt by Consolidated Properties Group for a Priority Development Area declaration over part of the Maroochy floodplain at Coolool West for an intense residential development, commercial areas and wave pool.

Officers in Minister Mile's office are very aware that we are very frustrated by the fact that the State is still giving this proposal air time. It is now more than 2 years since this recent farce started and we continue to call on the State Government to call a halt to this unsustainable proposal and that it is okay to say "no".

The announcement during 2022 relating to the Turbine Precinct (Food and beverage manufacture development) at the Sunshine Coast airport raises some serious concerns which we have been attempting to clarify since June 2022. These concerns relate to the facility being "high impact" industry and what the traffic implications are for David Low Way Maroocha.

Thanks initially to COVID-19, we now have ongoing live-streaming of SCRC Ordinary Meetings. This has allowed many more community members to see how council meetings are conducted. It also allows time for community members to view meetings at a later, more convenient time. Council is

to be congratulated for maintaining this initiative well past the required time under COVID-19 and we understand will be a permanent feature for Ordinary meetings.

Of course Noosa council has been and continues live-streaming – simple and effective.

OSCAR meetings have been both face to face and at times via Zoom for most of 2022 and the executive congratulates members who regularly participate in either format.

At a regional scale OSCAR has been active in the SEQCA (Melva and Greg) and QLGRA (Greg). October and November 2022 saw SEQCA take on some key planning related initiatives at the Planning Forum held at Griffith University Southbank where some 14+ OSCAR members participated in the Forum. Further actions are being discussed with details coming soon.

Since the 2021 AGM, OSCAR has made submissions to the following consultation processes. All the submissions are on the OSCAR website at: <https://www.oscar.org.au/members/submissions/>.

- Mass transit proposal – March 2022
- OSCAR public transport trial proposal – revised version of presentation made to SCRC in 2021 - <https://www.oscar.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/OSCAR-public-transport-trial-proposal.pdf>
- Draft Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy – March 2022 - <https://www.oscar.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Submission-to-TMR-Draft-Southern-SC-Public-Transport-Strategy.pdf>
- Presentation to SCRC re the 2024 PS development
- [Inquiry into the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system, October 2022](#)
- [Coaldrake Review – Final Report](#)  
[Coaldrake Review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector – Interim Report](#)  
[OSCAR response to Interim Report](#)
- [LG Electoral Expenditure Caps – Discussion Paper, April 2022](#)  
[OSCAR submission – Expenditure Caps, May 2022](#)
- November 2022 – OSCAR is submitting a paper in response to the Queensland State Government Housing Summit

In conclusion, thank you all for your contribution to and support of OSCAR's work in 2022. I look forward to us continuing to make progress in achieving ongoing advances in governance, community engagement and sustainability in Local Government in 2023 and beyond. I thank the current executive and member groups for their commitment and contribution to OSCAR activities and welcome the new executive and look forward to working with them through 2023.

Melva Hobson PSM

President

Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents. (OSCAR)

