



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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12 March 2023

The Chief Executive Officer Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC)

Ms Emma Thomas

By: Email

mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Dear Emma

RE: Follow-up to meeting with OSCAR Executive 19 January 2023.

On behalf OSCAR I wish to thank you and James Coutts for meeting with the Executive and the time you gave us including the additional time.

Given it had been many months since our first meeting with you, the list of topics we submitted for consideration was beyond what could be dealt with in one meeting. We look forward to advancing discussion on those topics at future meetings.

For your interest we have attached an SCRC/OSCAR meeting register and we will update and/or add to it in response to the January 2023 meeting and in preparation for future meetings.

A key issue not able to be discussed in detail and one we feel can be resolved by a letter concerns the frequency of meetings with the CEO. OSCAR requests that three to four meetings a year be programmed into the CEO's diary. OSCAR would expect, as the key peak/umbrella resident organisation in the region, that there should be regular meetings with the CEO and senior Council executives (where appropriate) in relation to the OSCAR membership issues, particularly when they relate to region-wide and/or strategic issues.

There are three issues 2 of which were listed for the meeting and one which arose from the meeting to which we feel a written response from SCRC would be appropriate

1. Confidential items release – what is the process and timelines for this to occur and where on the Council website will such a register be maintained??
2. Brisbane Rd Carpark – when will the information re costs associated with the Abacus process be available as indicated in correspondence from the then CEO (8 June 2018) and the outcome of the RTI process of 2017 (RTI 17/046)?
3. Beerwah East Investigation Area (IA) – from the discussion re the Inter-urban break, (which OSCAR supports) and the Beerwah East IA, you or James referenced that SCRC had been working on a Structure Plan and had had discussions with the relevant State Government department. We ask whether there is a timeline for release of that plan for discussion and comment. OSCAR would prefer that process to be in the hands of SCRC rather than a PDA overseen by the State.

Three new key issues arising from the State Government Housing Summit and/or in the Outcomes Report, were listed for discussion in our January meeting but really require a dedicated meeting as soon as possible. We have included both our initial submission to the Housing and Summit and our specific response to the Outcomes Report as attachments.

These are: (from the Housing Summit Outcomes Report)

1. **Taking the community on a journey to understand population growth and urban densification.** The proposal in the Outcomes Report - an awareness campaign will not address the issue, but potentially cost Councils and the State large amounts of money for very limited return. In our response to the Outcomes Report we stated re this action: We note in the Outcomes report, this issue of addressing community resistance to increased

density caused by poor historical development experiences is to be addressed by actions such as:

“partnering with local governments and industry to create a community engagement and awareness campaign covering growth and housing diversity”

OSCAR’s response is: *The community does not need to be made aware, they need to be engaged! State and Local Governments can spend millions of dollars on “awareness” programs, but until governments have a conversation and hear of the lived experiences of good and bad examples of medium density and housing diversity, nothing will change. Communities have seen the glossy pictures and then see what actually appears in the landscape.*

2. ***“Facilitate industry adoption of housing diversity and best practice through Demonstration projects and Capacity building.”*** In our presentations to the Council re the new Planning Scheme development, OSCAR referred to such a concept. However, we are not sure just who’s capacity is to be built?

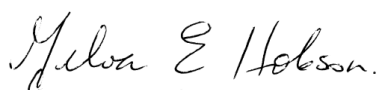
OSCAR is very interested in encouraging Council to take up this opportunity to develop a master planned demonstration project in the coastal corridor, demonstrating what high quality urban densification look and feel can like. We are happy to promote such an opportunity with our members; and

3. Encouraging the State to pursue a state-wide population management and settlement strategy as proposed to the Summit by the Planning Peak Body (PIA)

Other issues listed on the Register are ongoing while some have yet to be discussed. There are some key Local Planning issues yet to be confirmed by the OSCAR membership and these will be listed for discussion in a future meeting with the CEO and Strategic Planning.

Thank you again for your time and we look forward to more regular meetings.

Yours sincerely



Melva Hobson PSM
President
OSCAR
(Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents)