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22 March 2023

Emma Thomas
Chief Executive Officer Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC)

Email: mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
cc: <Mayor & Councillors>

Dear Emma

Subject: Confidential items progress update request

We wish to acknowledge the progress that the Council has made in reducing the number of confidential items included in Ordinary and Special Meetings in the current term of Council.

We also acknowledge the recent release of the report on the Information Access and Management Project, and we will respond separately to that report.

According to our records, which we publish on the OSCAR website ([Confidential items at Council Meetings](#)), there have been 28 such items in the current term compared with 184 in the corresponding period of the previous Council.

We also applaud the trend to include a “sunset” clause in the motion accompanying many confidential items that provides a timeframe for the release of the confidential information.

We are writing to seek clarification on the progress of each of the items we have identified which are listed on the following pages. We would appreciate an update on what has happened in each case and/or where such information is available to ratepayers.

We would particularly like clarification as to why the February 2023 OM *Item 11.1 – Land Acquisitions Maroochy River* appears to have been dealt with in a different manner according to the meeting agenda. Does this represent a change in policy in relation to the release of confidential information whereby ratepayers will need to resort to RTI applications to obtain such information?

We would also like the Council to consider:

- 1 publishing a register of confidential items similar to the Register provided by the Noosa Council - [Noosa confidential session register](#).
- 2 providing a quarterly or half-yearly Ordinary Meeting report to Councillors informing them, and therefore the community, of the progress of unresolved confidential items.

Yours sincerely

Melva Hobson PSM
President
Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc. (OSCAR)
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Confidential items of SCRC where release information provided - April 2020 to February 2023

Month	Agenda item	Issue	Release clause
October 2020	11.1	Strategic Land Acquisitions, Maroochy River	authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details relating to the site locations and contract prices for the identified strategic land parcels once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry.
November 2020	11.1	STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION - VERRIERDALE	authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details relating to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry.
November 2020	11.2	PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL ASSETS IN MAROOCHYDORE	authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release (once the transaction is finalised) details relating to the purchaser, intent of the disposal and sale price, should the proposed transaction proceed.
December 2020	11.1	Strategic Land Acquisition - Meridan Plains	authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details in relation to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcels once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry.
March 2021	11.1	STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITIONS, BLI BLI	authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release the property details and acquisition prices once the ownership of the properties has transferred to Council.
April 2021	5.1 SM	BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND CANDIDATURE TO HOST THE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES	The report also contains a recommendation to authorise the Chief Executive Officer to release relevant information from this report to the public, if such information is authorised for release or published by the IOC at a future date.

Month	Agenda item	Issue	Release clause
August 2021	11.1	LAND ACQUISITION CALOUNDRA	<p>Motion included: authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details in relation to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry</p> <p>Items with confidential attachments:</p> <p>8.8 Att 1 - 2021 Environment Levy Partnerships Recommendations - Additional Information</p> <p>8.9 Att 1 - Caloundra land acquisitions - Ownership Details</p>
December 2021	11.1	Maroochydore City Centre Project - Commercial Update	(b) publicly release specific information contained in this report at the appropriate time when the release of that information would no longer adversely impact the commercial interests of other parties and/or the interests of Council.
January 2022	11.1	Strategic Land Acquisition - Meridan Plains	(b) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release the property details and acquisition price once the ownership of the properties has transferred to Council.
January 2022	11.2	Strategic Land Acquisition - Verrierdale	(b) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details relating to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry.
January 2022	11.3	Strategic Land Acquisition - Coochin Creek	(b) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details relating to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry.

Month	Agenda item	Issue	Release clause
April 2022	11.1	Strategic Land Acquisition – Witta	(b) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details relating to the site location and contract price for the strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry.
May 2022	11.1	MAROOCHYDORE CITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT - CONTRACTUAL AND MASTER PLANNING UPDATE	(e) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to release the subject of the matters canvassed in this report at the appropriate time when the release of that information would no longer adversely impact the commercial interests of other parties and/or the interests of Council.
September 2022	11.1	Strategic Land Project - Maroochydore	(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details in relation to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry
September 2022	11.2	Road Transport Corridor Planning, Maroochydore	(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details in relation to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry
September 2022	11.3	Land Acquisition - Maroochydore	(c) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details in relation to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry
January 2023	11.1	STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION - MOUNT MELLUM	(b) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details relating to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry.

Month	Agenda item	Issue	Release clause
January 2023	11.2	ACQUISITION OF LAND TO ESTABLISH A FOOD ORGANICS / GARDEN ORGANICS (FOGO) PROCESSING FACILITY	(b) authorise the Chief Executive Officer to publicly release details in relation to the site location and contract price for the identified strategic land parcel once the negotiations have been finalised and the transfer of ownership of land has been registered with the Titles Registry
February 2023	11.1	Land Acquisitions Maroochy River	Notwithstanding the Chief Executive's recommendation that this report be confidential, members of the public may be able to access this report under the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld). Requests to access this report under the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) would be assessed on a case by case basis against the exemptions established under section 47(3)(a) and schedule 3 to the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld), or the 'public interest exemption test' established under section 49 and schedule 4 of the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld).