

## REPORTS TO 25 MAY OSCAR GENERAL MEETING

### 6. Financial Report

#### 6.1 Treasurer's Report:

##### **BANK A/C #1 STATEMENT**

This report is for the period 26<sup>th</sup> April to May 24<sup>th</sup> 2023:

Cash Balance 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 \$ 1072.54

Receipts: \$ 35.68

Payments: \$ 00.00 \$ 35.68

Cash Balance 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 \$ 1108.22

#### Receipt Details:

\$35.68 transfer from Bank a/c 2

#### Payment Details:

\$0

##### **BANK A/C #2 SAVINGS**

This report is for the period 26<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023:

Cash Balance 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 \$ 35.64

Receipts: \$0.04

Payments: \$35.68 \$ 35.68

Cash Balance 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 \$ 00.00

Receipts Details: \$00.04

Bank Interest Payment

#### Details:

\$35.68 transfer to Bank a/c 1

#### **6.2 Accounts for payment:**

##### **BANK A/C # 1**

GM Approval Required – Nil

## **BANK A/C # 2**

**GM Approval Required - Nil**

SEQCA report:

Main items of discussion:

INVITATION- All SEQ Community Alliance members are cordially invited to Gecko Environment Council's Greening the Gold Coast forum, 9am - 3pm, June 10, Broadbeach Cultural Centre Community tickets from \$20 (including lunch)

More info and registration @ Gecko [www.gecko.org.au/greening-the-gold-coast-forum](http://www.gecko.org.au/greening-the-gold-coast-forum)

Whether you're interested in native gardening and community planting, a leader in urban planning and design, a supporter of social health and wellbeing, concerned about ways we can adapt to increasing climate hazards, or intrigued by nature-positive business and development, this forum is for you.

There was an extended discussion on two draft papers from Philippa England (Adjunct Senior Lecturer, Griffith University) on SEQCA submissions to the Housing Strategy and State Planning "Keeping SEQ Special".

Philippa referenced this "blueprint" – 8 principles to guide our city as a useful resource:

[Brisbane's Future Blueprint | Brisbane City Council](#)

Senate inquiry into the Olympics:

[Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](#)

Members were urged to make submissions.

## ***Friends of Buddina:*      **MAY 2023 Update****

A funny thing happened on the way to the bank! The developers "minor change application" fee was not paid until 8<sup>th</sup> May which is the "accepted date". Although the documents for the Buddina Beachfront proposed change were lodged on 18 April, the trigger for the 20 business days for processing only commenced on the payment/accepted date (not on the lodgement date).

The effect was such that the developers gifted us a 3 week advance timeline to review the documentation, start to prepare for submissions, update our website with a dedicated page, push a social media campaign, and so on. For now, unless an Information Request is issued by Council, then it's reasonable to expect a Council decision will be made on or before Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

More time for more submissions from individuals and groups which are best lodged by 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1 week prior to formal due date for the decision.

Cr Joe Natoli organised a meeting with Council Officers at Maroochydore which Kate and I attended in person with Tracey connected via Teams. We were given a good opportunity to verbalise our position that this minor change application ought to be refused for many reasons, not just the turtles. We believe our comments at the meeting were well received and we acknowledged that Council had only recently started considering the application, given the start time was 8<sup>th</sup> May, not 18<sup>th</sup> April.

SCD published an article on Wednesday 17 May and Channel 7 Local News ran a story on 18 May. Both media stories were positive and both reporters also supported our "noncontroversial " approach recognising that Council need time to consider and assess the developer's application.

With world turtle day being Tuesday 23 May, the media contact was timely, and perhaps there's another opportunity to connect World Turtle day with the Buddina turtle lighting issue and we'll definitely pick that up on social media.

Our position remains unchanged. ***Friends of Buddina*** strongly support Council's current turtle lighting approval conditions and the protection these provide for the endangered loggerhead turtles. We also recognise Council need time to consider and assess the developer's application in accordance with the Planning Scheme and State legislation.

## PCCG OSCAR MEETING UPDATE 25 May 2023

### 1. Point Cartwright Master Plan

There has been no official word on progress on the draft master plan for Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park. We understand the draft plan has been doing the rounds within Council for the past few months. We have been awaiting notification of a release date for the Master Plan and also the release of various studies commissioned to support its preparation.

Unofficially, PCCG has recently learned that the Draft Master Plan for Point Cartwright and La Balsa Park may be released for public comment in coming days. This has not been confirmed at this stage. There are also indications that consultation on the draft Master Plan may be limited to a three week long public survey, and the survey may constitute the sum-total of community engagement. This is a very short time frame given the significance of the site and the plethora of information gained from studies into natural and human values on the site.

Requests have been made to Council for a community information strategy to proceed ahead of the community survey period to ensure people have an opportunity to learn about the site's intrinsic values before being asked for their assessment of the draft master plan.

## **2. New Town Plan**

Advice from Council would suggest that the drafting of the new Town Plan includes no modification to the zoning of Point Cartwright. Community proposals had requested a change from Open Space to Environment Management and Conservation based on the mounting evidence of nationally significant ecological values and rich Indigenous cultural heritage present on the site. Despite this significance, it is understood there is no political will for a conservation park. The PCCG has argued that it is simply improper to exploit significance remnant and ecological sites in this way, and that the site warrants protection through conservation park status.

PCCG has also argued that in order to address the growing needs of an ever increasing population along the coastal strip, Council should be undertaking a program of buying existing urban allotments (with low intrinsic values) and creating recreational spaces and/or re-wilding sites for open space needs of future increases in population. Remnant sites should not fall victim to these pressures born from poor planning outcomes in the past.

## **3. Mooloolaba Harbour Rock Wall Extension Update**

No further meetings of the Mooloolaba harbour entrance stakeholder reference group (SRG) have been held at this stage. The trial of the western channel access to the harbour entrance is continuing. Recent correspondence from the Department of Transport's spokesperson reads as follows: "The indicative outcome of the two SRG meetings held last year were that the SRG considers the breakwater extension and its associated impacts as a last resort option. On this basis the SRG supported a trial of options with the objective to try and improve the current strategy outcomes before supporting a breakwater extension option."

TMR advice indicates that Maritime Safety Qld (MSQ) is progressing the following actions:

### Western Channel Trial (WCT)

The intention of this trial was the maintenance of a wide basin west of the harbour entrance to evaluate the effectiveness of this as a management solution for shoaling events. No conclusions will be reached until the trial has been exposed to shoaling events. Nevertheless, TMR correspondence indicates:

- "The dredging campaign, which was undertaken with a funding contribution from SCC, did provide significant benefits to the northern beach system and was a success with respect to providing an erosion buffer to the beaches."
- "MSQ's intention is to assess the benefits realised from the WCT during the next and maybe subsequent shoaling events. We will then organise another SRG meeting to present the remaining investigations and gain SRG feedback before going to broader public consultation and making a recommendation to government on the long-term strategy."

### Breakwater Extension Investigations

A number of various studies into economic, social, environment and cultural heritage are understood to be underway. TMR advise "MSQ is progressing with finalising investigations associated with the Breakwater Extension option so all elements are in place to progress this option rapidly in the event all alternative options are deemed to be unfeasible."

### Point Cartwright Sand Trap Investigation

It is understood that MSQ are investigating an option of creating a large sand trap (large hole blasted out of the rock shelf northeast of the lighthouse) to capture sand drift before it has a chance of moving across the harbour entrance, thus theoretically preventing shoaling of the river mouth. TMR advise they are examining "the viability of an option of creating a large sand trap off Point Cartwright to dredge sand annually." The PCCG has concerns that the proposal may cause problems for northern beaches dependent on a consistent supply of sand, and consequently may create a need for a permanent sand bypass system. Impacts to the surf break are also unknown.

Updates on the project can be obtained at the following new website address: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/mooloolaba-boat-harbour-entrancelong-term-solution>

Information on the new dredging program can be found at the following web address: <https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/boating-facilities/mooloolaba-boat-harbourdredging#channel-trial>

Notice to Mariners can be found at the following address: <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/brisbane-notice-to-mariners>

## **SCRC FINANCIAL REPORTING MEET 9-05-23 – TED HUNGERFORD REPORT TO GENERAL MEETING**

PRESENT: Ted Hungerford, Bill Hadrill, Michael Costello, Isaac Pickering, Greg Smith, Tony Philbrick

GENERAL: Meeting conducted in pleasant informal conversational manner

Ted H welcomed the opportunity to explain Council finances and answer questions. There was only a limited time available for discussion and many questions on our OSCAR list were not able to be addressed in the meeting.

The following is a brief summary of the items discussed – not necessarily in the order they came up

REPORTING

ACCESSIBILITY

DEBT REPORTING

LONG TERM BORROWINGS

CORPORATE MAJOR PROJECTS:

RESIDENTIAL RATES SCHEDULE:

TRANSITORY RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION RATES

ENVIRONMENT LEVY

Unfortunately the meeting had to conclude before other OSCAR questions (and there are quite a few) were addressed.

Greg Smith thanked Ted H and the officers for giving us the time to address our questions and comments.

Ted Hungerford said that Council appreciated the opportunity to discuss Council's finances with community groups like OSCAR. He invited OSCAR to continue to address its questions through him. He said Council was keen to be as open and accountable as possible about its finances – whilst acknowledging that there are circumstances where information cannot be disclosed due to 'commercial in confidence'.

**The following is the Topic List we took to the Meeting:**

## Financial Reporting Issues

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### **4. Financial reporting at Council Ordinary/Special Meetings**

#### Monthly reporting

Financial Performance Report for <month>. Includes:

- Statement of Income and Expenses
- Operating Result
- Capital Expenditure
- Cash Flows and Balance Sheet
- Debt
- Investment Performance
- Capital Grant Funded Project Report

<https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Council/Budget-Financial-and-Annual-Reports/financial-reports>

[See Attachment 1: Link to April 2023 Ordinary Meeting]

#### Annual reporting

Special Meeting (Budget Adoption)

eg June 2022

[https://sunshinecoast.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/06/SM\\_23062022\\_AGN\\_1351\\_AT.PDF](https://sunshinecoast.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/06/SM_23062022_AGN_1351_AT.PDF)

Consists of:

- Operational Plan 2022/23
- 2022/23 Budget Adoption

## 5. Other reporting/publications

SCRC website

eg 2022/23 Budget

<https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Council/Budget-Financial-and-Annual-Reports/Budget/2022-23-budget>

Includes:

- Operational Plan 2022/23  
<https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/c631baf8-1b46-001f-580c-d0001b68b4a8/3bd9fd71-b97a-4a82-b001-08b458f645ad/DF5026FC-E9DE-4315-89A3-9107DFC1D55F>
- 2022/23 Budget Adoption
  - STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION
  - ADOPTION OF BUDGET
  - DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES
  - SEPARATE CHARGES
    - Environment Levy
    - Arts & Heritage Levy
    - Transport Levy
  - SPECIAL RATES AND CHARGES
    - Montville Beautification Levy
    - Twin Waters Maintenance Charge
    - Rural Fire Charge
    - Brightwater Estate Landscaping Charge
    - Sunshine Cove Maintenance Charge
    - Mooloolah Island Maintenance Charge
  - WASTE MANAGEMENT UTILITY CHARGES
  - INTEREST
  - LEVY AND PAYMENT (State Government's Emergency Management Levy)
  - PAYING RATES AND CHARGES BY INSTALMENTS
  - CONCESSIONS
- PROPOSAL
  - 2022/23 Revenue Statement
  - Financial Statements  
(The 2022/23 Budget Adoption Papers comprise two major documents, the Revenue Statement and the Financial Statements including Long Term Forecasts.)

Budget document (Hard copy)

eg 2021/22 Budget document (limited numbers presumably)

*OSCAR comment*

*We believe, in general terms, that this level and frequency of reporting to the community is satisfactory. There is, however, a lack of granularity in some of the reports which we will identify separately.*

*It is also important that all material that is published on the Council's website is done in a text format which means it is searchable and can be read by text readers (eg JAWS, NVDA) for people with visual impairment.*

## 6. Debt reporting

Ordinary Meeting Agenda  
Item 8.1 March 2023 Financial Performance Report  
Attachment 1 March 2023 Financial Performance Report

27 APRIL 2023

### Debt

Sunshine Coast Council's debt program is governed by the 2022/23 Debt Policy, which was adopted with the Original Budget adoption on 23 June 2022.

New borrowings are undertaken in accordance with the Queensland Treasury Corporation Guidelines, the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982 and Section 192 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

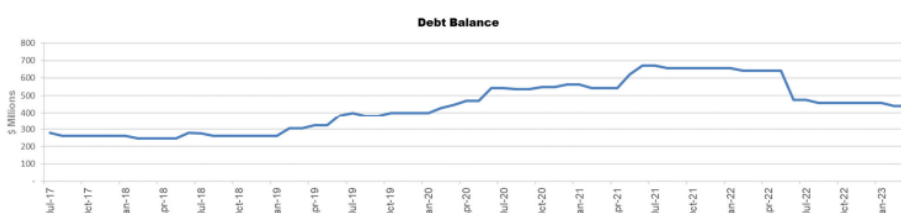
Council's debt as at 31 March 2023 is \$457 million.

In March 2023, Queensland Treasury Corporation completed the Credit Review process for Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC). SCRC's credit rating has been affirmed as **Strong** with the outlook changed from Developing to **Neutral**.

The aim of the review is to determine Council's ability to service its current and future debt obligations; identify credit and other risks which may affect Council's debt servicing capacity and the impact of such risks on Council's financial sustainability and; Determine a QTC credit rating and outlook.

Debt - 2022/23				
	Opening Balance	Debt Redemption	New Borrowings	Closing Balance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Sunshine Coast Council Core	345,766	16,680	34,200	363,286
Maroochydore City Centre	138,717	6,879	-	131,837
<b>Total</b>	<b>484,483</b>	<b>23,559</b>	<b>34,200</b>	<b>495,124</b>

Table 1: 2022/23 Adopted Debt Balance



We note that Council operates a central treasury model and as such does not generally provide debt funding for specific projects or assets but rather uses debt funding to finance Council's balance sheet, with the exception being for strategic projects.

**NB** *Centralised Treasury is the system of financial management used by international companies with subsidiaries, in which funding activities, investment and foreign exchange decisions are made not by local treasurers but by one centrally located treasury team. [QTC]*

*OSCAR comment*

*We do not find this acceptable. OSCAR believes it is important that the Core debt is reported at the individual debt figure level, rather than in the aggregate.*

## 7. Other issues

Richard K

- Could the Manager Finance provide assurances to ratepayers that the 2023/24 Budget papers and 2022/23 Region Changing projects performance against approved budget and sustainability projections will advance financial transparency for Council's commercial business activities?
- Do duties of the CFO include oversight of financial information provided to Councillors regarding profitability performance of investments in business activities competing with the private sector, for use when assessing Council's business activity performance?

### Cemetery Services

- What is the operating cost of Cemetery Services, and what amount of loss are ratepayers subsidising?
- What model does Cemetery Services use to ensure financial sustainability, and how is it being implemented?
- Could Sunshine Coast Regional Council explain the costing model used to establish the operational cost of each cemetery at different stages of the cemetery life cycle?
- Are management and action plans for each cemetery available for public access, and if so, where can they be found?



- Where can financial performance data for Cemetery Services be located?
- What governance, transparency, and accountability policies, procedures, and processes are in place to sell memorials, and are they available to the public?
- What progress has been made on the actions outlined in the Sunshine Coast Council Cemetery Plan 2019-2028, specifically actions #3, #4, #5, #17, and #20?
  - #3 Continue to investigate acquisition of land within the south of the Sunshine Coast to achieve additional capacity
  - #4 Explore the opportunity to extend the cemetery capacity within the existing network
  - #5 Implement a long term capital construction and asset replacement program
  - #17 Maintain a fees and charges framework to balance cost recovery with affordability to the community
  - #20 Modernise products and services offered for cemetery services
- Could Sunshine Coast Regional Council provide details on how these actions are being funded, what challenges have been encountered, and how progress is being measured?
- Where can the public access the "fees and charges framework" to understand how the cost and recovery model for Cemetery Services works?
- What is the plan and budget to modernise the products and services offered for cemetery services (action #20)?
- Could Sunshine Coast Regional Council provide insight into priority areas, challenges, and opportunities for partnership and community involvement in Cemetery Services?

Levy calculations

Solar farm

LGAQ and other membership fees

Unity Water

Other issues