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President's Report
OSCAR Annual General Meeting
Thursday 28 November 2024
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 Region 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. The 2023-24 year has clearly demonstrated those skills and compassion as this report will outline. Such commitment and skill has been particularly important this year given the range and frequency of community consultation at both local and state levels of government. More about that in this report.

Our thanks go to OSCAR members who represent OSCAR on various Council and State community participation groups. Active SCRC groups on which OSCAR is represented includes: the SCRC Transport Community Reference Group, where Greg Smith continues to represent OSCAR and more recently the TMR Transport Stakeholder Group (SIG) where Lindsay Holt represents OSCAR. We also note that there are several other OSCAR member groups also represented, eg Cal Res Assoc., MTAG, Beach Matters, SCAAN, PCCG and SCEC. OSCAR members who are on the Biosphere Community Advisory Group (CAG) include Narelle McCarthy (SCEC), Ken Mewburn (TAPP) and Melva Hobson (OSCAR). The 2025 PS Consultation CRG includes, Narelle McCarthy (SCEC), Trevor Rice (SCAAN) and Melva Hobson (OSCAR).

We also acknowledge the work of many of our groups who through their work help create better outcomes for the Sunshine Coast. I think that every member group has had or is in the process of playing major roles in many issues across the coast. This year in particular community group members have given incredible support to the development of a number of OSCAR submissions made this year.

As said in my President's report last year "one of the very clear messages to SCRC from the community, as evidenced by activity in the courts is that poor processes and decisions by LG will garner community action", as has happened in a number of the issues on which our groups are working. We have seen this again with the two Temporary Local Government Planning Instruments (TLPI), both of which were NOT urgent or emerging. However, good decisions by LG will be recognised and supported by the community in Courts of Law and in general discourse with the community and other levels of government.

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. This year we have continued as Co-respondents with SCRC in the P&E Court, in support of Council's refusal re the proposed Service Station on the Maroochy floodplain at Pacific Paradise.

When the first TLPI (Hotels Incentive policy (financial incentives) and the TLPI (height and parking allowances), was released we wrote to all councillors outlining our concerns re the process. The package included a Policy document with Incentives- financial (50% reduction infrastructure costs, and all council support free). What it didn't include were the costs to the Council Budget of this package. The TLPI included the height increases and parking allowance reductions. Council passed the policy document and determined that the TLPI would go to community consultation. This occurred over Sept/Oct – however the majority of Councillors supported the TLPI when it came back to the November Ordinary Meeting with the removal of one location and some additions re turtle lighting.

We value the invitations for briefings by SCRC on key community issues and in particular those related to Planning Matters. This year we have had briefings on the TLPI Hotels Incentive package (Briefing and 2 Teams sessions) and regular meetings with the CEO and the Customer Service Executive and Development Assessment. The willingness of officers to meet with and brief community groups is most welcome and we congratulate Council for that.

OSCAR again was very active in the Local Government Elections with our "One Stop Shop" LG information on the OSCAR website. Many thanks to Greg Smith who managed the website for this process. OSCAR also invited candidates to respond to the Candidate questionnaire with a reasonable response rate from the candidates. All the responses received are on the OSCAR website under the 2024 LG Election tab.

The OSCAR executive met individually with Mayoral candidates and had constructive conversations. Our Mayoral Forum at the Maroochydore RSL was very successful with a full house, respect and camaraderie between candidates and an excellent moderator, former Noosa Mayor, Tony Wellington. Thank you to all involved in the organisation and running of that event.

The Airport Proposed Development Scheme released by Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) in August this year was an example of a number of member groups working together to try to achieve a better outcome for the community. The proposed scheme was and is still very concerning to the Community on a number of fronts, including the failure of the proposal to identify traffic issues associated with the intensive non-aviation related development of the airport. Major issues relating to offsite drainage were identified but responsibility to address was not designated to the airport.

OSCAR member groups, Marcoola CG, Town of Seaside CG, Mudjimba Residents Assoc, TWWS, Pt Cartwright Care Group, Pacific Paradise Progress Association, Development Watch and the OSCAR executive contributed to both the Forum and the extensive submission made. The community has every right to be disappointed with the Airport and the EDQ response and summary of submissions. Listening does not seem to be strong point for some government departments.

With some new faces at SCRC this term, bringing both experience and fresh ideas we continue to see transparency, fewer confidential items and a greater focus on community engagement. An issue of concern is that there has been a huge amount of Community consultation which can lead to consultation fatigue. We look forward to the Planning Scheme 2025 consultation having "clear air" for the duration of the process.

At a regional scale OSCAR has been active in the SEQCA (Melva and Greg).

Since the last 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/>.

- Pacific Paradise (David Low Way/Menzies Drive Development Application. (Dec 23)
- State Government Housing Affordability Bill (Dec 23)
- Clive Palmer Car Museum (Dec 23)
- OSCAR LG Candidate Survey (Feb 24)
- Mayoral Forum (March 24)
- SG EDQ Amendments Bill (April 24)
- SG Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill (May24)
- SG Public hearing re the above Bill, where OSCAR was the only witness (May 24)
- SCRC Dark Sky Reserve nomination (June 24)
- SCRC Refreshed Community Strategy (June 24)
- SG Housing Affordability Regulations Amendment Bill (July 24)
- Sunshine Coast Airport (SCAP) Forum (August 24)
- Detailed community submission to the SCAP Proposed Development Scheme (August 24)
- Initial Hotels Policy and TLPI response (Sept 24)
- SG Election Candidate Questionnaire (Oct 24)
- Hotels TLPI submission following community consultation(Oct 24)
- TLPI Birtinya Town Centre(Nov 24)
- Shorebirds Conservation Plan (Nov 24)
- Healthy Coast Management Plan and SEMP. (Nov 24) - underway

As one can see 2024 has been an incredibly busy year and we are all looking forward to a break over the Christmas break. I am deeply grateful to the executive and member groups who both participate in OSCAR submissions and share their submissions. On your behalf I offer our sincere thanks for their commitment to their own groups as well as OSCAR. The time they give in working on substantial submissions on behalf of OSCAR is amazing and often working to a crazy timetable. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Mark Evans and Kathryn Hyman who for some years have been working on and advocating for a better outcome for Twin Waters West. Recently at a meeting with most Councillors they "handed over" (so to speak) the ongoing responsibility for TWW to the Council

In conclusion, thank you all for your contribution to and support of OSCAR's work in 2024. I look forward to us continuing to make progress in achieving ongoing advances in governance, community engagement and sustainability in Local Government in 2025 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 2025.

Melva Hobson PSM

President

Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents. (OSCAR)

