



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

Mail: PO Box 105  
Coolum Beach QLD 4573  
Mobile: 0433 214 320  
Email: [mail@oscar.org.au](mailto:mail@oscar.org.au)

19 June 2025

Jonci Wolff

Noosa Councillors

Email: [jonci.wolff@noosa.qld.gov.au](mailto:jonci.wolff@noosa.qld.gov.au),  
[councillorrequests@noosa.qld.gov.au](mailto:councillorrequests@noosa.qld.gov.au)

Dear Jonci

**RE: Confidential sessions of Noosa Council**

OSCAR was very disappointed to receive this response from the Council concerning the reporting of confidential items at meetings.

As a result, at our May OSCAR meeting, it was resolved to write to Noosa Council expressing this concern and asking the Council to reconsider this decision. While the new practice may well be "in line with legislative requirements" as you indicate below, Noosa has had a reputation in the past for going beyond what is required in legislation which OSCAR has applauded in the past. Another example of this was Noosa's adoption of live streaming of meetings which proceeded the legal requirement to do so at the time.

This decision came as a surprise to OSCAR as Noosa has had an exemplary record in terms of transparency and open governance under previous Councils. We were able to use Noosa's register to lobby the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to do the same. This did result in the SCRC adopting a similar register (based on the Noosa model) and in fact, the SCRC now has fewer confidential sessions than in the past. You can see the tally OSCAR maintains on our website at [Confidential items at Council meetings OSCAR Inc.](#) which clearly shows the trend in both councils over the last three terms of council.

We realise the Council's agendas and minutes, which are available on your website, include information about confidential items but this is a little opaque as it requires review of multiple sets of minutes each month due to Noosa's committee structure. Further, a review of the minutes does not show the outcome of confidential items where the reason for confidentiality is not revealed at the time of the meeting. This was the real value of your register and in fact, the one that the SCRC now provides. Clearly, it would not be a significant task for the council to compile the register in the same way that was done in the past.

OSCAR sincerely hopes that the staff and/or Councillors will reconsider this decision and reinstitute the Register in the same format as was previously done.

Yours sincerely,

Melva Hobson PSM

President

Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc. (OSCAR Inc.)