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Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

12 June 2026

To: CEO Sunshine Coast Regional Council – Mr John Baker

Email: CEO Office CEOffice@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Cc: Debra Robinson Director Sustainable Growth and Planning

Email: Debra Robinson debra.robinson@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Dear CEO/John

RE: SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (SCRC) SUBMISSION TO STATE GOVERNMENT re SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REGIONAL PLAN (SEQRP) REVIEW

The Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc. (OSCAR) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit peak body/umbrella group representing resident and community organisations across the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Local Government Areas in South East Queensland.

OSCAR currently comprises 36 member groups spanning from Pumicestone Passage to Noosa and from the Coast to the Hinterland and Ranges. Collectively, these organisations represent several thousand engaged, community-minded residents who are deeply committed to protecting the environmental, cultural and social values of our region.

OSCAR's overarching Vision states:

"The residents of this region enjoy being part of a connected and engaged community living in an area of outstanding natural beauty. They recognise that they are custodians of the unique and abundant biodiversity, beaches and green spaces of the region."

OSCAR, along with Local Government (LG), community, business and politicians are bound by the Planning Act 2016, where Chapter 1 Sections 3-7 states the:

Purpose of Act

*(1)The purpose of this Act is to establish an efficient, effective, transparent, integrated, coordinated, and accountable system of land use planning (**planning**), development assessment and related matters that facilitates the achievement of ecological sustainability.*

(2)Ecological sustainability is a balance that integrates—

(a)the protection of ecological processes and natural systems at local, regional, State, and wider levels; and

(b)economic development; and

(c)the maintenance of the cultural, economic, physical and social wellbeing of people and communities.

This Purpose must be the basis of Sunshine Coast Regional Council (Council) planning including any responses to the State Government (State) relating to any South East Queensland Regional Plan (SEQRP) review undertaken by the State.

We remind Council that in preparation for the New Planning Scheme, in 2024 Council ran an extensive

Community Consultation and Review process. While you were not serving as CEO at the time, we understand that you would have been briefed on both the process undertaken and the resulting outcomes. OSCAR acknowledges the work undertaken in that process and the process itself –one of the most comprehensive Consultation and Review processes undertaken by Council.

We appreciate the wealth of information prepared and published by Council about the Scheme and which is available on the Council website. OSCAR also acknowledges the level of transparency demonstrated by the Council during the development of the New Planning Scheme.

OSCAR considers responsible Planning at both State and Local Government areas as a critical means of achieving Ecological Sustainability as per its Legislated definition.

We understand, from jurisdictions other than Council, that the State asked South East Queensland Councils to make submissions to the Review of the SEQRP. In the interests of transparency that any submission has not been made available to Sunshine Coast residents.

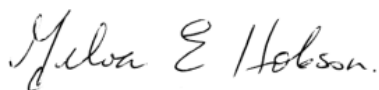
At the OSCAR April General Meeting of member group representatives the following motion was moved:

OSCAR write to SCRC requesting copy of Council's submission to the State re SEQRP Review (23 April 2026 General Meeting Minutes)

Considering the Community and OSCAR interest in Planning and Local Government transparency, OSCAR requests a copy of the submission re the SEQRP Review. We request that it is also listed on the Council website under Planning.

We look forward to working constructively with Council now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melva E Hobson".

Melva Hobson PSM
President OSCAR

Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc.