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5.11.2013

Mayor Mark Jamieson

cc: Deputy Mayor Chris Thompson

cc: Councillor Jenny McKay

cc: Mr John Knaggs CEO

Re: Sunshine Coast Regional Council Information Session on the Maleny Community Precinct, Saturday 2 November including the Role of Precinct Advisory Group

Dear Sir,

Thank you for delegating Councillor Chris Thompson to attend the Information Session on your behalf. It was a robust meeting and I suspect that Chris would rather have been surfing. It was, however, good to have him there to hear so many members of the Maleny community express their unequivocal dismay about suggestions that Council allow a polo field that would threaten best-practice riparian re-vegetation to be constructed on the Precinct.

One of the issues that cropped up in the course of the day was Council's exclusive reliance on the Precinct Advisory Group as its source of community advice, with a concomitant assumption that other community groups lack legitimacy.

As you will be aware, PAG was set up to represent Precinct stakeholders, *not the community*. The Group's Governance Arrangements, approved by Council in May 2010, specify that, as a matter of principle,

"Development of the precinct will be a long term partnership between Council, the community, groups located on the precinct, State Government agencies, local businesses and the broader Maleny community." A charter introduced in 2011 included a clause that PAG be "considered by SCC to represent the interests of the Maleny Community" (PAG Minutes, April 2011). However, PAG agreed to delete this clause on the basis that '*stakeholders represented their membership not the whole community...*' (PAG Minutes, Item C, page 3, May 2011 – see attached).

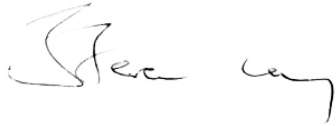
It will be greatly helpful if you, your fellow Councillors and all Council staff connected with the Precinct project would take note of this, please, particularly as some members of PAG and Council continue to believe that the clause is still in place. It will also be helpful to note that neither the Governance Arrangement nor the Charter confer powers on the PAG that require Council to take the advice of the PAG on any matter.

One final, and very quick point: on Saturday someone representing Council grumbled that coastal rate payers are fed up with paying for Range amenities such as the Precinct. It is

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perhaps timely to remind Council that the efforts of many of us to re-vegetate the Obi Obi Creek on both private and public land ultimately affects, for the better, the quality of the water that comes out of the taps along the coast, across the region and elsewhere.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Lang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven Lang

Attachments: PAG Minutes, May, 2011.