coalition of community boards
Sunshine Coast

How Formal is Normal for your Community Group – Forum

- Shifting your community group or activity into a formal entity like an incorporated association is a big decision. This Forum will outline some considerations around setting up formal legal entities, auspicing options and the differences between operational & governance roles
- Includes panel discussion with Neil Barringham from CIRA, a West End based association created to provide non-controlling support to many small groups, members of Naradell (a newly formed local incorporated association) & members of the Sunshine Coast Community Cooperative (a local non trading cooperative)

Notes made from discussion at How Formal is Normal for your Community Group Forum – 4 Sept 2019 at Baringa Community Centre

Please note: these notes sit alongside the handouts that were provided at the Forum, they are intended to capture more of the commentary and are not intended to be comprehensive.

Narelle and Marlene from Naradell (incorporated association)	Cerran from ECOllaboration Ltd (company ltd guarantee)	Carolyn from Sunshine Coast Community Cooperative (non trading cooperative)	Neil from Community Initiatives Resource Association (an incorporated association established to auspice community actions)
Positive – ability to apply for grants, liability not on individual members Negative – continual reporting / compliance The standard model rules and DGR status were not compatible Choose inc. assoc. partly because the model enabled us to hold eh vision and see it through with some control It enabled us to hold the passion within our organisation – we were not aware of other organisations with similar objectives / goals We currently have governance and operational being the same people switching hats	Commercial & Community together under one umbrella / organisation For profit (paid staff) invested for community (volunteers) Governance and operational are generally different people. ECOllaborations shifted from an assoc inc to a company limited by guarantee several years ago,	Initial purpose behind establishment was to be competitive with larger organisations but maintain locally directed. Set up with a 'broker' model for delivery of activities. Member organisations collectively pursue the cooperatives vision Outcome of this model is that is strengthens internal relationships and open opportunities for external actions by its cooperative focus.	CIRA initially set up to help mange the 'control' trap and the 'structure' trap that can stunt community driven action. By this it is meant that the need to focus on structure of an organisation can be detrimental to actually doing 'stuff'. CIRA – enabling auspice with minimalist rules – basic model CIRA is a 'shelf company' to enable and support community projects. It works on high trust Vs. low control Hight trust = relationships, focus on scaffolding not operational. Low control = commitment to time, no ego, committee has nous & specialists, its ok to hold things with fragility.