



The Cruise liner terminal now appears to be terminal at least on the Spit at Doug Jennings Park because recently Mayor Tate's proposal for a Cruise liner terminal there was scuttled by the State Government. His plan to develop the Spit at Southport was parked and hopefully for good, never to come up again. Now this is not news anymore but I want to pass some comments about it and the Mayors role in all this and his regularly shifting ideas as his anchor drags with the political tide. Therein lies a problem, as in my view he appears to have different recall about what he claims and says at earlier times. Always shifting and moving so we the people may not really have a concrete idea of what he is thinking or regarding his unilateral plans. The rest of the Council appears to just tag along with him like obsequious sheep devoid of ideas, lacking the courage to stand up to him or to debate in the interest of their constituents. I believe this approach to leadership is flawed, as good leaders take the people with them and in my view this does not happen in Gold Coast City Council.

I took the time to review many of Tom Tate's interviews and his comments regarding the cruise liner terminal and over time his position and attitude appears to ebb and flow in direction as a windsock moves in the breeze. An example of this is his media call on August 26 where he stated that the decision to retain the park at the Spit for the people was in fact in line with Councils aim but if that's true it's a very recent change because until recently he wanted the Spit land for the terminal. He has been assuring the public that the vast majority of people wanted it so how come the u-turn. Maybe the State government warned him off but I guess we will never know. This leaves us with Wave Break Island in the Broadwater for a Casino and boat terminal and lots of high rise and bungee jumping and hoopla. For goodness sake it's a sand bar just above the high tide mark and common sense suggests this could be a big problem. The challenges are enormous and you can bet your life the rate payers will pay at some point and dearly. The prophetic Mayor Tate says that if it doesn't tick all the environmental boxes then he won't back it and the drover's dog can see it won't, so just drop it now. Council's job is about roads, rates and rubbish and I note he is now using this phrase which is a notable change in focus and about time. He and the CEO still have to tell us where over \$100 million went on their failed computer system because let me tell you, if they couldn't manage a piece of software they will be utterly incapable of managing a big development on a sand bank with cruise liners and naval gazing.

In further reference to the media call in late August Mr Tate makes some interesting if not inarticulate comments. He focuses on the Save Our Spit community group and takes a few shots at them. He said instead of calling themselves SOS rather they should be called SOC or stop our commercial enterprise. Such a cheap shot in a democracy but wait there's more. The fellow who heads up SOS is Australian actor, Dr Steve Gration and it appears he came in for a special mayoral mention. Councillor Tate said he would be guided by a Professor of oceanography rather than a B rate actor. I guess he was talking about Steve Gration and if so it appears Mr Gration has really got up the Mayors nose. All SOS have done is to tell the truth, quote the facts and stand up for what they believe in and this is a democracy. If the Mayor had taken the time to speak with groups like SOS and Gecko and the public at large he may well have been able to negotiate a safe passage but it appears he didn't, yet he claims to be effectively communicating with the public. When the mayor resorts to insults against a fellow Gold Coaster then that's completely inappropriate for a City leader.

We will see where all this ends up but in the meantime rate payers will pay and pay dearly one way or the other. This Council needs a huge shake up and the Mayor would do well to stand up to the State government and represent the residents of the Gold Coast courageously as the State tries to over populate the Gold Coast with another 500,000 people. What a dreadful course we are on and without a compass or a qualified navigator.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveOurSpit/posts/436672846389337> video

<https://soundcloud.com/cityofgoldcoast/mayor-cst-spit-press-conference-26-aug-14>