

## We The People

Program 100

The State Vs the Gold Coast



Listeners will know I am not a supporter or fan of weak government and not inspired by political representatives who do not represent us properly. This is often true of Gold Coast City Council in terms of leadership and the intellectual capacity to properly deal with contemporary affairs. Nonetheless on this occasion I rise to support Gold Coast Council which it appears is in a titanic struggle with the Queensland Government. It also appears the public know little of this so I am going to offer you some thoughts and information. While I cannot prove everything I am about to say, I am convinced it's the truth and in keeping with 4CRB's philosophy of fairness a standing offer is made for those who may be affected to come on air and respond.

First, let's reflect on the words of the Premier, Campbell Newman, on the night of his election to high office and he said.....*"It's all about you, it will always, always be about you"* and further..... *"I pledge to you we will conduct ourselves with humility, grace and dignity"*. So given all this why is it the Premier appears to have declared war on the Gold Coast Council and so it follows declared war on Gold Coast residents.

When planning for the Commonwealth games to be held here the previous Council agreed to contribute around \$37 million dollars to the venture. It appears this was never confirmed in writing but it is a fact as the Council's CEO recently recalled and a hand shake on matters of principle is common place. Premier Newman's government now say that \$37 million is not fair and is insufficient and they want the Council to cough up at least \$100 million dollars. Mr Newman, thanks to the previous incompetent Council and State Government we don't have it and what's more we the people are not going to pay a levy of over \$400 or more in rates or taxes so don't count on it. To place pressure on the Council I believe the State Government launched tactical first strike rumors that if the Council didn't capitulate then the State would legislate to force a further loan of \$100 million on the Gold Coast through the State Treasury. More saber rattling came from George Street including the threat to dismiss the Council if they resisted the demand of the State government and my sources tell me that some Councilors felt that dismissal was imminent. Credit to our Councilors because behind the scenes they stood their ground and did not yield to being bullied by Mr Newman and his arrogant side-kick.

Now at the time when the intransigent Council wouldn't play ball, certain Councilors started receiving calls from high ranking LNP members and the Premier which one assumes was to acquire their support for the extra funding for the games. We can only speculate at what was said but it would have been pretty forthright. Still the Councilors held their nerve and good for them. Given that those calls did not get a result then the retribution by stealth began. Again it's unconfirmed but listen to this..... The Premier had set aside money to help with rebuilding Gold Coast beaches but it's been sent elsewhere. Then the State government advised the GC Council not to expect a place on the prestigious Games Legacy Committee which is insulting. Further, the State has now thrown a cloak of secrecy over negotiations with the Cruise Liner terminal proposal to keep the information from Councilors. Finally, the Mayor was advised he would not be needed at the closing ceremony of the Glasgow games prior to the Commonwealth Games coming here. This register of shallow retribution and reprisal just gets longer and longer and in direct contrast to the moral stand taken by the Premier at the time of his election which now appears to be the product of hypocrisy.

Listeners, I draw your attention to the Annual Report of the Queensland Audit Office which says that the Gold Coast Council has a financially negative outlook. This means a higher financial risk for the Gold Coast Council and therefore the residents of the Gold Coast. It is we the people, the rate payers who will pay in the end. So how is it that the State Government can in all clear conscience demand we take on more debt. The Premier and the government have sworn to act in the interest of the people yet they appear to have become bully boys. The member for Currumbin Jan Stuckey is also Minister for Tourism and the Games and is applying pressure too perhaps because she is Campbell Newman's lackey. I for one had high hopes Premier Newman would honour his word but not so and that does not bode well for the Gold Coast.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**