

**We The People**  
Program 157  
Revetment Walls



If you or friends live on a waterway on the Gold Coast this narrative will be of momentous interest to you. Revetment walls are permanent structures designed to prevent subsidence that commonly occurs adjacent to all waterways and the ocean. A revetment wall is a structure covering an embankment designed to maintain the slope and protect it from erosion. These walls are common on the Gold Coast on rivers, lakes, the Broadwater, beaches and canals. Much of the Gold Coast is built on sand and that makes many homes on its 700 km of waterways very vulnerable.

Now something has changed my friends and it's a sinister change which has significant potential risks for Gold Coast waterfront owners which will have catastrophic consequences, especially if the cruise liner terminal goes ahead because of the vast dredging of the Broadwater and seaway. The Council has created a new Law 17 which assigns onerous responsibility to property owners for revetment walls. I was recently made aware of this issue by local lawyer Jim Wilson through his web site Due Diligence Gold Coast. We the people are set up yet again to pay an enormous impost through social engineering by a recalcitrant Council who try and manage the community through stiff arm tactics. I will go further and say that the all powerful Council administration actually runs the show and knows exactly how to manipulate the Councillors thus increasing its own unassailable power base. While this is going on our ambivalent Councillors vote on matters directly against the interest of rate payers. What a travesty and there is no need for it and it cannot be justified or accepted.

So let's look at the problem at least as I see it. As the owner of a water front property you are responsible for the revetment wall. In fact the marine structure may not even abut your land but if you gain benefit from it then you may well be liable. Now Council has granted itself the right to serve notice on you for repairs or construction of these marine retaining walls. However, Council have given the administration the right to serve notice on you if works are not carried out and to do the works themselves if they choose to. At this point these servants of the people have also put in place a penalty system of up to \$88,000 dollars if you don't do as you're told. They have the authority to also recover their costs for the work and if that means selling up your home, they can do it. So much for your local representative Councillor and how on earth did that rule get through. The management of Council is now squarely in the hands of the bureaucracy where the Councillors are frozen with complexity by the administration. Our Councillors are like deer caught in the headlights of a car and blinded by confusion and fear.

Now it gets worse, a lot worse. Let's board the TARDIS and go ahead in time say 10 years. Wavebreak Island is now a province of China and the seaway and ocean have been dredged for the super liners which haven't come back since the last one got bogged. The once protective shallow water way is now completely open to storms, wave and tidal surge and flood waters from upstream belt along at a rate of knots. In a perfect storm of tide, currents, wind, flood and dam release the massive flows undermine revetment walls everywhere. In this scenario it's damage caused directly by a feckless council approving massive cruise liner channel dredging thus causing wide spread failure of revetment walls. If this happens a class action of unparalleled proportions will ensue as home owners scramble to address the damage and apportion liability. The new laws sink the possibility of insurance so the home owner is set adrift while property prices plummet. It would take a brave person to say this can't happen and if any Councillor including the Mayor or CEO want to come on air and debate it, then bring it on. The *powers that be* say, if the cruise liner wharf doesn't tick all the environmental boxes it won't go ahead. Will the massive risk to people's property be a part of the environmental impact assessment of the cruise liner terminal proposal. It beggars belief to the point of lunacy that the complexity of this risk could possibly be identified, analysed and assessed to the satisfaction of landholders or ratepayers in less than 5 years. Clearly, we the people are just we the mugs in the eyes of the Council and the State Government and I say a pox on both their houses.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**