

**We The People**  
Program 160  
It's Good News Week



Well its **“good news week”** and as the song goes all the news is dodgy. Remember the words..... that someone’s dropped a bomb somewhere contaminating atmosphere and blackening the skies. It was a parody on our preoccupation with unpleasant news and there was plenty of it. That was 1965 and on the Gold Coast today we have our own parody web site to herald all the wonderful things that the Council and the mayor are doing. It’s got to be the most blatant spin we have seen so far and it cost we the rate payers \$750,000 this year alone and no doubt constructed by one of their mates. It’s essentially the Councils web site with the unimaginative name of **More Gold Coast** and is up and running and rivals the red dot for its creative if not onerous existence. Don’t try and use the [contact us](#) page because when you try and put in your phone number it rejects it as it requires a strange unique format that I couldn’t figure out. That’s a very effective way to stop people contacting them but consistent with Council policy. The story broke last week in the Bulletin and they are to be congratulated for uncovering the blatant misuse of public money yet again. It seems this Council and the Mayor are on a spendathon the likes of which we have never seen before and with our money.

The Bulletin reports that documents obtained under Right to Information laws reveal the money has been spent establishing a website and social media presence known as More Gold Coast. Although paid for with public funds, the website does not have government recognition and the council is only vaguely mentioned once. At least seven of the 19 local partners declared on the site are also council-funded organisations, including the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise alliances and the Arts Centre. The new site follows efforts by council bureaucrats to stifle contributions to public debate by elected councillors with its External Communication Policy, which forces councillors to give citywide media opportunities to Mayor Tom Tate. That’s a dubious honour for a mayor who finds public speaking so very difficult.

Documents, written by their economic development department reveal the **More Gold Coast** project was created by the Council because it was unhappy with “negative media coverage”. Amazing, the reason the Council gets negative media coverage is because it deserves it. The Council is run by the executive bureaucracy with far too much power which has been devolved by the Council itself, so they do as they please. The Council we have is not transparent as required under the Local Government Act and does not consult the public effectively nor does it manage our precious resources and money well. Put simply this is an arrogant Council and that is borne out by the Bulletins reporting of the new Council web site of self adulation and partner nepotism. Just another lazy \$750,000 from we the dumb rate payers.

With massive water bills and electricity prices along with Council rates and a declining living standard in Australia the waste of public money for the sake of ego is not acceptable. To make matters worse the State has instructed the Council to make room for an additional 500,000 people here on the Gold Coast so what’s that going to do to our lifestyle and living standards and the Council haven’t resisted at all. This Council and most of the Councillors are simply not representing the people or common sense for that matter as the Mayor takes the spot light and gags them all. The question is, did the Councillors even know about this new waste of public money, were they even asked and if not why not. The Council or more correctly, **we the people**, owe around \$800 million dollars and I suspect if it were a company it would be insolvent. The bottom line is that the Gold Coast is on the wrong trajectory on pretty well every front and is managed by incompetent bureaucrats and wayward Councillors without sufficient intellectual horse power to make big decisions. The obvious example is the ERP computer system which will ultimately cost us about \$300 million and when you realise the Sunshine Coast Council has just put in a similar system for \$2 million you can’t help but to cry foul.

The Mayor Tom Tate is welcome on air any time to answer these and many other questions but try as we will he will not come on air and speak on his Council and administrations decisions. Instead we have a new web site to blast the spin out painting a picture of paradise and jobs for all and a safe environment for wild life when nothing is further from the truth. The Councillors are irrelevant as the Tom Tate caravan moves on and the dogs keep barking. **Until next time this is Kent Bayley**