

We The People

Program 187

GC Council Elections 1 The Power of Four



Good day to you. In Numerology the number four signifies the conjunction of **good and truth**. So let's remember that every 4 years the Gold Coast Council elections come around as they will in March this year. Now in my world numerology is just pure nonsense and the proof of this is to equate **good and truth** with the 4 yearly Council elections and ask yourself, does this Council represent those fine qualities? In my view they have measurably failed along with senior Administration staff. Just think back and look at all the unpleasant notoriety the Council, the Administration and the Mayor have attracted. Look at the posturing and all the words of no consequence and even pomposity at times with some. Look at the general suitability of most Councilors to high office as our precious rates are squandered on building monuments and cabals to themselves. Every four years we face electing, in the main, unqualified and at times incompetent people to manage the Gold Coast and who relentlessly and selfishly waste hundreds of millions of dollars. This time around consider voting for new untarnished candidates who genuinely want to help as Councilors and who will conduct an open transparent Council as the Local Government Act section 1.2 requires. This narrative is the first of 7 running up to the Council elections on March 19 and in those 7 you will hear revelations about this dubious Council.

So today's offering is about Councils financial capability and the finance committee and due diligence. It seems to me that a special technique we will call 'whim management', is employed regularly. This means things are done on a whim, not properly costed and with no thought for the outcome or the future. 'Whim management' is all about looking good and getting re-elected while the rate payer picks up the bill. The best example of whim management was the mayors cruise liner terminal for which he claims he had a mandate. No he didn't and in any case it doesn't exist in law in this context. There was no meaningful planning, consultation, environmental assessment and no proper costing yet he incorrectly claimed the majority of Gold Coast people wanted it and that it would produce 36,000 permanent jobs. Plain rubbish and that doesn't sound like truth meeting good to me.

More examples on financial mismanagement include the now infamous 'red dot' branding exercise which cost over \$500,000 and produced a literal 'red dot' as a new visual branding icon for the Gold Coast. Goodness knows what its cost to date to change over all the livery but it's a measurable marketing disaster. How about the latest city plan which replaced the 2003 '**Our Living City Plan**'. A draft plan called '**Bold City Futures**' was already being produced when the Mayor took office and he decided to axe it. Mind you it cost we the rate payers \$5 million dollars and was apparently chucked away on a whim. The Councils new 'innovative' web site called 'More Gold Coast' cost you and I about \$750,000 when such a web site can be built for under \$7,000 by any number of professional IT folk locally. Regarding salaries, the average in Gold Coast Council is over \$104,000 which is about 15% higher than the next highest in the State. The CEO earns more than the Prime Minister and yet presides over the shameful IT software project which is now estimated to cost half a billion dollars of our money by the time it's up and running.

People move to the Gold Coast for life style, work and retirement. We live here for the beauty and the accessibility of services, the natural environment and the beaches. We like being relaxed and we have enjoyed a quality of life which is now in deep peril. Think about it as the Councilors and Mayor line up again for their huge salaries guaranteed for 4 years when truth meets good again in 2020. Now you tell me, are the Councilors looking after our precious lifestyle and natural environment or are they trying to jam as many people as possible into this place. With that overdevelopment and overpopulation comes an irreversible change to the Gold Coast in seismic conflict to our needs and aspirations. This direction will create a crowded nasty place of grid lock and social disconnection. Council needs to start listening and to stand up to the State Government and stop the over population and reduce debt and expenditure. Growth is not always good if it takes us backwards yet it appears Council and the Mayor think all growth is good regardless of the human, social and environmental cost. Now, come March, it's the rate payers who will decide their fate and vote wisely because your quality of life style depends on it.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley