

We The People

Program 189

GC Council Elections 3 - The Spin Cycle



Good day to you. Today's narrative is about a washing machine. Yes you heard correctly it's about my Fisher Paykel direct drive 'you beaut' washing machine which has given rise to an analogy with the Council elections. You see, the dirty clothes, that's us, go in for processing and are agitated for quite a while then rinsed a bit to dislodge any remaining contaminants and then into spin cycle and finally we're hung out to dry. Political spin for the masses is a murky world of propaganda through biased interpretation of events. The author of the twist is called the Spin Doctor or perhaps the Mayor in our case. We the people are being exposed to the spin cycle every day to the point where we don't know what to think and are often misled. When Council operatives and the Mayor's words are analysed they are at times left wanting as they offer an incomplete story when exposed to the light of day. None of them will willingly enter a true public debate for the fear of being caught out or caught short. The Local Government Act calls for inclusive transparent government, sustainable development and ethical behavior which we don't get from this Council, in my view.

We are told that more people, more building, more high rise, more cars, more wretched trams, more software, more cranes on the skyline, and more tiny residential house blocks create more jobs and a more prosperous community. Why on earth is more of everything better for us when even the drovers dog understands these things are created at a real human loss including quality of life. They create ripples on the pond which cause all kinds of added pressures and in the end do nothing for the general amenity of the Gold Coast and our living standards. In fact, over development takes away a great deal. It's not by accident the Council's ridiculously expensive website is called '**More Gold Coast**' because it's in their political DNA. Many of Councils grand schemes may create jobs for a very short time but then we all pay for it with increased rates, traffic congestion, social dislocation and the feeling we are strangers in our own town. We are heading toward a city of concrete canyons and a cold, less inspiring holiday destination of homelessness, street crime, drugs and lonely people. Young Australians find it harder and harder to get a start when foreign interests are encouraged to come here and buy real estate. I don't like it and I know many of you don't either. It's a short term mentality which will ruin our precious lifestyle and much faster than you realise at the hands of this bureaucratic, developer driven Council. The old saying is still very true, that in reality "**less is more**". Let's get this straight, they work for us and we have a right to know what the truth is and not just delivered the same cycle of meaningless drivel and spin. The new town plan is terrifying in its portents and lack of essential detail and the people do not know with certainty what will happen in their own street. People fear for their future and for their children and grandchildren. Let's ask this question of the Gold Coast City Council just down the track*where will the children play?*

More endless mantra too as the Council's Fisher Paykel rattles into the 'more jobs' cycle. The endless agitating spin about jobs by the Mayor is misleading as it's not in Council's charter to create jobs. It's just more spin although they do create more bureaucracy with an average Council employee costing \$104,296 PA. The Mayor spruiks his endless fairground lines about jobs but that is something the State Government is responsible for, not Council as they can barely manage themselves. There is no expertise within Council to create strategies to build real lasting sustainable jobs on the Gold Coast and their primary role is roads, rates and rubbish. Their mismanagement on so many fronts is alarming and I call for the Mayor to enter into an open public debate with the other mayoral aspirants where we call a halt to the spin cycle. This way we can all see what the other candidates are like and how Mayor Tom Tate performs in the real public arena with real questions by real people. We stand ready Mr Tate to hear you perform without your rate payer funded PR machine in tow. I wonder how you will feel being in the wash cycle for a change along with 'we the rate payers' who have to foot the bill. Maybe, just maybe, we can hang you out to dry after the final wash.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley