



Good day to you. The Trojan Horse is a tale from the Trojan War and of the brilliant subterfuge the Greeks used to enter the ancient city of Troy. After many fruitless attempts the Greeks built a huge wooden horse and left it outside the gates. They then pretended to sail away and the Trojans pulled the horse into the city out of curiosity. That night a force of Greek soldiers came out of the horse and took the city and Troy fell. Thus the metaphor of the Trojan horse has come to mean any stratagem that causes a target to invite a foe into a securely protected place. Today's narrative is about the **light rail** which stands as the Trojan horse to the Gold Coast.

Let's look at some facts about the light rail and the claim it's a miraculous 21st century answer to transport because it isn't and in fact will make transport congestion worse. The Light Rail is not evil it's just old world. The idea of a tram dates back to 1804 in south Wales. Its old, very old outdated technology. Trams cannot overtake one another, they must go where the rails go and the cost of operation is high and pollution may exceed that of buses if coal is used to generate the electricity. The overhead lines are an eyesore and they displace road traffic while the cost of construction is enormous and highly polluting because of the massive amounts of concrete used and the CO2 given off when laid. The real reason we have light rail on the Gold Coast is to generate higher population density. In the latest developer driven city plan is the news that it appears for 800 meters either side of the tram tracks we can expect high density buildings. It seems to me that this vision is one of reproducing a crowded Asian or American City and you soon realise that over all a strip 1.6 kilometres wide may well create a forest of tall buildings, at times without height limit. Now the vast majority of people who live and work in these buildings will have cars. No doubt they will be parked in underground car parks way below sea level at times. People own cars because ours is a mobile society and created around a network of roads which gives us tremendous freedom and mobility. Greater living density produces many more cars on the road and where we need them least. The tram doesn't go where these people want to go most of the time and so people naturally resort to buses and cars.

So to make matters worse, wonderful suburbs like Robina, beautifully designed and pleasant to live in, may well be ruined when the light rail reaches them. If you live in Robina as I do, be afraid because you may find you have no long term tenure or certainty with your property as the city plan apparently calls for Robina to be essentially a pedestrian and bike way suburb. Just imagine that and what it really means especially to older folk as the suburb becomes massively overcrowded. Remember, the Council and the State government are driving this population growth because their misguided plans demonstrate little imagination and it appears they are just desperate to garner more taxes and rates. It seems the current Council have abdicated responsibilities to the CEO and Administration, so it appears Council is not in charge practically. Councils' waste of rate payers money is outrageous and why the State Auditor of Queensland's report 2013 finds the financial performance of the Gold Coast Council to be ranked the same as the remote aboriginal communities of Doomadgee, Yarrabah and Palm Island. There are other very exiting emerging transport technologies operating right now elsewhere in the world which, when coupled with buses and cars, offer a better and more versatile and affordable option than an antiquated tram system. These high tech options put the trams to shame and I will report on this technology very soon. In the meantime think about what I have said and consider the current Council as being part of the problem as it appears they are setting out to ruin the very qualities of the Gold Coast which attract so many people. Don't fall for their spin and pretty pictures. It is we the people who tell them what we want and so, on election day, tell them loud and clear we want a new Council and a new mayor who will plan wisely, inclusively and listen to the people and not overpopulate this place. In the meantime if and when you travel on the Trojan light rail beware of the impending defeat of our city because its Mayor Tates' and Premier Palaszczuks' Trojan Horse at the gates underwritten by we the voiceless mug rate payers.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley