

We The People  
Program 244 April 10, 2017  
We the People 244 Industrial Scale Madness



Good day to you. The recent floods were a wakeup call for all of us as to just what mother nature can do. Lives were lost, property destroyed, wild life affected, bridges washed away and lives disrupted. There are many stories and disappointments especially up north where the cyclone struck and then when the rains came down the coast. A lot of water fell and records were broken and it will happen again. Sometimes it is the more isolated areas that take a big hit yet we may not know about them. One couple near Logan Village had a flood tsunami go through their bush acreage, inundating their home and leaving a camping trailer lodged precariously up a gum tree. I also saw the 'mud army' near instantaneously marshal the troops and come to their aid and that phrase, the "**mud army**", in many ways sums up our precious Australian culture.

Now to the matter of the land-mark cow paddock at Carrara near the Carrara markets which has been approved for a massive development and high rise apartments. Just what we need, more concrete and traffic. Anyone who knows the area also knows it's on the flood plain and subject to serious flooding. The cows are happy there as are all the migratory birds which fly in annually but just like Black Swan Lake the imperative is to fill it in and '**turn paradise into a parking lot**'. Is that what we are about on the Gold Coast as it clearly represents madness on an industrial scale. It defies common sense and logic and it laughs in the face of mother nature. After the waters subsided a little, I drove to Carrara to take pictures of the cow paddock inundation to ultimately send to Council and the State government which are also inundated with double standards and poor decision making. One must ask how Premier Palaszczuk can hold her head up along with Mayor Tom Tate and face the people and claim they are looking after the public interest when they allow massive development on sites like the Carrara cow paddock. Remember listeners, this development was initially approved on the basis the developer supplied life boats and emergency food rations for residents, clearly anticipating a flooding disaster down the track.

It was Andrew Potts at the Bulletin in 2015 who alerted the public to this development and the flooding issue. Councillor Bob La Castra was reported as saying...“This is the worst application that I have seen coming before council in 20 years” and no doubt he is right and the question should be asked about the developer, the **Orient Central Development Corporation**, as to what their primary motivation is. This is all just more proof that the Gold Coast is destined for high density high rise everywhere regardless of what it does to our life style. The Council and State government are morphing the Gold Coast into a congested concrete jungle where people don't count and growth at any cost is seen as desirable. I have to say that it seems the politicians and bureaucracy have closed the door on democracy yet the local government Act of Queensland states the over arching guiding principles include and I quote....."**transparent and effective processes and decision making in the public interest. Sustainable development and democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement and the good governance and ethical behaviour of Councillors**".

So where to now you may ask. Well first up let's not forget our neighbours in Murwillumbah and the Tweed where the floods have been catastrophic. They also have some Councillors who think 'progress' is to keep building more boxes and to wipe out the Koala on the Coast. Down there however the Councillors receive under \$20,000 a year while here they are on a package of around \$175,000. At the next State election remember this industrial scale development madness and at the Council elections look for worthwhile candidates who truly fight for the people and promote sustainable development and democracy. Many of the current mob represent industrial scale development madness and none more so than the Carrara flood plain high rise development destined to flood and create traffic chaos and loss. Even the Prime Minister said "We've got to make sure we are more flood-proof in the future." Tell that to the Gold Coast City Council PM.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley (pics follow)**

Post flood at Carrara Cow Paddock March 2017 The site of a massive high rise development.



Note the high water mark debris and that the water covered the road at one stage.