

## We The People

### Program 63

#### Silo Thinking



No doubt most people have seen grain silos in paddocks close to the road in the country and near ports. They are an iconic landmark in Australia and the idea of a silo is thousands of years old. The ancient Egyptians used silos above and below ground and in principle nothing has changed today. Usually built of concrete these chimney like structures store vast quantities of grain and material and keep out vermin, the weather and thieves at bay. A series of silos can stand together keeping different materials separate so they do not mix or interact with each other and that has obvious benefits too.

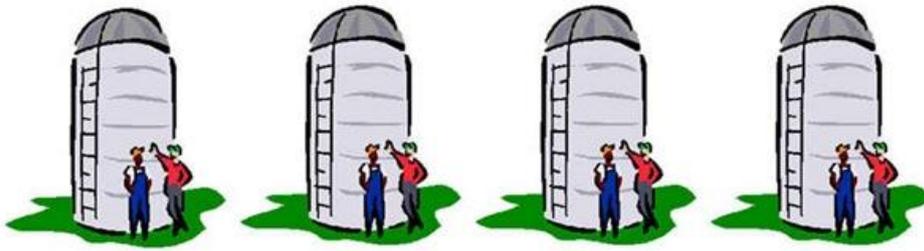
In the last hundred years with the rise of political correctness and bureaucracy a phenomenon has occurred which is called silo thinking. Silo thinking implies that all thought is contained exclusively within the one rigid structure never to be mixed with the contents of another even right alongside. This thinking when it relates to people, governments and business is horrendously bad and not to be encouraged. By way of example think about a government department which doesn't communicate with another department yet their responsibilities overlap. Remember the frustration when you try to get answers and a government department simply closes its silo door and withdraws into itself refusing to answer except for those matters contained within its bureaucratic walls. Sound familiar, you bet it does and it doesn't need to be this way.

In Queensland Premier Newman has a difficult job in reducing the costs of government and fast and I don't envy him as the previous lot left a legacy of debt and inefficiency. However all he is doing is getting rid of people in silos and not getting rid of the silo itself by making each department speak to the other and so function transparently. Bureaucracy exists only to grow and protect its self from all things which threaten it and there are no exceptions unfortunately. An episode of Yes Minister tells you swiftly that silos exist in every nation on earth regardless of the nature of government. It takes a strong purposeful insightful leader to set an agenda to break down these debilitating structures in order to run some semblance of efficiency and for real public benefit. A democracy is government of the people, by the people, for the people and bureaucratic silo thinking is anything but democratic. Within the silo everything outside its walls is seen as the enemy and is wrong and that includes we the people although they claim to serve us. They do not.

On the Gold Coast the mayor sees fit to dictate we must have a cruise ship terminal and in that he acts like a silo and appears not to be interested in anyone else's opinion including the people. He attracted well under 50% of the primary vote and yet he believes the loss of rare public land near the ocean is simply a resource to be used within his silo world. He needs to change his way of viewing local government as he now appears part of the problem. What's worse is that as mayor his role is enshrined in State legislation and that definition does not include creating jobs, private enterprise or cruise liner terminals. It does however require him to serve all people as titular head of Council. Because he thinks like a silo he cannot hear voices outside his silo walls and in that he cannot claim to represent the people and this is a simple proposition. Within Council our own elected representatives follow him like lemmings and seem incapable of taking a stance for the people when it comes to big issues including their utterly failed expensive computer project that we're paying for. More silo thinking and for us more departments in Council which do not communicate with each other. Common sense is now kept in a silo now.

We the people have to force the issue and demand that Council is inclusive and not dictatorial. We must demand our elected representatives are courageous and not wimps in their own silos devoid of sunlight, freedom and accountability. **Until next time this is Kent Bayley**

## Gold Coast City Council - "Silo Thinking"



Cruise Ships

Rates

Population growth

Public Space



Koalas

Environment

Development

Transparency



Democracy

Councillors

Superannuation

Legislation



Lifestyle

Land use

Staff increases

Everything Else

**Footnote.** Recently the silos of honesty and public accountability have been demolished due to their structure placing unnecessary strain on the foundations of other silos. This makes it easier for their vision of a young vibrant Gold Coast to be realised for the good of the people.