



We The People

Program 99

Size Paradigm Doesn't Count

A paradigm is the set of rules we live by or more correctly adopt. A paradigm is a model or a philosophy generally accepted of how ideas relate to one another. A paradigm is a frame work of rules, habits and conduct and it's how we generally function together but here's the rub. The paradigm can shift and we are left with the old set of habits and rules and perceived to be out of step. Now that's not to say the new rules and framework are better but a shift in paradigm forces change and we need to be cognisant of that and guide the community and our families as best we can. Remember the best aspects of the good old days and just how much we've lost since that paradigm changed.

An example of a foolish change is mans apparent desire to think size is always better and growth is always preferable. With 7 billion people on the planet and a slow motion global financial crisis underway we need to question everything before us and ensure we help create a new sustainable paradigm. A size driven mentality in business and judging progress by size alone is foolish. This approach is ruining the country and I am tired of hearing the Gold Coast is the 6th largest city in Australia as if that's automatically good and I am tired of hearing we have to have more people on the Gold Coast. It's usually just massive egos or unsustainable business which claims this for their bottom line or self importance. With growth comes all kinds of problems and most don't improve our standard of living and many actually reduce it. Regarding size I don't think that makes the Gold Coast a city as it doesn't have a natural heart and so be it. The latest push to turn Southport into the Gold Coasts Central Business District or CBD is silly because the Coast is a long ribbon development and again a CBD is an old world paradigm concept of centralisation which has lost its relevance. The internet doesn't have a CBD philosophy and there is the proof because that's where most business is done these days', on the internet. I would rather live in the town of the Gold Coast any day and be proud of it. Towns tends to denote community by name and nature and lower density living which is preferable in my view. These are the reasons the Gold Coast became famous for life style as a series of small villages we now know as suburbs.

I worked in Southport for ten years and can assure you there is nothing extra special about it except you can't park the car or catch the train. With the hospital moving soon the idea of trying to create a CBD in Southport is doomed as we have very well supported suburban centres which make much more sense. With concentrated business and offices comes a whole raft of social problems including high density living and that's never good for families and people who want a safe life. Personally I find the centre of Southport to be a canyon of concrete almost devoid of vegetation except for Short Street.

This Council is focused on growth and size as though they were key indicators of progress and to the detriment of us all. That paradigm is long over and people now value their lifestyle and safety and the convenience of their local suburban services. Creating a so called Southport CBD is just another Council headline thought bubble which takes us nowhere. As Southport land value increases so the rates rise for adjacent residents because quite unfairly part of your rates are based on land value. That's simply a wealth tax and one Cr Critchlow agrees with to the potential detriment of Southport constituents. What a mess and what dreadful town planning and what a shame for the residents of Southport.

We desperately need a Council with sustainable ideas and one that wants to preserve what we have. A Council of frugality and common sense with Councillors who are attuned to creating contemporary sustainable paradigms. I long for a leader to emerge with common sense who will genuinely listen to the people and guide the Gold Coast to a worthwhile sustainable future where the people count and size doesn't.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley