



We The People
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Good day to you. I don't think I have ever heard of an issue that so galvanised the public into action or held the perpetrators up to ridicule more than the Black Swan Lake matter. I believe the current CCC investigation will ultimately reveal significant conflicts of interest by some Councillors regarding this matter and the alleged improper way they and the administration have conducted themselves. It appears there is a lot to answer for and answer they will. They may be filling in the lake now but this issue is not over by a long shot and it may even take a new council to protect it but it will happen. The regular and repetitive reference to a 'borrow pit' by Cr Donna Gates belies the fact that it is home to many birds and wildlife and it's public property. In my view Councillor Gates appears out of touch with the wishes of the people and is metaphorically 'shouting' at us and denigrating the value of the lake by repeatedly calling it a 'borrow pit'. Well we the people don't see it that way Donna and you are in no position to lecture us any more than Tom Tate is. You are all servants of the public and don't forget it. In March 2016 at the Council pre-election mayoral debate at Nerang, six candidates put forward their views and answered questions. One question in particular from the floor was this and I quote..... ***"Do you pledge support for making Black Swan Lake a perpetual refuge and not a car park or a housing development"***. The answers were pretty simple and straight forward where five of the candidates answered with a simple 'yes'. When Tom Tate's turn came he said ***"Let me think about it for a minute 'chuckle'.....yes"***. Now for those of you who have the official video record, Tate's committed response came at the 1.46.31 time mark but he has since changed his mind apparently. So let's ask a rhetorical question, was it the truth then or is it a lie now. Pure and simple the current mayor Tom Tate appears to hold no regard for his own word in this matter and the people have been misled, to put it mildly. How is it that an elected member of the Council can possibly justify this u turn which he voluntarily made as a public promise prior to the Council elections.

Black Swan Lake and the inept handling of it by Council and clearly against the wishes of the public majority as published in the Bulletin poll, will be the issue which finishes them in my view. Of course there are many other matters on the boil as well, as the people rise up against an arrogant Council and some claim a voting cabal. In the words of Cyrano de Bergerac ***"The insufferable arrogance of human beings to think that Nature was made solely for their benefit, as if it was conceivable that the sun had been set afire merely to ripen men's apples and head their cabbages"***. The point is that nature has adopted the so called 'borrow pit' and made it its own. Beautiful black swans and their babies and a myriad of other birds and animals and aquatic life rest and feed there. The peculiar concept that some forty years later the soil taken needs to be paid back is not really worth a response except to note that Gary Baidon, once local member and then mayor and now a devotee of this concept, did not get round to what is suddenly so necessary. Borrowing and paying back usually refers to money and estimates indicate the site will be worth about ten million dollars if filled in. However the all knowing Council says the birds and aquatic life have to go and defy the wish of the people made worse by the turf Club which is itching to get its hands on the little lake and why wouldn't they at a rental of just \$1 a year. I believe there is far more to all this than meets the eye and for all we know the plan is to gift it to the Turf Club once all the hullabaloo dies away. By the way, the deputy mayor Donna Gates was a made a director of the Turf Club in 2017 and in the same year apparently acquired shares in a race horse but, has she placed it on the Council Register of Interest?

The people organising the fight for Black Swan Lake are true heroes in my book and include Sally Spain from Wildlife Queensland and Tammy Hogan from the Black Swan Lake Alliance (BSA). As well, let's not forget all the wonderful people who regularly keep watch on the site and all those who have called and objected or written letters and provided funds to fight the case, God bless you all. We the people owe you a debt of gratitude in these the last days of the dark side of the force. Black Swan Lake will be won and justice for the wild life will be achieved and hopefully real democracy will return to a wayward Council.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley
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