

We The People
Program 313 October 1, 2018
We the People 313 A Matter of Principle



Good Day to you. How many times have we all said.... "this is a matter of Principle". A **principle** is a matter of ethics and honesty and relates to good judgement and one's code of conduct in life. It is a matter of **principle** that government should be of, by and for the people in a democracy. It's a matter of **principle** that we are responsible for our own actions and as Dwight D Eisenhower said that *"a people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both"*. There are some basic **principles** that keep us free from anarchy and these are tenuous and need regular attention and maintenance and sometimes reflection. **Principles** are easily lost and that's why they are tenuous but as a platform they are vital for a healthy thinking safe society where justice can be afforded and where justice actually prevails and where freedom of speech is paramount. So let's look at a place where I believe some basic and fundamental principles have been deliberately lost and that's the Gold Coast Council. You could easily add the Qld State Government to this group as well as they conveniently devolve power and responsibility to the Council, then like Pontius Pilot wash their hands of so many matters of responsibility to 'we the people'.

It's my belief the Councillors should be ashamed at their lack of insight regarding the sale of the Bruce Bishop Carpark and public space in Surfers. As a matter of **principle** the land was donated in 1938 by Charles Hicks to the people of the Gold Coast yet Council want to sell it to build a monument to themselves and in this, the Mayor, Tom Tate is complicit. If I'm any judge, Tate now sees this as a matter of **principle** at least for himself because of his perceived position and power and that's not the mark of a leader. He should as a matter of **principle** have fully informed the Councillors of all the important facts regarding the sale and according to the Save Surfers Paradise group, that was not done. It's the same with Black Swan Lake where tactless Tom did not follow through on his word and as a **principle**, that represents failure. The Council are there to serve the people not sell them out or marginalise them as appears to be the case on so many occasions. This extends to the Councils CEO Dale Dixon as well who has throttled the voice of the people regarding the Bruce Bishop Complex by not providing the documentation legally due to the citizens of Surfers Paradise. These are matters the CCC will no doubt be looking at right now as they investigate the Councils activities and management.

How can it be good governance to sell off a prize asset for less than half its value as the Save Surfers Paradise group have conclusively and factually shown. How does it make any sense to remove so many affordable car park spaces from the business heart of the Gold Coast which apart from being iconic is responsible for a quarter of the rate income though out the entire Gold Coast. Simply as a matter of **principle** it's a dumb move, let alone the loss of green space. Tom Tate recently questioned the validity of the Save Surfers Paradise group as having "no legal standing" by which I assume he meant they have no legal right to speak on behalf of and represent their 300 members. The Council relied on oddities in the law to try and refuse justice to the people and it appeared they had won to a degree because the law is an ass but now the **glorious news** the Attorney General has granted a legal 'fiat'. This is a special and somewhat rare proclamation that the court will hear the case against the sale and it's thrown the Council into 'unchartered territory' according to the tenacious Deborah Kelly, spokesperson for the Save Surfers Paradise group. During all this the Council is spending huge sums of rate payers money on lawyers which I cannot understand for the life of me. Using the *people's money to fight the people* is, as a matter of **principle**, abhorrent. Whether it's the Komune site or the wretched tram and its corridor of high-rise high density or cruise liner terminals all over the place, it all represents decision making in isolation and using measures which inevitably circumvent good democratic governance. **As a matter of principle** I am disgusted as we watch the disjointed, inconsistent and perhaps unethical activities of the Council. I say, Councillors should find some backbone and courage and stand up for good **principles**.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley