

We The People
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We the People 343 Thought Bubbles and Coloured Dots



Good Day to you. It seems like the Gold Coast Cruise Liner Terminal has been in the news for years and indeed it has. Over and over again with a multitude of different locations and the Mayor telling us it's the answer to our tourism prayers but alas he doesn't seem to draw on the facts when discussing it publically. I understand some people are receptive to the idea but when the real facts are known they will soon realise they have been swept along with the tide of just another half baked thought bubble. In the light of the Master plan for the Spit now virtually finalised let's look at some facts regarding this terrible terminal which puts public land up ship creek. However, first remember the little red dot thought bubble where millions of rate payers dollars were spent to launch an unimpressive red dot full stop after the Gold Coast. It never was going to be anything note worthy and it was really a little red flop. Remember the lights on the M1 spelling out the Gold Coast but no one could read it and that farce cost us a couple of million. Remember the silver ferns creative disaster which now sit idle in a warehouse. Our recent Gold Coast history is littered with wasteful thought bubbles and poorly thought out theatrics and none more so than the study commissioned by Council into the cruise liner thought bubble proposal. Hey, it only cost \$800,000 plus millions in other costs yet we the people were not allowed to read the full report. The proposed cruise liner project now at the Spit is nothing short of a grand delusion and again using rate payers money. Remember, just up the river is the new port of Brisbane facility and it's a real home port. There are intelligent people who are rightly opposed to the Gold Coast ship terminal because its basis is fiction and a financial noose around rate payers necks for the next 30 years. Put simply the project should be called the Titanic Terminal because its destined to sink like all the other thought bubbles within this secretive council.

According to the brilliant ethical work of Save Our Spit, we now know about the redacted facts regarding the CLT. Time prevents me from detailing all but here is a sample. Even under optimistic predictions the terminal will have a nett operating loss of up to \$150 million over 30 years. At best the project will generate just 61 casual jobs but only on days when ships visit. A Home Port requires warehousing, transport, cold storage facilities and sewage waste pumping for servicing ships. These facilities have not been designated in the GCCC terminal drawings. Australian and International marine safety authorities have made it mandatory for tug boat/pilot services to be available full-time at commercial and cruise ports and yet none have been planned. No provision for fuel bunkers can be provided on The Spit and so fuel barges will need to pass through Moreton Bay Marine Park from the Port of Brisbane. A Home Port must be able to guarantee safe docking of ships 365 days a year at all times of the day and night. Given the meteorological and exposed ocean conditions of the Gold Coast the Philip Park cruise liner proposal can never guarantee those safe docking parameters, making further mockery of the 212 ship visits per annum. The list of negatives goes on and on and by any measure this is one thought bubble which will never float but then again Tom Tate could put his own money into it if he's that confident.

So finally and **most importantly** there is the natural environment and breeding whales and so many other innocent marine creatures which by default are so very important to human life. These massive ships will decimate the home of so much sea life and further foul the air with high sulphur fuel emissions. Now right at the site proposed for the Philip Park Cruise liner terminal where the kilometre long jetty is sited is an identified area of Sea Turtle nesting. On the Environment and Ecology back ground study map it's shown as **a little blue dot** and so it's another kick in teeth for the environment and public amenity by the heavy boot of Tom Tate. **When will the thought bubbles end and the truth be made known.**

Until next time this is Kent Bayley (With thanks to Steve Gratton SOS)