

## **We The People**

Program 22  
Computergate



Late last year I raised the worrying issue of Computergate and the Gold Coast City Council. This shameful flawed tender exercise involves what appears to be gross negligence in the purchase of a new master computer system. Internal whistle blowers support this contention. What could have been purchased for about \$15 million dollars will now probably cost 'we the people' \$150 million and eclipses the Alconex fiasco.

The ratepayer who has uncovered this dreadful situation is Phillip Smith from Robina. He has written to the Minister for Local Government and sought the dismissal of the Gold Coast City Council under section 112 and 123 of the Local Government Act, through the appointment of an administrator because of the failure of the Council to properly manage their legal obligations. I met with Phillip a few days ago and he says for all his hard evidence the Minister Paul Lucas, the CEO Dale Dixon and the Mayor, Ron Clark will not speak with him. In fact the CEO apparently claimed on local Hot Tomato FM on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January that he has asked for the evidence from Phil and that he has not received it. No such request has ever been received by Phillip. Again live on 4CRB the Mayor told Phillip he would speak with him and to make an appointment which he then reneged on.

On Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February just last week the outgoing Minister for Energy Stephen Robertson referred to the Gold Coast City Council as "Imbeciles" and the "worst council in Queensland" and that they are "fundamentally dishonest each and every one of them" according to the Hansard record. I think he is right about the depth of incompetence in Gold Coast Council which can be measured by the current debacle with Computergate and Alconex. Mayoral aspirant Eddy Sarroff one of the current critics of the debacle actually voted for Alconex on a number of occasions and seems incapable of explaining that or indeed why he voted for the new computer system apparently without understanding it. He is not on his own in that regard as all of the Councillors when asked could not explain what it was all about either yet they voted to spend over \$50 million dollars of our money at the time.

Let's be very clear about this. Phillip Smith has the hard evidence of a breathtaking level of incompetence with Computergate and yet no Councillor will speak to him and even the mainstream media seem paralysed with ethical immobility by countenancing journalistic negligence. Indeed it appears only 4CRB has the courage and integrity to report the situation accurately and fairly. I challenge the ABC to adhere to its public charter to carry the news in depth and I challenge the Gold Coast Bulletin and the Courier Mail to speak to Phillip Smith and run the guts of this story. Television doesn't give a toss and some other commercial radio stations continue their slide into audience oblivion because their news stories are light weight and they too seem incapable of properly reporting on Computergate. What a sad and sorry state of affairs when the major media players are put to shame by a local community radio station. Media news coverage is a pillar of democracy where there is a moral and ethical responsibility to alert the public to the news of the day and to make the politicians and others accountable.

Phillip Smith wrote to the LNP and various others last week to try and gain traction and so while I'm challenging all and sundry, lets also challenge the LNP and the Katter party to get involved and break the bureaucratic gridlock and dismiss the council and get this thing halted in order to have justice prevail. In my view the current bewildered contingent of Councillors don't deserve to be voted in again. My friends, when you come to vote soon at the Council elections I suggest you vote for the drovers dog as it will do a better job than the current mob.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**