

We The People
Program 30
Queensland Treasury Gold Coast



Recently I mentioned in another narrative that I had seen a confidential Queensland Treasury document produced late last year. This is the focus of today's edition of We The People as it reveals much about the Gold Coast City Council and yet again just how and why the Council places so much information out of our reach. This manufactured silence must change and we must have transparent processes and lucid information in Council. Just listen to this, drawn in part from the pages of this Treasury document and make up your own mind.

Gold Coast Council has been in the red since 2007 with an average deficit of 12.5% each year. The deficit this year will be a staggering 16.4% with 14% of rates unpaid probably because the rates are so horrendously expensive people can't pay them. The document highlights the council has still not identified the separation cost of Alconex but it's in the vicinity of \$80 million give or take a billion or two. By the way the report also shows that when the state government stole the Hinze dam and the water pipes it was worth an estimated \$2 billion dollars. The State gave us \$500 million and the difference of \$1.5 billion dollars has just been written off the books and lost. Not a word from Council or the mayor and no one took up arms and fought for us, nope they just wrote it off as though it were monopoly money. The State of Queensland owes that money to us and Campbell Newman should pay it back now he has benefited from the Bligh mutiny.

The new ERP computer system or Computergate, currently being invented from the ground up is just a runaway freight train of cash disappearing over the budget horizon on high speed tracks made of gold. Treasury can't understand either and the report points out that the savings claimed because of the advent of the system will be \$463 million but no one knows how. This is a magic figure created with fairy dust with no supporting notes or documentation. If it can be supported then please show us Mr Dixon.

The Queensland Treasury document notes that the outlook for the Council's finances is negative and hence the substantial drop in our credit rating. However the state has agreed to lend more money to Council on condition that they increase revenue by raising our rates 100% over the next 9 years. That means many folk will not be able to live on the Gold Coast and that's wrong, unfair and undemocratic. Remember too that all the current councillors and recently resigned Eddie Saroff and Suzi Douglas have seen this document and know about the massive rate increase trajectory we're on.

Are you heading for the nearest cliff yet because you should know the average all up cost of an employee in Gold Coast City Council is \$90,000 and that's just unjustifiable socialistic voodoo and entrenched mismanagement. Another little gem for listeners and that is the Council's debt is forecast to reach about \$1.1 billion dollars in 2015. Put another way that will mean an average interest bill of about \$45 million dollars each and every year without making a dent in the principle. That's nearly \$4 million a month's interest only and surely the drovers dog could do better.

So let me pause for a moment and reflect on the light rail system to which we are contributing \$120 million. For that we have no ownership and no income from this glorified tram. In the mean time we the people have no say, no recourse, no voice and no hope while the current bureaucracy reigns absolute and the present councillors rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic. Ah I love the smell of money burning in the morning.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley