

We The People

Program 43

Nero's Cruise Ship Terminal



In the year 54 AD the Roman Emperor was the famous Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus or 'Nero' for short. Nero is an infamous character in history where the books of time record his ruthless power in the way he dealt with those who got in his extravagant way. History tells us that he was a dictator and his will prevailed and not that of the people. Nero is said to have fiddled with his lyre as Rome burned implying that there may have been more to the conflagration than was understood. In fact some speculated that Nero arranged the fire to clear land for the building of another palace as brutal testimony to his power and as an edifice and legacy to his name.

Now travel forward in time and we note our new Mayors revitalised plan for a Cruise ship terminal at the Gold Coast Spit near the Seaway. This has already been proposed and defeated by the people because of real measurable concerns for the environment, public access, business and the loss of a rare public amenity. A petition of 35,000 signatures was presented to the State government in opposition to this terminal folly. Put simply the people didn't want the cruise ship terminal and in a democracy it's the will of the people which should prevail and those in politics who ignore that are doomed to failure. As far as I can see the cruise ship terminal has no basis for even being considered such are the real measurable problems to be faced and generated. This proposed cruise ship terminal is a folly and when one looks at the facts it's a no brainer to stop it or else 'we the people' lose a great deal. The new proposal by the Mayor includes a new Casino to pay for it and to be built on the Spit, so here we go again using gambling dollars to pay for business interests which has brought misery to many. There is a recent report by the Victorian ombudsman which is damning about Government involving itself in business and the massive predictable failures that occur. Casinos are foolish at best and threaded to corruption at worst and promote life by a roll of the dice and dubious odds.

The duties of a Mayor in Queensland are defined in legislation in the Local Government Act 2009 Chapter 2 part 1 section 12. It's a sensible definition and it's very clear that the Mayors role has nothing to do with fostering business, promotions or dictating to the people what real progress is. It's my view that the new Mayor Tom Tate is now functioning outside the charter of Mayor on two fronts. First there is no provision in the legislation for the Mayor to promote the likes of a cruise liner terminal. Secondly this preoccupation is taking his attention away from the urgent duties of Mayor and as this goes to air he is on holiday in Hawaii and then on to an excursion on the USA mainland to investigate Casinos and Cruise Liner Terminals. Remember he has only been Mayor for a few months and we are paying his hefty salary. One super urgent matter that he is ignoring is the catastrophic new Council computer system which as we speak, fans the flames of the destruction of our Rome financially.

Before the election I made Tom Tate aware of the legislated duties of the Mayor in the hope of properly focusing his attention on the role and its prime responsibilities if he was elected . It appears he simply ignored that and pushed on with his predilection to be Mayor and now the construction of a monument to himself or so it appears. A recent discussion with a very well respected and prominent member of the community said wisely, "Mr Tate has yet to realise he has only one vote in Council". That's very true but the new Mayors Nero like fascination with personal ambition and enduring monument is worrying as he travels the world looking for the plans for a new colosseum in the emperor's new clothes.

Mr Mayor please understand the people have spoken and don't want a cruise ship terminal on the Spit for very good reasons. We also want a Mayor who will tackle the real business of Council and keep the CEO in check. Mr Tate don't fiddle while our Rome burns and ignore your primary duties as Mayor and all this in your first few months as Emperor.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley