

**We The People**  
Program 4  
Freedom of Speech



Every nation produces those unique individuals who emerge as leaders, inventors, philosophers and statesmen who make a measurable difference to society. The list is a long one and we owe them a great deal. The creation of democracy as a means of governance comes from the Greek *dēmokratía* which was coined from *dêmos* for people and *Kratos* for power. Probably the best definition is “*Government of the people, by the people, for the people.*” Another way of expressing the principles of democracy is to quote one of the greatest documents ever written and that is the beginning of the Constitution of the United States of America adopted in 1787. It begins with these simple but powerful words.....”We The People.....” In that there can be no doubt about the ownership of those words and what the document contains and who it’s meant to benefit.

“We The People” sums up democracy as both the author and those who will benefit. It is freedom within the law to enjoy life and to be rewarded for ones endeavours and to freely express ones view. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights created in 1948 further enshrines the principles for all mankind by stating in part that “*everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference*”. For all mankind’s failings democracy is still the best of all the governance options and Australia has grasped the philosophy as well as any and we hold it self evident.

Now fast forward to the present on the Gold Coast. Having due regard for all the noble words let us consider the Gold Coast City Council and the recent revelations of intercepting Councilors mail for the purpose of censorship. That is exactly what the bureaucrats have done without council approval. They have introduced a system where by communications from rate payers and the public at large are filtered by the faceless men within the bureaucratic ranks to specifically keep some mail from Councilors.

Regardless of their motives this breaches the principles of free speech and is quite simply something the junta would do in Burma, the communists in China or despots across the world would do. They apparently did it without permission and they inflicted their will on the people’s representatives. That action was and is completely undemocratic and breaches trust at the very core. Unbelievably some councillors didn’t see a problem and that my friends says a lot about some of our elected representatives in Gold Coast City Council.

We The People, must let our councillors know that we are not happy and demand the immediate removal of the person responsible or at least publically shame them. This episode is an unhappy one and we can only assume that the councilors now work for the bureaucrats instead of the other way around. In any case it’s clear that our local government is acting as a law unto itself and it needs to stop. The mere fact that this broadcast is transmitted under freedom of speech is to be cherished and guarded at all costs. Dare I say.....a house divided cannot stand.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley