

## We The People

### Program 8

#### The Truth Matters



A new group has launched on the Gold Coast born from concern about the way we are governed. It has as its simple herald .....”The Truth Matters” and that’s one powerful banner indeed. The truth is in fact essential in a civilised democracy and so today I am going to pose 11 questions publically to Gold Coast City Council in the hope we can hear the facts and the truth. Let’s begin.

1. On what basis has the GCCC created a grant for Bond University of \$600,000 over three years for a chair of sustainability and who approved it and who will oversee this expenditure?
2. Griffith University also receives grants totalling over \$700,000 and again the question is asked who approved it and who is watching the till. What is the expected outcome and who will review it.
3. Councillors are allocated a slush fund each of \$885,000 a year to do with what they will in their division. Given Councillors are elected it can also be used for self promotion by strategically allocating the money in the community. Who oversees this money and why are we letting councillors decide unilaterally how to spend such a huge sum of money.
4. Why are we even contemplating a so called new cultural precinct at \$350 to \$800 million dollars when the city is carrying a debt of around three quarters of a billion dollars?
5. The council seems to be driven by a superior notion that with an ever expanding bureaucracy we need a new council facility to house them all apparently at Robina. We need to shrink to success not expand into oblivion. What is Councils plan for this new edifice and how will it be paid for.
6. Why has it cost us over a million dollars for travel expense last year for council and where did they go and what were the benefits derived?
7. Gold Coast City Council hires part time workers but there is no apparent budget yet last year they spent \$50 million dollars on these workers. Where is the budget and who decides how it’s spent.
8. Council spends \$400,000 of our money as a membership fee each year to the Queensland local Government Association. What is the measurable value of this membership or is that a secret too.
9. Apparently a senior official has spent \$62,000 on an electric car. Why is that and what is the outcome and who approved it.
10. Apparently the CEO has received a bonus. We are not allowed to know what it’s for or how big it is. Who authorised it and why was it given. Who is responsible for keeping the reason from us?
11. Council have a project running at present called the Enterprise Resource Planning system. It’s essentially a new computer system and \$54 million dollars was budgeted. In just 12 months it’s blown out to \$87 million and on its way to over \$100 million dollars of our money. Who is controlling this project and who is approving the expenditure?

So here are some questions to be answered from a Council which appears to be run by bureaucrats and the state government while the councillors seem impotent and poorly informed. We the people are being shut out more and more and so I challenge the Council to come on air and address these questions. Air time will be made available on 4CRB because the truth matters and we deserve answers because it’s our money, our town and our responsibility.