

We The People

Program 103

Slum City and Battery Hen Housing



Now and again I draw attention to some of the very poor decision making of the Gold Coast City Council and today is no exception. The Council's leaders and executive seem at times to operate on a headline thought bubble process without taking the people with them and without proper consideration for the future, let alone asking us what we want. Unfortunately for we the people town planning has become a tool to support these Rudd like thought bubbles and the latest curious Mayoral announcement has turned town planning into an oxymoron in my view.

According to the Courier Mail, during a recent Real Estate Institute of Queensland breakfast, Mayor Tate told a captive audience that he was now focused on cheap housing. In my view it's not the responsibility of the Mayor or the Council to be involved in political issues or indeed in cruise liner terminals, casinos and so on. Council's job is big enough just managing the city, infrastructure, and the environment. They do not have the expertise to do much more in any case and at times some councilors demonstrate very clearly they do not have the intellectual horsepower to make far reaching complex decisions let alone foster the calamitous effects battery hen housing would have on the Gold Coast. Hail the slums of tomorrow, hail the destruction of our life style and hail the wrath of our children. This will be a monument to this council and its leaders in the years to come.

So here's the rub. The Mayor claims at times he has a mandate to do certain things but I don't agree. So how is it that he now wants to take us on a ruinous path of releasing tiny 200 square meter rezoned blocks in Gold Coast primary suburbs to build low cost housing. Just think about that for a moment. Two hundred square meters is the size of a shed yet we are to believe it will have a garage and a drive way to park visitor's cars. Are we to believe the children will have somewhere to play safely and develop their imagination. Can you envisage raising a family in a match box home on a match box block because of match box thinking. I can assure you it will lead to overcrowded pockets of suburbia with huge social problems and blocked streets and very unhappy people. This is self evident and apparently this is the Council's dream for the Gold Coast. In truth the Mayor already has a mandate to act for the good of the majority that already live here as is fundamental in democracy. This latest unprecedented process to subdivide existing residential blocks into tiny inhospitable residential housing is not sensible and it may end up next to you. In this sense we have no real tenure on the home we own and that's unconscionable.

Super high density housing causes complex overcrowding issues, parking problems, traffic jams, noise and loss of peace and privacy. Light and air are restricted and high density means more physical and mental health issues, more violence and more social problems. It's no place to raise children nor to retire and crime rates will rise. The more people you pack in the more problems you have and this erodes the very reason we like to live here on the Gold Coast. Then there are the hidden costs such as more infrastructure including roads, water, sewerage and power and the list goes on and on. It's false economy. There is no mandate to slowly but surely ruin this city for short term gain. When you read the material being published by the Council about their vision for this city then these high density slum proposals are utterly out of kilter with that. The Council's own web site says and I quote *...Gold Coast City Council is working hard to build a vibrant city, maintain our enviable Gold Coast lifestyle and ensure our city will be thriving, sustainable and attractive into the future.* Oh really and what about the tiny chicken coop homes you want us to live in and the avalanche of social problems that will follow.

If we don't object to this current Council catastrophe then we all lose. If you value the Gold Coast and the life style we have, then object to this high density proposal. If you want safety for your family and your children and their children then let your local councilor know we don't want this foolish scheme crowding people into tiny inhospitable housing. The answer is simple regarding cheap nasty housing, the Gold Coast is full and the population should be capped unless of course you just want to generate more taxes and rates and surely that's not the motive is it?

Until next time this is Kent Bayley

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/realstate/news/sardine-city-plan-for-gold-coast/story-fnihprvr-1226704901824>