



We The People  
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We the People 290 A Reign of Error

Good Day to you. Well the Commonwealth Games came and went along with most of the locals and many visitors. In my view these sporting games were great for the athletes but in terms of a spectacle and an event, were left wanting. According to colourful local journalist Larry Pickering, choosing Peter Beattie to be Games Chairman was the act of someone not in their right mind and in terms of Beattie's history and the actual result I am inclined to agree. This is the bloke who apparently told everyone it would be traffic chaos and to leave town and then when the place become a ghost town and the panic set in, he beseeched everyone to come back home and join 'the party'. The Commonwealth games were never going to be a party and the State government's attempt along with GOLDOC, to create something memorable, turned out to be the ultimate bureaucratically charged PC festival full of mind numbing sterile entertainment errors **and the party failed**. That's the way of government and ex-premiers when they try and organise anything and in full flight, Premier Palaszczuk, tried desperately to distance herself from the slow motion equivalent of the Fukushima tsunami.

Now when you look back at Peter Beattie's political past it may be assigned to history as a **'reign of error'**. In 2004 journalist Mike Secombe reflected on Beattie, the self declared 'media tart', as politically counter intuitive. By this he was referring to Beattie's penchant for apologising for governments mistakes and over many years it appears this apologetic mantra served him well. Admitting failure, apologising and then claiming he would fix the problem but seldom did. Secombe writes that Beattie's colleagues often note that he is a lucky politician. His Treasurer, Terry Mackenroth, once described him as being the sort of bloke **"who can reach an arm down the S bend of a blocked toilet and pull it out with a gold Rolex on his wrist"**. Sounds like an apt description to me for an unlucky public although the gold Rolex has eluded him this Commonwealth Games as his mojo fades. **Beattie** left a **legacy of error** for Premier Bligh as a poisoned chalice and Bligh was never going to be able to repair the damage. That legacy embraces the billion dollar shameful fiasco of the Queensland Health payroll scandal, a bloated and very expensive public service, Bundaberg's Jayant Patel, Gold Coast's desalination plant money pit, child protection breakdown, infrastructure project failures and now the significant failures and cost of the Commonwealth Games which has cost tax payers billions. Yet folks he is sorry, sorry, sorry and what mugs the public have been to swallow the **mea culpa tactic**.

The Commonwealth games cost us billions and ran for just 11 days. The allocation of such huge resources has been an error of massive Beattie type proportions when so many people are struggling and the Council and the Queensland government preside over the destruction of vast tracts of bushland. It was a Games for political egos when it's really about sport and unfortunately it's a Commonwealth activity without a Commonwealth in reality. It's irrelevant in 2018 and more so in the years to come and will never again be held in Australia in its current form. The athletes were terrific but Beattie's mark in history will be just more apologies and more 'sorrays' and the shame, the abject shame of the abject failure of the closing ceremony to Queensland's humiliation. Tickets with the wrong days recorded, the exodus of the general public, the Premiers artificial and pathetic calls of **'come to the party'** when there was no party, public transport failure and huge loss to local business, England listed as an African nation, security guard recruitment failure and plenty more. Choosing Borobi the koala as the games mascot when in reality the State government are sending the koala to extinction in South East Queensland and Migaloo the white whale is in severe danger if Tate's ocean side cruise liner terminal is ever launched. The opening ceremony was dominated by romanticised aboriginal dances for way too long and the closing ceremony embarrassed Australia internationally and on goes the litany of failures. However Mr Beattie apologised yet again but will still look to the spotlight for public adoration, as is his habit. Now as the new ARL Commission Chairman he apologised for not being able to name the Cronulla NRL side when interviewed on television. So more of the same from a very questionable public figure who specialises in apologies and self flagellation as a political tactic. It seems to me that Beattie's time in public office and cushy appointments represents **a reign of error** to the detriment of many. Please..... no more games Peter Beattie.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**