

We The People
Program 333 April 15, 2019
We the People 333 Political and Bureaucratic Contortionists



Good Day to you. Before starting, I must reflect on the contortionist which is a person so flexible they can distort their bodies into amazing shapes and unnatural positions. The contortionist can make a living by manipulating themselves into a small box or by bending backward so far, their head appears between their knees. They make us feel uncomfortable and while most of us squirm in amazement nothing seems to break, yet it should. Being a contortionist is oddly curious and appears to defy nature. Now having this in mind the GCCC has created a regime of contortionists and sorcerers who turn twisted outcomes into an art form to the implicit detriment of the people. The Council's convenient manipulations involve **self-interpretation and delegated authority to themselves**. They disfigure beyond the boundaries of fairness and sometimes the law to deceive us and confuse by referencing material we can't hope to check or verify. The end result is that this convoluted complex and camouflaged system is really meant to materially benefit others, particularly developers and sometimes outright favours to mates. This bureaucratic contortion reveals the Council's predilection to deceive the public. Allow me to provide examples.

Jim Wilson, solicitor, is hard at work unravelling the complex double standards and significant breaches of law regarding the redevelopment of the iconic 'Burleigh Baths', now known as the Burleigh Beach Pavilion at historic Burleigh Heads. The lessee, in the opinion of residents and commentators, appears to be trading illegally as a hotel which is in direct breach of the Crown lease and due process of the law. The original baths were a unique salt water public swimming pool not unlike the Bondi Baths, home of the renowned "Bondi Icebergs" in Sydney. The Burleigh Baths were demolished and a new pool included in a building that was created to supplement the cost of **maintaining the public facility**. The current lessee has closed the pool with the intention of filling it to create valuable commercial space thereby intensifying the use of the premises but in doing so **eliminating the public amenity**. The lessee has applied to operate a hotel where there was once a restaurant. Local residents are outraged as this inappropriate proposal will seriously and negatively impact their area and amenity. The development application is now formally subject to claims of corrupted practices.

Don Magin has been fighting for years to reveal the distorted and corrupt practices of the Council and others regrading the Main Beach Bathing pavilion and the loss of the integrity of this rare iconic structure. Such compromised decision-making by the Council's contortionists was apparent in this matter but so far all attempts to see justice prevail have been thwarted. The Pavilion is an iconic heritage listed building where our city's internationally renowned beach culture was established in 1934. Don's heroic effort to expose Councils' distorted actions over the last ten years will end soon with oversight action and justice.

Finally to Don Gordon at Coolangatta and nothing epitomizes the planning manipulation and contortion taking place in this city more than the 27-story development approval at 'Komune' at Coolangatta in a 10 story restricted height zone. Due to the very costly efforts of adjoining residents the matter went to an appeal against the Council decision in the Planning and Environment Court. In an extraordinary and treacherous move that would make Harry Houdini proud, Council under scrutiny, jumped ship thus joining forces with the appellant **to oppose their own approval**. The Komune development application was ultimately rejected by the Court but at a direct cost to the residents of \$200,000. Quite simply, Councils contortions made 200 grand of rate payers savings disappear.

Our city is in the hands of plunderers and contortionists in my view who unscrupulously twist and distort planning regulations to suit their own bias, self-interest and fore mostly advantage the development industry. The public interest has been laid waste on many issues and we can only hope the current CCC investigations of this Council are laid bare for all to see. In the meantime be very careful when dealing with Gold Coast City Council and do not for a minute believe they are always acting in your best interest or following the law.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley