

We The People
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We the People 373 Gold Coast Council Elections 2020



Good Day to You. On October 18 2019 an ABC news headline shouted that the Gold Cost had '**lost its mojo**'. The term Mojo means the power to attract people and create success. The headline was spot on and its taken several generations of local politicians including the current Mayor to get us to this point. When one is focussed on simply the return on investment and the like, the better things in life that make an area great are soon overlooked and that's true of the Gold Coast no matter how you cut it. Put simply the current thinking by the Council and Labor State government is that the more people you cram into an area the better, notwithstanding the loss to this city's amenity, lifestyle, natural environment and traffic flow. Have you noticed no one in power talks about tomorrow's generation and where they will play and stimulate their imaginations while they live on postage stamp sized blocks or in soulless high rise towers. If you are a Koala then forget it as you have no place to live and raise your young such is the national shame of it. Much of tomorrow's unsavoury legacy can be laid at the feet of the current Council amid the dark cloud of endless investigations and financial waste and secrecy. *Where there's smoke there's fire.*

So in my view we desperately need a Council that will do things differently and for the direct good of the residents into the future. No one speaks about the Coast's population carrying capacity before it reaches a point of diminishing returns. This truth is self evident. On Saturday you will be voting for the future of the Gold Coast in the local elections and I am convinced we should vote for truly independent councillors with brains, empathy and a conscience. Few say it but I will and the current Council appears to be made up of a cabal based on LNP ideology of '*more is better and jobs, jobs, jobs*', until the populace is convinced the candidates who sprout this simplistic mantra must be good, but most aren't. The future for the Gold Coast is measurably bleak if the current Council is voted back in so '*we the people*' have to change that destiny on Saturday at the poll for our children and grandchildren. There are really good candidates who you may not have heard of but they stand ready to serve and will not be swayed by those already in place including the bureaucracy who run their own agenda. Former Gold Coast architect Philip Follent also said the city had '*lost its mojo in relation to its character*'. Philip should know as he has a an array of significant appointments in architecture to his credit. He said "the Council's proposed city plan, the way it intends to accommodate population growth had taken a '*one-size-fits-all*' approach at the detriment to diversity of suburban character". In my words this Council is way too developer-friendly as they come and go and leave a legacy largely of grey concrete, grid-lock and Soviet style monoliths. An example is the resort building known as Magnoli at Palm Beach and goodness knows how this was ever approved. Mind you over 98% of building approvals are made by unseen vulnerable bureaucrats behind the scenes. All development applications should be voted on by the full Council and nothing less.

This is our opportunity to set things right with Gold Coast Council by voting in councillors who will follow the Queensland Local Government Act and focus on what's best for the people and our future. Ask yourself..... do we really need more development on the beach front. Do we really want more bushland bulldozed or more foreign ownership without conscience. Do we really need more secret non-minuted meetings within Council and don't get me started on the Cruise Liner Terminal and the environmental challenges when we have a new deep water, all weather port in Brisbane. This whole thing is nothing more than a selfish legacy project by the Mayor who won't even talk to the world's leading expert on the matter, Professor Ross Klein from Canada. In closing, I urge you to vote wisely for independent candidates at the local elections or God help the Gold Coast.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley