

The Editor
Gold Coast Sun

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next page.

OP GRANT

EXHIBIT No. 82
CLERK

Dear Editor,

I would appreciate the opportunity to clearly outline the conduct of my campaign leading to my success in the Gold Coast City Council elections.

It has always been my desire to contest local government elections and serve my constituents. Having made the decision to contest Division 12, I set about a vigorous doorknocking campaign, moving from Burleigh Heads through to Reedy Creek. The campaign at this point was financed by myself and friends. I was then asked to attend a meeting of like-minded candidates whose direction would be focused on harmony in Council and professionalism in decision-making. I agreed with this principle. I was also advised that there may be funding available, provided by a cross section of businesses.

The following month, in a meeting organised to discuss a campaign strategy, I was made aware that funds would be available to provide a professional campaign. At no time was the individual source of funds discussed. It was explained that there would be a trust fund set up to ensure that donors and recipients were kept at arms length from each other. I would not have accepted any assistance with conditions attached. I was not and am still not aware of the individual business donors to the trust fund that helped my campaign and I have never met Lionel Barden.

I will not be a servant to any special interest group, but will support them if I think that they are right and after thorough impact research has been undertaken before hand.

What I am about is doing my very best for Division 12 and the Gold Coast in general by working together with ALL Councillors to achieve the best outcomes for residents.

Let's get on with the task.

Greg Betts
Councillor for Division 12

No servant to any special bloc: Greg

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Parting shot at bloc

CR Batey Drake's tenure with Division 12 appears over, with the Burleigh representative trailing Greg Betts and Irene Wareing.

At the Burleigh Heads Surf Club after the polls closed, Cr Drake (17.98 per cent) fired a soft shot at frontrunner Mr Betts (28.82 per cent), a candidate attached to the developer-funded power bloc.

"It's unfortunate that the amount of money you spend buys you votes," he said.

Page 4 - THE Gold Coast BULLETIN
2003 - 2004

Council backflip on future of dam wall

● From Page 1
I THINK it is worthy of reconsideration, particularly because we have a new mayor and a number of new councillors. The right exists in council to revisit that as a policy position.

The city's immediate past council before the recent election voted that the Gold Coast should buy in water and pay partial costs to build a pipeline from Wivenhoe instead of building stage three of the Hinze Dam.

The then council opted to be one of five south-east Queensland authorities which invested in a \$145 million pipeline from Wivenhoe with the Coast again paying \$81 million of the construction bill.

Cr Lisa Garcia said that during

election campaign stood on a platform of raising the Hinze Dam wall for water storage.

Cr Grew said raising the dam wall had never gone off the city council's agenda but it was co-operative, saving homes from flood devastation was dealt with first.

Cr Hackwood said he always believed that if the Hinze Dam was raised for flood mitigation then it should also be increased for water storage at the same time.

"We should look at taking advantage of the extra capacity we could gain from raising the wall so my answer is yes," said Cr Hackwood.

Cr McDonald said it had always been council's policy to raise the wall for water storage if

subsidies could not be raised to help fund both.

"The community is going to want an assurance that we do have guaranteed water supply so it will look forward to discussions," said Cr Sarroff.

But Cr Young said he believed raising the Hinze dam wall for water storage had no merit at this point in time.

Cr Young said if the council was going to be committed to flood mitigation in the short term it would not revisit previous council decisions.

Cr Betts said the original plans for the dam were for the wall to be raised to stage three and the council should honour those plans.

"That was by an elected council issue that people were

good idea but I still do idea of us paying for

Cr Douglas said like to listen to council officers' water storage and she keen for the agenda debated in full council.

"A lot of people v about the pipeline what is happening to Dam all the time I was campaigning," said Cr

Cr Pforr said wanted to know the council hadn't previously decided to raise the wall stage and he also mentioned

Cr Pforr said he had already voted for the wall for water storage and he was keen for the agenda