

COUNCILLOR TED SHEPHERD
DIVISION 9

OP GRAND

EXHIBIT No. 239
Clerk

MEMO TO: CR RON CLARKE, MAYOR
CR RAY HACKWOOD
CR DAVID POWER
CR GRANT PFORR
CR ROB MOLHOEK
CR PETER YOUNG
CR DAWN CRICHLOW
CR SUSIE DOUGLAS
CR BOB LA CASTRA
CR EDDY SARROFF
CR JAN GREW
CR GREG BETTS
CR DAPHNE MCDONALD
CR SUE ROBBINS

COPY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: CR TED SHEPHERD

DATE: 22 APRIL 2004

SUBJECT: GOLD COAST SUN ARTICLE - 21 APRIL

I refer to the article in Wednesdays Gold Coast Sun (April 21) under the heading, "Planning supremo admits to plotting" and regret that once again one of us is compelled to write to colleagues to explain inaccurate and out of context reporting and in particular to the mention of the involvement of the Chief Executive Officer. The article is attached.

This article misrepresents my comments and it is sad that an obviously talented journalist has been misled by a small minority group of disgruntled Councillors and external extremists who fail to understand what a democracy is.

By explanation, you will note that within the entire article I have only been quoted twice, with the balance of the story a mixture of interpretation, assumption and response from another Councillor.

In actual context, my comments were made in response to two questions about what prompted me to nominate for the position of City Planning Chairman and what did I think about combining the two previous Planning Committees into one.

After careful consideration my responses were:

"That I had been Deputy Chair of Engineering Services and Deputy Chair of Planning South for the four years of my first term in Council and that I had gathered considerable experience and knowledge during that time. In fact it had always been my intention to nominate as the Chair of Engineering Services. However, when the three options were distributed to Councillors for discussion at the informal meeting, I could see the sense in combining the Planning Committees as there had always been concerns about the anomalies of having two committees and two planning chairs. I said to the Journalist that Dale, as CEO, presented the options to the informal meeting for discussion and at that time I decided that perhaps Planning interested me more and that I was prepared to take on the responsibilities of this position and when asked to nominate, I said okay.

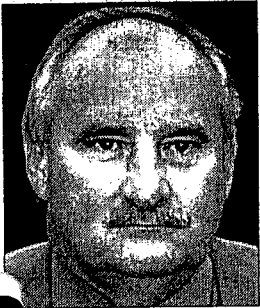
I also told the journalist, that with David Power nominating as Deputy Mayor and if Council maintained the existing two planning committee system, it was obvious that Peter Young would nominate for the chair of Planning North and that I would nominate for Planning South. My concerns were that Peter Young would try and dominate the Planning agendas and I thought that this approach would not be good for Council nor the City. It would lead to arguments and negative media attention through the clash about who would be the senior Planning Chairman. My justification for these opinions arose from my experience that Planning South has always been the larger committee representing eight Council Divisions as compared to the six in planning north and our weekly agendas were usually larger. Committee discussions ranged from the high-rise in Surfers Paradise to the farmlands at Numinbah and this meant that Planning South Councillors usually dealt with more diverse agendas. I firmly believed that a combined Planning Committee would be more workable and could resolve problems of duplication and industry confusion."

Councillors, let me assure you that at no stage did I make any comments to the journalist that the CEO, Dale Dickson, was involved, instrumental or suggestive in any way in trying to manipulate the Committee structures. I totally refute these comments made in the article and am disgusted that the 'Sun' has written it to reflect that the CEO was a participant. I have found in all matters that Dale is beyond reproach. He is dedicated, hard working and totally honest. I offer my sincere apologies that his name was even mentioned.

In regard to my feelings towards Cr Young, I have always maintained a totally professional attitude and political indifference towards our dealings in Council and would never allow personal feelings to become embroiled in Council business. As a contender for the position of Chair of City Planning against Cr Young, I believed that I was the more qualified person and certainly the most capable to undertake this role. If not, I would not have nominated. I have a strong relationship with Council's planning officers and had energetically exercised my duties as the Deputy Chair of the previous Planning South Committee. Now, as the Council endorsed Chair of City Planning, I intend to get on with the job to the best of my abilities.

Cr Ted Shepherd
Chairman
City Planning

Planning supremo admits to plotting



Cr Ted Shepherd



Cr Peter Young

THE Gold Coast City Council's power-brokers schemed to prevent Cr Peter Young from gaining control over a city planning committee, a senior councillor has admitted.

The new planning committee chairman, Cr Ted Shepherd, admitted the city's planning south and planning north committees were combined to prevent Cr Young from chairing a pivotal committee.

"I thought Peter Young would try and dominate the planning agendas and I thought it is not good for council," said Cr Shepherd.

He said the idea to cut Cr Young from out of the picture by combining

By MERILYN MACKENZIE

the committees was first mentioned to him by the city's Chief Executive Officer, Dale Dickson.

"When the idea was given to me - and I think it was Dale who first mentioned about combining the committee - I said okay."

He said that when Cr David Power announced he would be running for the Deputy Mayor's job and vacating the chairmanship of planning north, Cr Young had been the obvious choice for that committee.

But Cr Shepherd said fellow councillors were concerned Cr Young didn't have what it took to negotiate with powerful developers.

Cr Young, who has a

double arts major, has been a strong advocate for environmentally sustainable development.

However, he also has a long history of angry feuds with the city's new Deputy Mayor, Cr Power, over planning approvals for developments in the north of the city.

Cr Young has said Cr Shepherd's admission the decision was political was proof there had never been any logical argument for combining the planning north and south committees.

"This political agenda has taken precedence over the best interests of the city," said Cr Young.

"I also suspect that the influence that these councillors want to exercise will ensure that the number of matters which come before them will be reduced."

Cr Young said council planning bureaucrats had openly told him they did not support the combining of two planning committees into one but they had to comply.

However, he said bureaucrats were forced by law to follow the directions of council.

Cr Young said the community wanted a greater scrutiny of development applications but increasing the workload for a committee would have the opposite effect.

Young to remain watchdog

OUTSPOKEN Gold Coast City Councillor Peter Young refused to nominate for new committees during a private meeting of councillors last Tuesday, saying that he would not honour an 'abomination'.

Cr Young described the creation of new committees stacked by a council 'power bloc' as detestable.

He said council officers were already laying bets as to the date when council would be sacked and the authority handed over to administrators.

But he said he would act as a watchdog on all committees until that time or, if the worst case scenario for the city came to fruition, for the entire term.

He said he would make it his task during full council meetings to detail to the public the ramifications of all 'bad decisions' schemed up in the committee meetings.

Last Thursday, a full council appointed Cr David Power as Deputy Mayor and ratified committee membership.