

16 August 2004

CRIME & MISCONDUCT COMMISSION
No. 2005-5 Date 16 Nov 05
IN THE MATTER OF:

OP GROUND

EXHIBIT No. 245
.....*[Signature]*..... CLERK

INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES – WHAT ARE THEY,

State Government legislation now allows Councils to gather for water supply, sewage, open space, and roads. In keeping with Gold Coast City Council developed the charges to apply for e with representatives of the development industry sector, community groups, chambers of commerce and so on. Those charges were introduced in February of this year. However, since the election, the bloc-heads have managed to reduce the charges for water and sewage up to 30%, and soon they will introduce a system whereby some developers will pay less than the proper amount and the shortfall will somehow be charged to other developers in the future. Those benefiting from this new system are, it seems, principally those with strong ties to Cr Power. One hopes, of course, that the future developers won't challenge this arrangement, because if they do, you will be paying the shortfall.

TRANSPARENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT GOLD COAST STYLE - ADJUSTING THE RECORDS OF MEETINGS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE BLOC

At a recent Committee meeting Cr Power changed the officer's recommendation regarding a new subdivision. He gained support of the other bloc-heads that the developer be allowed to put his stormwater treatment basins into a park (lovely), thereby making it possible for the developer to create an additional 6 housing allotments (retail value close to \$2 million). After the meeting the officers discussed the matter with Cr Power and made it quite clear to him that they could never support that outcome, and a compromise solution was negotiated. Lo and behold, when the committee minutes were presented to Council they reflected the 'negotiated' outcome rather than the official decision of the bloc-heads. That is called tampering with official minutes. That is called protecting your self from being exposed as making really dumb decisions against the public interest.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS-WHAT YOU ARE PAYING FOR

Mayor's highly misleading self-promotional advertisement paid by ratepayers - Well it may seem like a distant memory already but I wanted to remind you that you paid for a pile of inaccurate waffle to be published. Worse than that, the information was deliberately misleading. You probably realise, of course, that the item on your rates 'not going up' conveniently included the reduced water service charge, but did not include the water usage charge (which rose about 25%). If you somehow manage to use less water this year than you did last year during the drought (with all the restrictions in place) indeed you might pay less for rates and charges this year. If you use the same amount of water, or more, look out. Mayor Clarke claims he refers to 'rates' not going up, and that the water usage charge is not a rate, but that it is a 'charge'. That's strange, because the data he relied on included sewage 'charges' and rubbish collection 'charges'. Creative accounting indeed.

Business Class International Travel for Councillors - Members of the bloc have always regarded themselves too good for economy class, and in this new Council they can finally enjoy the spoils of their hard labour, visiting international film shows and boat shows business class, at your expense. La Dolce Vita indeed!

Pay rise for Councillors - Some Councillors will enjoy a pay rise from the old level of about \$70,000 prior to the election up to about \$100,000 by July of next year. They also have more support staff and less work. No wonder they rushed through this decision! Bravo!

THE BLOC GET DESPERATE ABOUT ME BEING ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Prior to the March election the Council had two Planning Committees (north and South) that dealt with Development Applications on a weekly basis. The chairs were Cr Power and Cr Robbins. After the election neither wished to continue the chairmanship role, claiming the job was too demanding and time consuming. Realising that I would be a contender for the North committee chair position, the bloc successfully managed to create just a single Planning committee, to which they installed Cr Shepherd as chair. Conveniently sidetracking their own prior argument about onerous workloads on two committee chairs, the bloc argued that better decisions would arise from having a single

committee, but of course the real motivation was to keep me from becoming the chair of Planning North. I then suggested that all Councillors should be members of the planning committee, but the bloc argued this was not necessary and would make things too cumbersome.

In July Cr Douglas sought to resign from the Planning Committee, and suggested I take her place. This move was quickly squashed - Cr Douglas was suitably chastised by the bloc, and withdrew her motion. But last week I sought again to become a member of the planning committee. Cr Shepherd and other bloc members really didn't want this, arguing again that there would be too many councillors on the committee. My attempt was successful however. The bloc, quickly doing their sums and working out that my presence on the committee might result in outcomes not to their liking, then supported Cr Shepherd's next motion that ALL councillors become members of the committee. This is the mentality of the people running this City.

DAVID POWER SPEAK

"I can say that I am paying my own campaign funding." Power said. (Gold Coast Sun 25 March 2004 - 3 days prior to the election)

Cr Power's election gift register reveals:

Developer and property industry donations -	\$29,850.
Proceeds from 'luncheon tickets' -	\$58,000.
Total value of gifts and donations -	\$88,925.