

# Memorandum



OP GRAND

EXHIBIT No. 236  
Clerk

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : Cr Shepherd  
COPY : Cr Young  
FROM : Joe McCabe Acting Chief Executive Officer  
SUBJECT : Complaint about actions of Cr Young  
DATE : 20 September 2005  
FILE NO : LG211/-/-CF #17867603

Please find attached a self explanatory report which I concur with.

Please treat this report as a "confidential" document.

  
Joe McCabe  
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attach.

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**Memorandum**

TO : Joe McCabe, Acting Chief Executive Officer  
FROM : Conrad Martens, Fraud Prevention & Security Advisor  
SUBJECT : COMPLAINT ABOUT ACTIONS OF COUNCILLOR YOUNG  
DATE : 19 September 2005  
FILE NO : LG449/258/03/CF (1063)

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**PURPOSE**

To advise you on my assessment of a complaint by Cr Shepherd of official misconduct by Cr Young who voted at Council Meeting on 8/10/04 on a matter in which he had previously declared an interest.

**FOCUS**

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COURT APPEAL NO. 63 OF 1999 - BIRD & SONS PTY LTD - LOTS 1 & 2 RP 218104 - 196 & 292 MAUDSLAND ROAD MAUDSLAND - DIVISION 2 - FILE PN155302/01/DA2(P5)

**EVIDENCE**

The following documents were examined during the assessment:

- PN155302/01/DA2 196 MAUDSLAND ROAD MAUDSLAND DA9802500 MCU9800204.
- Minutes of the City Planning Committee Meeting (335) 5 October 2004.
- Minutes of the Council Meeting (335) 8 October 2004.
- Minutes of the Council Meeting (336) 18 October 2004.
- Memorandum Cr Shepherd to Chief Executive Officer 22 October 2004.
- Memorandum Cr Shepherd to Chief Executive Officer 15 September 2005.
- Gold Coast Bulletin 14/9/05 article "Councillor accused of breach".

**FACTS****Chronology**

- 1 Council received an application 10 July 1998 seeking Preliminary Approval for a Material Change of Use from Special Facilities (Golf Course, Clubhouse, Recreation Facilities, Motel accommodation units, Restaurant and Dwelling Houses) to
-

- 
- Residential, Park Residential, Rural and Open Space land uses to permit Residential, Park Residential, Rural and Open Space.
- 2 About August 1998 Dredge & Bell Planning Pty Ltd gave the required notices of MCU / DA L1 & L2 RP218104 PN155302 at 196 & 292 Maudsland Road Maudsland.
  - 3 Council receives a letter dated 17/9/98 from Mr Peter Young (a private citizen) who resided at 275 Kopps Road Oxenford, objecting to the rezoning and providing grounds.
  - 4 Council Officers recommended to the Planning & Development (North) Committee 1 December 1998 that Council resolve to approve the application subject to conditions. Committee recommended the matter be deferred pending an inspection of the site.
  - 5 Council receives a facsimile dated 10 December 1998 from Mr Peter Young, urging Council to not approve the subject proposal and providing reasons why he would challenge it in a court.
  - 6 The same recommendation/report was again put before the Planning & Development (North) Committee on 11 December 1998.
  - 7 The Coordination Committee 17 December 1998 recommended that Council grant Preliminary Approval for a Material Change of Use application to permit Residential, Park Residential, Rural and Open Space.
  - 8 At it's meeting on 18 December 1998 (Minute No. C98.1217.029), Council resolved to refuse the application.
  - 9 The applicant (Bird & Sons Pty Ltd) lodged an Appeal against the refusal with the Planning and Environment Court (No. 63 of 1999).
  - 10 On the 5 March 1999 Council received a Planning and Environment Court Notice of Election from Mr Peter Young of 275 Kopps Road, Oxenford 4210 to become a co-respondent to the subject appeal.
  - 11 In April Mr Peter Young was elected as a Councillor for the City of Gold Coast.
  - 12 A "Without Prejudice" meeting was held at Council 1 August 2000.
  - 13 No further representations were received and the appeal was held in abeyance until such time as the draft Planning Scheme had progressed further for adoption.
  - 14 A second "Without Prejudice" meeting was held at Council 16 March 2004. Subsequent to this, Council received the appellants revised "Without Prejudice Submission" 5 April 2004 and an amended submission on 21 September 2004.
  - 15 On 5/10/04 the matter was again put to the City Planning Committee Meeting (335). The Minutes record:

*"Cr P J Young (absent from meeting 10:35am to 10:44am)"*

*Late Item 11 - PN155302/01/DA2 196 MAUDSLAND ROAD MAUDSLAND DA9802500 MCU9800204:*

*"Councillor Young declared an interest and left the room during discussion and voting on this item."*

*CP04.1005.011 "B That Council instruct its solicitors to seek to settle Planning & environment Court Appeal 63 of 1999 by way of a consent order, granting Preliminary Approval for Material Change of Use for Residential, Park*

*Residential Rural and Open Space land uses in accordance with submitted Concept Plan and Table of Development subject to the following conditions...*

- 16 On 8/10/04 the recommendation was put to the Council Meeting (335). The Minutes record:

*"4.1 CITY PLANNING*

*Cr Shepherd, Chairperson of the City Planning Committee, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Planning Committee held on Tuesday, 5 October 2004.*

*RESOLUTION G04.1008.003 moved Cr Shepherd seconded Cr Douglas That the Report of the City Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 5 October 2004, covered by Recommendations CP04.1005.001 to CP04.1005.012 be received.*

*CARRIED"*

*"ADOPTION OF CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT*

*RESOLUTION G04.1008.006 moved Cr Shepherd seconded Cr Pforr That the Report of the City Planning Committee's Recommendations of Tuesday, 5 October 2004, numbered CP04.1005.001 to CP04.1005.012 be adopted with the exception of Recommendation Numbers CP04.1005.004 and CP04.1005.005 which were specifically resolved.*

*A Division was called*

*For 15 Cr Hackwood, Cr Power, Cr Pforr, Cr Molhoek, Cr Young, Cr Crichlow, Cr Douglas, Cr La Castra, Cr Shepherd, Cr Sarroff, Cr Grew, Cr Betts, Cr McDonald, Cr Robbins, Cr Clarke.*

*Against 0*

*CARRIED"*

- 17 The Minutes of Council Meeting 336 on 18/10/04 record:

*"RESOLUTION G04.1018.008 moved Cr Shepherd seconded Cr Young*

*That the Minutes of the Three Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Gold Coast held on Friday 8 October 2004 at 9.00 am be confirmed.*

*CARRIED"*

- 18 On 22/10/04 Cr Shepherd issued a memorandum to the Chief Executive Officer /copy to City Solicitor stating:

*"Cr Young declared an interest" in the matter at the Committee meeting on 5/10/05.*

*"The reason for his declaration was the he was personally involved in the Appeal process."*

*"...at the Council meeting on 8 October he failed to declare this interest and in fact voted to adopt the recommendation of the Committee..."*

*and raising the concerns that:*

"... Cr Young failed to declare a Material Personal Interest and voted to resolve a recommendation from Council's Planning Committee."

"I have concerns that this may place Council in a position of exposure and ask you to investigate the ramifications of this action."

- 19 On 15/9/05 Cr Shepherd sent a memorandum to the Chief Executive Officer stating:

*"I need confirmation from you office as to whether this matter has been referred by you to the CMC for investigation of official misconduct or if it is appropriate for me to raise this matter during the [public] inquiry."*

Observations

- 20 On the matter of the "interest" declared by Cr Young at the City Planning Committee Meeting (335), could be a perceived material personal interest or conflict of interests. The Minutes do not record Cr Young declaring a "material personal interest" within the meaning of section 6 of the Act.

*6 Meaning of material personal interest*

*(1) A person has a material personal interest in an issue if the person has, or should reasonably have, a realistic expectation that, whether directly or indirectly, the person or an associate stands to gain a benefit or suffer a loss, including a benefit or loss as a director of a significant business entity under chapter 8, part 7 that is, or is to become, an LGOC, depending on the issue's outcome.*

*(3) However, a person does not have a material personal interest in an issue—*

*(b) if the interest is merely—*

*(i) as an elector, ratepayer or resident of the local government's area; or*

- 21 Councillors can face severe penalties for failure to disclose material personal interests and liability should not depend on purely subjective judgements as to a benefit or loss; it should be objectively verifiable. The interpretation of subsection (1) is that the "benefit" or "loss" must be money or money's worth or at least something that can be measured or estimated in money. It must be something more than the promotion of a matter in which the councillor believes or which he supports. There is no evidence that approval or non-approval was going to have any effect on the value of Cr Young's property (even if he had expressed a personal view that his property would lose amenity if the application was granted).

- 22 Considering subsection (3)(b)(i) above, Cr Young was one of a significant group of ratepayers that would be affected by Council's decision on the application for MCU. It is a question of the degree to which councillors will be affected by decisions in such instances. However, it is arguable that this subsection specifically excluded Cr Young's interest from being a material personal interest.

- 23 The overwhelming argument is that Cr Young did not have a material personal interest.

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- 24 There is also the matter of Cr Young voting whilst having a personal interest in a matter. The Act (s229) also places requirements on Councillors where there is a conflict between their private interests (non-material personal interests) and the public interest that they are to serve, that is Councillors shall give preference to the public interest. In addition, the Code requires that a Councillor with actual or possible conflict of interests disclose their interest to the Council or Committee meeting prior to the matter being considered. The Councillor may then, at his or her sole discretion, debate and vote on the matter at hand whilst giving preference to the public interest.
- 25 An interest was declared at the City Planning Committee Meeting (335) and recorded in the minutes of that meeting, which were tabled at the Council Meeting (335). Therefore, Cr Young's personal interest was transparent to the Council when the recommendations of City Planning Committee Meeting (335) were adopted (G04.1008.006).
- 26 Moreover, it is noted that at the Council meeting there was no debate but a division was called and all Councillors voted to adopt the recommendations of the Committee. Presumably, had Cr Young not voted the same outcome would have resulted. Therefore Cr Young has arguably voted in the public interest and against his personal interests that were originally expressed.

#### CONCLUSION

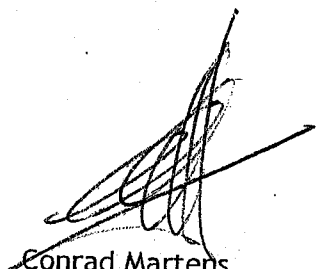
- 27 In his memorandum of 22/10/04 to the CEO, Cr Shepherd stated, "I have concerns that [Cr Young failing to declare a Material Personal Interest at the Council Meeting] may place Council in a position of exposure and ask you to investigate the ramifications of this action". My view is that there is no basis for the concerns that Council was or is exposed.
- 28 Also, on 15/10/05 Cr Shepherd again raised the issue with the Acting CEO seeking an investigation of "official misconduct". The evidence does not support a suspicion of official misconduct.
- 29 Cr Shepherd also asked whether it was "appropriate for [him] to raise this matter during the [Public Inquiry]". The responsibility falls upon the CEO to refer suspicions of official misconduct to the Crime and Misconduct Commission. The evidence does not raise a suspicion of a breach of the Local Government Act or official misconduct warranting referral to the CMC. Having said that, Cr Shepherd may raise his personal concerns with the CMC.

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that you advise Cr Shepherd:

1. There is no evidence from the files that would indicate Cr Young had a material personal interest; and
2. Cr Shepherd may raise any personal concerns with the Crime and Misconduct Commission.

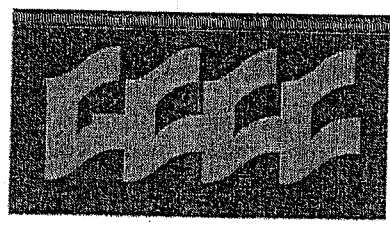


Conrad Martens  
FRAUD PREVENTION & SECURITY ADVISOR  
(5582 8816)

Enc:

- A) Excerpt (4 pages) Minutes of the City Planning Committee Meeting (335) 5 October 2004.
- B) Excerpt (4 pages) Minutes of the Council Meeting (335) 8 October 2004.
- C) Excerpt (3 pages) Minutes of the Council Meeting (336) 18 October 2004.
- D) Memorandum Cr Shepherd to Chief Executive Officer 22 October 2004.
- E) Memorandum Cr Shepherd to Chief Executive Officer 15 September 2005.
- F) Gold Coast Bulletin 14/9/05 article "Councillor accused of breach".

335



Gold Coast City Council

**MINUTES**

*of the*

**CITY PLANNING  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

*held on*

Tuesday 5 October 2004

*at*

9.00 am

Room 5

Nerang Community Bicentennial Centre  
Nerang Southport Road, Nerang

**OUR VISION**

Naturally, the world's best place to be . . . because we will create a city that is recognised internationally for the quality, diversity and sustainability of its lifestyle, economy and environment. The Gold Coast's future will be secure as Australia's most desirable place to live and favourite place to visit.

**OUR MISSION**

To benefit our local community by sustainably managing the City's resources and opportunities, and by delivering high-quality, affordable services, in partnership with the community, State and Federal Governments, educational institutions and the private sector.



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**ATTENDANCE**

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Cr E L Shepherd            Chairperson  
Cr R W Hackwood            (absent from meeting 10:25am to 10:44am)  
Cr D L Power  
Cr G Pforr  
Cr P J Young                (absent from meeting 10:35am to 10:44am)

Cr D M Crichlow  
Cr S Douglas  
Cr E Sarroff  
Cr G Betts  
Cr S Robbins

Mr W Rowe                Director Planning Environment & Transport  
Mr M Hulse                Manager Implementation & Assessment  
Mr J Webb                Coordinator Development Assessment & Compliance  
Mr C Netherway            Coordinator Subdivision & Environmental Assessment  
Mr G Richardson        Acting Supervising Planner - Development Assessment (North)  
Mr D Kling                Acting Supervising Planner - Development Assessment (South)  
Ms R Callianiotis        Supervising Planner - Subdivisions

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**APOLOGIES**

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moved Cr Power            seconded Cr Pforr

Cr R W Clarke            Mayor  
Cr R Molhoek  
Cr R La Castra  
Cr J E Grew  
Cr D I McDonald

**ITEM 11** **IMPLEMENTATION & ASSESSMENT**  
**WITHOUT PREJUDICE OFFER - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COURT APPEAL NO.**  
**63 OF 1999 - BIRD & SONS PTY LTD - LOTS 1 & 2 RP 218104 - 196 & 292**  
**MAUDSLAND ROAD MAUDSLAND - DIVISION 2 - FILE PN155302/01/DA2(P5)**  
Refer 10 page attachment

Councillor Young declared an interest and left the room during discussion and voting on this item.

**BASIS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY**

- A I recommend that this report be considered in Closed Session pursuant to Section 463(1)(a) to (h) of the Local Government Act for the reason that the matter involves starting or defending legal proceedings involving Council.
- B I recommend that the report/attachment be deemed a confidential document pursuant to Sections 250 (2) and 1143 (4) of the Local Government Act and remain so unless Council decides otherwise by resolution.

**BRIEF SUMMARY**

This "Without Prejudice Submission" before Council seeks to resolve Planning & Environment Court Appeal No. 63 of 1999 which was lodged against Council's decision to refuse a development application seeking Preliminary Approval for a Material Change of Use to permit Residential, Park Residential, Rural and Open Space land uses as designated in the submitted Concept Plan Drawing and Table of Development.

In the assessment of the original proposal it was concluded by Council Officer's that "*in light of the sites geographic location, proximity to infrastructure services and the existing commercial node, physical suitability of the site, protection of the limited environmental qualities of the site and issues pertaining to the Draft Structure Plan it is considered that the proposal does have merit and represents an orderly approach to the planning of the area.*"

Notwithstanding the Officer's recommendation of approval, Council at its meeting on 18 December 1998 (Minute No. C98.1217.029) resolved to refuse the application on the following grounds:

1. It is contrary to the Strategic Plan;
2. There is no identified need for the development;
3. It will have an adverse impact on the amenity of the area; and
4. The Kopps Road Structure Plan has not yet been completed.

Following an assessment of the appellants "Without Prejudice Submission", Council Officer's are satisfied that the grounds of refusal have been adequately addressed and notwithstanding the conflict with the Strategic Plan sufficient planning grounds exist to justify approving the application despite the conflict.

It is therefore recommended that Council accept the appellants "Without Prejudice Submission" and advise Solicitors acting on its behalf of its decision with regard to the conduct of this Appeal.

**ITEM 11 Continued**  
**WITHOUT PREJUDICE OFFER - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COURT APPEAL NO. 63 OF 1999 - BIRD & SONS PTY LTD - LOTS 1 & 2 RP 218104 - 196 & 292 MAUDSLAND ROAD MAUDSLAND - DIVISION 2 - FILE PN155302/01/DA2(P5)**

Changed Recommendation

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION CP04.1005.011  
moved Cr Crichlow seconded Cr Power

That on a "Without Prejudice Basis" in respect to the following property:

Real Property Description	Lots 1 & 2 RP 218104
Address of Property	196 & 292 Maudsland Road, Maudsland
Area of Property	45.95 ha
Proposed use	Residential, Park Residential, Rural and Open Space land uses in accordance with submitted Concept Plan and Table of Development

- A That the current report on this item be moved into Open Session and that Attachments 11.11 to 11.71 be deemed confidential pages pursuant to Sections 250 (2) and 1143 (4) of the Local Government Act and remain so unless Council decides otherwise by resolution.
- B That Council instruct its solicitors to seek to settle Planning & Environment Court Appeal No. 63 of 1999 by way of a consent order, granting Preliminary Approval for Material Change of Use for Residential, Park Residential Rural and Open Space land uses in accordance with submitted Concept Plan and Table of Development subject to the following conditions:

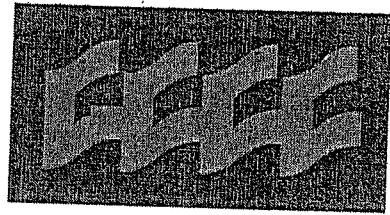
**DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS**

- 1 The development shall be carried out generally in accordance with the approved Plan of Development No. 7635-PSP-2a(Sheet 2), dated 15 September 2004 and associated table of development.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 2 The applicant shall make payment of contributions towards water supply headworks or sewerage headworks, water supply works external or sewerage works external and water supply works internal or sewerage works internal to be assessed on the basis of approved building plans or approved subdivision plans relevant to the proposed development. The contributions are due for payment prior to the issue of a Certificate of Classification or Building Final for any Building Works or the date of sealing of registrable plans of subdivision and will be calculated in accordance with the rates in force at the due date for payment.

335



Gold Coast City Council

**MINUTES**

*of the*

**COUNCIL  
MEETING**

*held*

Friday 8 October 2004

*at*

9.00 am

Gold Coast City Council Chambers  
135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise

**OUR VISION**

Naturally, the world's best place to be . . . because we will create a city that is recognised internationally for the quality, diversity and sustainability of its lifestyle, economy and environment. The Gold Coast's future will be secure as Australia's most desirable place to live and favourite place to visit.

**OUR MISSION**

To benefit our local community by sustainably managing the City's resources and opportunities, and by delivering high-quality, affordable services, in partnership with the community, State and Federal Governments, educational institutions and the private sector.

Minutes of the Three Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Gold Coast held at the Surfers Paradise Administration Centre, 135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise, on Friday 8 October 2004, at 9.00 am.

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1 ATTENDANCE

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- Cr R W Clarke Mayor
- Cr R W Hackwood
- Cr D L Power
- Cr G Pforr (arrived 9.10am)
- Cr R Molhoek
- Cr P J Young
- Cr D M Crichlow
- Cr S K Douglas
- Cr R La Castra
- Cr E L Shepherd
- Cr E Sarroff
- Cr J E Grew
- Cr G Betts
- Cr D I McDonald
- Cr S Robbins

- Mr D Dickson Chief Executive Officer
- Mr J McCabe Director City Governance
- Mr W Rowe Director Planning Environment & Transport
- Mr M Hulse Manager Implementation & Assessment

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1.1 APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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Nil

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2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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RESOLUTION G04.1008.001 moved Cr Hackwood seconded Cr Pforr

That the Minutes of the Three Hundred and Thirty-Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the City of Gold Coast held on Friday 17 September 2004 at 10.00 am be confirmed.

CARRIED

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4 RECEPTION & CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

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4.1 CITY PLANNING

Cr Shepherd, Chairperson of the City Planning Committee, presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Planning Committee held on Tuesday, 5 October 2004.

RESOLUTION G04.1008.003 moved Cr Shepherd seconded Cr Douglas

That the Report of the City Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 5 October 2004, covered by Recommendations CP04.1005.001 to CP04.1005.012 be received.

CARRIED

ITEM 4

MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE (IMPACT ASSESSMENT) FOR A DUPLEX - PETER NIOTAKIS C/- MICHEL GROUP SERVICES PTY LTD - LOT 47 ON RP 91210 - 5 SANDOWN AVENUE, BUNDALL - DIVISION 7 - FILE PN51094/01/DA1(P1)

RESOLUTION G04.1008.004 moved Cr Douglas seconded Cr Crichlow

That Committee Recommendation CP04.1005.004 be adopted with an amendment to Condition A 2 under the heading of "Infrastructure Charges" such that reference to "RDPU03" be replaced with the words "Park Division 7".

CARRIED

ITEM 5

MATERIAL CHANGE OF USE (IMPACT ASSESSMENT) FOR AN EIGHT STOREY, 20 UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING - FOR QUADRANT PTY LTD C/- HUMPHREYS REYNOLDS PERKINS - LOTS 560-562 ON RP94914 AT 1 & 3 STANHILL DRIVE AND 6 TARCOOLA CRESCENT, SURFERS PARADISE - DIVISION 7 - FILE PN46393/01/DA1

RESOLUTION G04.1008.005 moved Cr Douglas seconded Cr Crichlow

That Committee Recommendation CP04.1005.005 be adopted with an amendment to Condition A 4 such that reference to "RDPU03" be replaced with the words "Park Division 7".

CARRIED

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4 RECEPTION & CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

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4.1 CITY PLANNING (Continued).

ADOPTION OF CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

RESOLUTION G04.1008.006 moved Cr Shepherd seconded Cr Pforr

That the Report of the City Planning Committee's Recommendations of Tuesday, 5 October 2004, numbered CP04.1005.001 to CP04.1005.012 be adopted with the exception of Recommendation Numbers CP04.1005.004 and CP04.1005.005 which were specifically resolved.

A Division was called

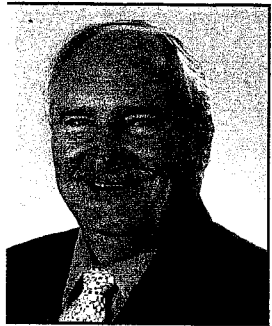
For	15	Cr Hackwood, Cr Power, Cr Pforr, Cr Molhoek, Cr Young, Cr Crichlow, Cr Douglas, Cr La Castra, Cr Shepherd, Cr Sarroff, Cr Grew, Cr Betts, Cr McDonald, Cr Robbins, Cr Clarke.
Against	0	

CARRIED

171-28-3057

# 57665

# CITY OF GOLD COAST



**Councillor  
Ted Shepherd**  
Chair: City Planning



Gold Coast City Council

**Representing Division 9**

- Advancetown
- Australville
- Bonogin
- Gilston
- Highland Park
- Lower Beechmont
- Mudgeeraba
- Natural Bridge
- Numinbah Valley
- Reedy Creek
- Springbrook
- Tallai
- Worongary

20 September 2005

CRIME AND MISCONDUCT  
RECEIVED  
28 SEP 2005  
COMMISSION

Mr Robert Needham  
Chairperson  
Crime and Misconduct Commission  
GPO Box 3123  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

**CMC CLASSIFICATION**

( ) Highly Protected  
 ( ) Protected  
 ( ) In-Confidence  
 ( ) Unclassified

Initials:.....  
 Date:...../...../.....  
 Reg No: 0105/16015

Dear Mr Needham,

I refer to the attached documents that I consider to be an instance of official misconduct on the part of Councillor Peter Young in voting on an item before Council's City Planning Committee and subsequent ratification by full Council on 8 October 2004.

On this occasion Councillor Young declared a Material Personal Interest and removed himself from the City Planning Committee during discussions on Item 11, CP04.1005.011. However during formal adoption of the Committee reports in full Council Councillor Young failed to declare the interest and continued to vote on this matter.

It is my understanding that the grounds for the declaration of interest were that Councillor Young was involved in an Appeal before the Planning & Environment Court and as such had a considerable involvement in this particular item.

As you can see from my memo of 22 October 2004 I had referred this matter to Council's Chief Executive Officer under the presumption that this matter would be referred to the Crime & Misconduct Commission for investigation and in light of the current enquiry into misconduct within the Gold Coast City Council I believe it is appropriate for me now to draw this matter to your attention.

Sincere regards

**COUNCILLOR TED SHEPHERD  
DIVISION 9**

*2  
appear matter  
was not referred  
to CMC by CEO*

Gold Coast City Council  
 PO Box 5042  
 Gold Coast MC QLD 9729  
 AUSTRALIA

Ph: (07) 5582 8876  
 Fax: (07) 5582 180 009  
 (07) 5596 6010  
 ted.shepherd@goldcoast.qld.gov.au



Copy

**COUNCILLOR TED SHEPHERD  
DIVISION 9**

**MEMO TO: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**FROM: COUNCILLOR TED SHEPHERD**  
**COPY: DAVID MONTGOMERY  
CITY SOLICITOR**  
**DATE: 22 OCTOBER 2004**

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Following the Council Meeting of 8 October 2004 it has come to my attention that Councillor Peter Young has failed to declare a Material Personal Interest and voted to resolve an Item from Council's City Planning Committee report.

During the Planning Meeting of 5 October 2003 Councillor Young declared an interest in Item 11 that dealt with a Planning and Environment Appeal over a subdivision application at 196 & 292 Maudsland Road, Maudsland.

The reason for his declaration was that he was personally involved in the Appeal process.

However at the Council Meeting on 8 October he failed to declare this interest and in fact voted to adopt the recommendation of the Committee as was recorded in a division vote against Resolution G04.1008.006.

I have concerns that this may place Council in a position of exposure and ask you to investigate the ramifications of this action.

Regards



**Ted Shepherd  
Councillor Division 9**

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4 RECEPTION & CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

---

4.1 CITY PLANNING (Continued)

ADOPTION OF CITY PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

RESOLUTION G04.1008.006 moved Cr Shepherd seconded Cr Pforr

That the Report of the City Planning Committee's Recommendations of Tuesday, 5 October 2004, numbered CP04.1005.001 to CP04.1005.012 be adopted with the exception of Recommendation Numbers CP04.1005.004 and CP04.1005.005 which were specifically resolved.

A Division was called

For	15	Cr Hackwood, Cr Power, Cr Pforr, Cr Molhoek, Cr Young, Cr Crichlow, Cr Douglas, Cr La Castra, Cr Shepherd, Cr Sarroff, Cr Grew, Cr Betts, Cr McDonald, Cr Robbins, Cr Clarke.
Against	0	

CARRIED

**ITEM 11 IMPLEMENTATION & ASSESSMENT  
WITHOUT PREJUDICE OFFER - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COURT APPEAL NO.  
63 OF 1999 - BIRD & SONS PTY LTD - LOTS 1 & 2 RP 218104 - 196 & 292  
MAUDSLAND ROAD MAUDSLAND - DIVISION 2 - FILE PN155302/01/DA2(P5)**

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Councillor Young declared an interest and left the room during discussion and voting on this item.

**BASIS FOR CONFIDENTIALITY**

- A I recommend that this report be considered in Closed Session pursuant to Section 463(1)(a) to (h) of the Local Government Act for the reason that the matter involves starting or defending legal proceedings involving Council.
- B I recommend that the report/attachment be deemed a confidential document pursuant to Sections 250 (2) and 1143 (4) of the Local Government Act and remain so unless Council decides otherwise by resolution.

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In the assessment of the original proposal it was concluded by Council Officer's that *"in light of the sites geographic location, proximity to infrastructure services and the existing commercial node, physical suitability of the site, protection of the limited environmental qualities of the site and issues pertaining to the Draft Structure Plan it is considered that the proposal does have merit and represents an orderly approach to the planning of the area."*

Notwithstanding the Officer's recommendation of approval, Council at its meeting on 18 December 1998 (Minute No. C98.1217.029) resolved to refuse the application on the following grounds:

1. It is contrary to the Strategic Plan;
2. There is no identified need for the development;
3. It will have an adverse impact on the amenity of the area; and
4. The Kopps Road Structure Plan has not yet been completed.

Following an assessment of the appellants "Without Prejudice Submission", Council Officer's are satisfied that the grounds of refusal have been adequately addressed and notwithstanding the conflict with the Strategic Plan sufficient planning grounds exist to justify approving the application despite the conflict.

It is therefore recommended that Council accept the appellants "Without Prejudice Submission" and advise Solicitors acting on its behalf of its decision with regard to the conduct of this Appeal.

## **Part 3**

### **Declaring a material personal interest**

## Part 3

### Identifying a material personal interest

#### Section 244

The steps to be undertaken by a councillor who has identified a material personal interest in an issue under consideration at a meeting by the local government or any of its committees are set out in the Act.

The councillor must:

- disclose to the meeting there is a material personal interest; and
- not participate in any discussion or decision-making in respect of the issue at the meeting; and
- not be present at the meeting (including any area in the chamber set apart for the public) at which the issue is being discussed; and
- not re-enter the Council chamber and public areas until advised the matter is no longer under consideration.

It is important to note that where a councillor has identified and declared a material personal interest in a matter before a committee meeting, the councillor must also declare the interest and vacate an ordinary meeting of Council if the matter is further discussed or submitted for final approval of the full Council.

**Failure to observe the meeting exclusion requirements could result in a fine of up to \$15,000 (200 penalty units) and/or disqualification from holding office as a councillor for four years from conviction of an offence under the Act (offences and penalties are listed in Part 6 of the handbook).**

### Relief from a disability

#### Section 245

Sometimes a situation arises where a number of councillors have a material personal interest in a matter before council.

Where this occurs, the meeting may not have a quorum of councillors to decide the issue at hand and therefore is unable to make a decision on the matter.

In these cases, the Act allows for the Minister of Local Government to relieve councillors of their disability which enables them to participate in the debate and vote on the issue.

For this to occur, the Council must write to the Minister advising of the situation and seeking relief from the disability it faces. By way of signed notice, the Minister can relieve the councillor or councillors of any disability resulting from the operation of section 244.

In making a determination, the Minister must be satisfied that:

- failure to grant the relief would obstruct the conduct of Council business; or
- in the view of the Minister, the interests of the local government's area would be served by granting the relief.

The Minister may give relief subject to conditions which would be specified in the notice.

- refer the matter to the Queensland Police Service;
- conduct an investigation itself; or
- investigate in conjunction with another agency.

## What is 'official misconduct'?

Official misconduct is any conduct relating to the performance of an officer's duties (including elected members) that:

- is dishonest or lacks impartiality; or
- involves a breach of trust; or
- is a misuse of officially obtained information.

The conduct must be a criminal offence or serious enough to justify dismissal. Examples are:

- accepting money or other benefits in exchange for helping someone to:
  - avoid prosecution;
  - win a contract;
  - gain Government approval;
  - knowingly making a false expenses claim;
- stealing an employer's property or cash; or
- failure by an elected member to disclose a material personal interest and step out of a Council meeting where required.

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The act may be official misconduct even if:

- the person is no longer a public official;
- the person was not at the time but is now a public official;
- the activity occurred outside of Queensland; or
- the person did not receive money or a personal benefit.

Trying to influence a public official to act improperly is also classed as official misconduct.

## What happens following a CMC investigation?

This depends on the seriousness of the matter and the evidence that emerges from the investigation. Unsubstantiated complaints are, of course, dismissed.

If sufficient evidence of a criminal offence is found, the CMC may furnish a report of the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions or another agency to consider prosecution. If it is considered that there is evidence of misconduct, the matter may be referred to the agency concerned to consider disciplinary action.