

Mr President, Friends of Burleigh
Candidates, Ladies and Gentlemen
(PAUSE – SMILE)

OP GRAND
EXHIBIT No 78
CLERK

Let me introduce myself. I am 38 years old, married with 2 young boys, live in Division 12 and am a member of Friends of Burleigh. I am a Supervisor with Qantas Airways at Coolangatta Airport. I stand as a TRUE INDEPENDENT, I am not a servant to any special interest group - but will support them if I consider them to be right.

(PAUSE)

Ladies and Gentlemen: Why is Greg Betts standing for Council?

I am a Candidate because of a longstanding interest in local government and strong desire to serve the people. Local government is where it happens, the nuts and bolts arena where decisions are made that affect all of us in our daily lives.

I am the candidate to undertake *change for the better* and be part of responsible decision making.

Lets not fool ourselves Ladies & gentlemen – this council have played CATCH UP – making decisions, often poor, after the event. I am sure you will know exactly what I am talking about.

(PAUSE)

Council needs a blood transfusion – new blood with responsible ideas and initiatives – people who will plan and act now for the betterment of all its citizens in this fast growing region.

(PAUSE)

Ladies and Gentlemen: you know the issues that face this city. I hear them over and over again as I continue my door knocking campaign throughout the Division. We are talking about Catch UP issues –

WATER SUPPLY, TRAFFIC CONGESTION, DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING, NEIGHBOURHOOD SECURITY COMMUNICATION and RATES.

Let me clearly explain my stance on these issues: -

Water Supply on the Gold Coast has reached a critical stage. With the City growing at its current pace, Hinze Dam will not be able to cope with future demand - even if it fills from summer storm weather.

It was originally planned to develop through three stages. I believe that the plan should be seen through to finality.

I also want Council look at alternative water sources such as rain water tanks and recycled water, and a future vision that includes affordable desalination.

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Transportation and Road Congestion.
This is a big topic of discussion around the City at present.

As the Gold Coast grows at unprecedented levels, commuters are feeling the squeeze on a daily basis. Our road system is reaching a critical point and now is the time to plan for the growth of the future.

We need to deliver innovations to keep the Gold Coast moving over the next decade.

I'm talking about a better road system, which incorporates overpasses at important intersections, better planning of red light sensors, and increased capacity for turning lanes –

This, along with a flexible, high quality public transport system - designed in conjunction with improvements in walking and cycle paths, will provide the results required.

I believe that dedicated Bus Ways greatly improve the service provided by public transport.

The bus system needs to be rejuvenated using interchanges, that form a web network right across the city.

This will mean faster, more frequent and efficient services.

Other options that can work together with these ideas are :

Ferries along the Nerang River - and the encouragement of Decentralised Employment Zones.

Ladies and Gentlemen : We need transport solutions now!

Development and Planning This needs to be carefully considered in the future.

New estates are being approved by Council where there is high density living and yet the roads are getting narrower!

This does not make sense. Issues such as an appropriate amount of off-street parking for all developments are what I will be fighting for.

I feel passionate about this issue and I believe that through "thoughtful progress", we can manage the growth of our City in a responsible way.

My platform includes raising the level of the Council car park on the corner of Park Ave and Connor St

– and a push for a Council Green Levy buy back of the scar on the hill at Fleay Court.

Neighbourhood Security.

The level of crime and vandalism in our City is unacceptable.

Residents need to feel that their property is secure and that it is safe to walk the streets. I want to see a higher level of neighbourhood awareness encouraged and community support strengthened.

I am in favour of more Neighbourhood Watch areas within our Division.

Graffiti is on the increase. I want Council to encourage and support businesses in prompt graffiti removal.

They have talked about getting tough on graffiti but we need to see more action, we need to see it cleaned up immediately after the offence.

Communication from the Council is extremely important. Residents need to know what is going on in their area.

Because of our busy lives, most of us don't have the time, or inclination to visit the Council - and various sub-committee meetings.

I will be a Councillor for the people.

I plan to be visible in the community through weekly public feedback sessions at places such as shopping centres and Council libraries.

I want to bring issues back to the residents, to find out what they want, so I can represent them appropriately.

On the issue of rates – I will push for a review of the rating system to ensure that it is managed in a manner that is fair to residents in all types of housing and in all areas.

We all use the City's infrastructure and I think the fairest way to charge is by basing our rating system on levies for services used.

Finally Ladies and Gentlemen, let me say that I want to be part of a better, more harmonious and dynamic council. When you read the paper on council matters may reports be for the right reasons – positive news about acting NOW for the future.

BETTS is best for Burleigh,

Betts is best for Division 12

and Betts is best for a better council.

Vote 1 Greg Betts and I will deliver.

