We The People
Program 54
Waste and Denial

The Queensland Newman government has discovered a house of financial horrors within the IT section of State government. Slowly but surely the utter incompetence of the Beattie and Bligh governments is emerging and its ugly, very ugly. Queensland is riddled with debt and a hopelessly inefficient bureaucracy out of control with a digital disaster approaching. This is no longer acceptable or affordable and every Queenslander should be angry. You may well criticize the Premier Campbell Newman, for being in a hurry to stop the protracted labor spending spree and maybe his actions are clumsy but he has to cut costs and fast……really fast, else this State is declared bankrupt and we are very close to that listeners. Mean while the new mayor of Brisbane unbelievably has approved the purchase of the same software that has brought Queensland Health, Gold Coast Council, Queensland Tafe and others into a waste spiral. Where is Campbell Newman on that score and surely someone needs to take a really close look at all this.

The latest revelation in State IT issues is a sizeable one with nearly 1000 IT systems found to be out of date, not supported and in some cases completely unworkable. The cost of fixing all this is as high as $6 billion dollars which is madness. An interim audit report details a $40,000-an-hour saving after 384 IT contractors were axed, some of whom were earning up to $1600 a day despite working within the public service for several years. Let me repeat, that's $40,000 an hour saving. Australia seems to be swamped by government waste and butt covering because even after the problems are addressed no one is held accountable........no one. What kind of dodgy operation is that and who on earth is running the ship. Unbelievably Unions are up in arms about job cuts and cost control and yet these people don't seem to understand it's all become utterly unaffordable. Once the pride of the north, Queensland is now a basket case and its paradise lost in my view.

The IT issues alone are of such enormous proportions as to dwarf the Queensland Health computer shambles and that's set to breach 1000 million or a billion dollars. However and here's the rub. We have a new mayor who is presiding over a festering IT scandal on the Gold Coast and seems unable, incapable or unwilling to professionally address the issue. Confidential Wiki leak style Council papers I have access to clearly show the cost of the council computer software will breach $200 million dollars which is a figure repeatedly denied by officials and councillors. However the reality is that its most likely to be double that reaching 400 million eventually. Last week the mayor said on air on 4CRB that he would not meet with the people who have uncovered the IT issue locally and view their hard evidence. He refused, live on air. So one may well assume the Mayor may be in breach of his fiduciary responsibility in not thoroughly considering the solid evidence freely available from an expert in the IT field. I get the distinct impression we are dealing with a very large ego and a cruise liner called the Titanic.

Where are the voices of the new Councillors so recently elected because clearly courage has gone missing in action and why do the older councillors sit on their hands and do nothing except approve more park benches and public toilet blocks. Folks you have to assume they are intimidated or lack the back bone and intellectual horsepower to stand up and be counted. Could it be that the Council CEO has all the power and is practically unaccountable. This IT issue in Council is not going away and the Mayor would be well advised to deal with it now else his digital dingy descends into the deep along with his culpable councillor crew playing abide with me on the quarter deck. Anyone for the brig?

Until next time this is Kent Bayley