

### Gympie Regional Council Meeting – 23 January 2023

We attended the GRC meeting 25 January 2023. What a great turnout, approx 25 people from the group attended the first GRC Ordinary meeting and apply pressure to councillors that we are now watching them.

Some take outs from the meeting were;

- (1) A motion to accept the Independent Assessor's Report (IAR) for disciplinary action against a councillor was postponed due to Cr Freedman requesting clarity on any disciplinary process against councillors who vote against the recommendations of the report be made available. (This report gave clear indication to us that there is an absolute level of over governance from the State body investigating councillor's). Interesting point was how the councillors felt pressured.
- (2) Flood damage projects funding to be made available on case-by-case submissions only. There would be no requirement to go out to tender as there are 5 preferred tenders already. None of which are local. It was noted that Cr Freedman made comment that the public may never understand this process due to the intricacies of government!!
- (3) Qrtly Investment Plan – Income streams have given additional cash funds NOTE: No discussion was held on lowering debt or identifying the debt % Rate v % Interest rate??
- (4) QRA (Qld Reconstruction Authority) is buying flood affected homes. There have been more than 180 offers presented to homeowners, with 131 offers accepted across Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Sunshine Coast, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Moreton Bay and Lockyer Valley. At no cost to GRC!!
- (5) One of the discussions involved a motion by the Mayor for agreeance of GRC to pay a membership to the Mayors of SEQ Pty Ltd, The discussion was that it is in the best interests of the GRC to align themselves with the southeast corner as most of the business is in that direction and particularly with the 2032 Olympics coming up, the \$20,000 joining fee will be seen in the benefits. The questions is, did any councillor ask their constituents regarding this payment and justify why the \$20,000 is being paid to a corporation i.e. Mayors of SEQ Pty Ltd, as identified in the motion!!
- (6) Gympie Times approached the group asking what the purpose so many people turned up as it was the largest attendance at council meetings for three years. We advised him that we were concerned residents and ratepayers who wanted to see what council was doing and to take the opportunity while we were there to raise our concerns about 5G towers that council issues permits for without notifying the public of the risk assessments issued or control measures that the public should be made aware of. We have started. We did not mention who we are intentionally as we need to build or exposure in the public to gain support before we move too quickly. You can look up the article on the Gympie Times online article if your have a subscription.

Lyn: asked if you could take recording devices into the meeting.

Craig: There weren't any visible signs saying you couldn't.

Korrinne: Advised she will find out for our next attendance.

Craig: We need now to take action on our first foray into the corporation council and write letters that will need to be answered at the next ordinary meeting on 22 February 2023 at 9:00 am. We need to put them on notice that they are now being watched and we will be holding them to account. Cr Devereaux stated in the meeting how pleased he was there is now a new agenda item to answer any correspondence from the public at the meetings. We will kindly take up the offer.

Craig: I have attached the link to all the councillors and mayor with their email address so we can forward them our concerns and request these be tabled at the next ordinary meeting.

<https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/council/about-council/councillors>