



- **9 Public Participation**
Attachment 1 Public Participation speech by Mr Gary Duffy 3

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Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity which has been given by the council to the residents of Ipswich to address the council. It's a unique opportunity that I think it is pretty unique throughout Queensland.

Many people complain about councils, and I am no exception, but it is a part of my position as a committee member of the QLGRA, that we represent members of the community who have Local Government Issues.

I travel all over the state and meet with and assist people with concerns regarding their council.

What I can say, after spending the last almost 2 years being involved in the Planning and Environment court, side by side with the Ipswich City Council, this new Ipswich Council has done and is doing the very best for Intergenerational Equity and also in regards to the Precautionary Principal, and this is showing in their stance for the rights of the citizens and in their policy framework. For this I give this Council an A+.

Intergenerational Equity is, that as a generation, we do not leave a burden on the future generations, and that we ensure that future generations are not disadvantaged by the actions we as a community in a Local Government area or any area take.

Precautionary Principal.

At the opening of each secession of any Australian Government they say:

"I declare open this day's hearings and acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet—and elders past, present and emerging—whose lands, winds and waters we now share."

"Whose lands, winds and waters we now share." Is the most important foundation of the Precautionary Principal, because not only do we share them in our lifetime, we have to share them with all future generations and unless we protect them, then the lands, winds and waters will not be fit for habitat.

The precautionary principle, is a guideline in environmental decision making, which has four (4) central components taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty;

- (1) shifting the burden of proof to the proponents of an activity;
- (2) exploring a wide range of alternatives to possibly harmful actions; and
- (3) increasing public participation in decision making.

The new Ipswich Council is showing the way for many councils and that is that they will protect the lands, winds and waters in this area, and the community has given it its full support when it comes to ensuring the quality of the life of its residents and the environment are protected.

I would like to thank the Council for standing up for the rights of the community, for the rights of future generations and the shared equity we all have with the elders', past, present and emerging.

The Past:

Many in Ipswich do not know that at New Chum, and in other Ipswich sites, there was the discovery of the world's oldest known dinosaur foot prints in coal mines. Consequently, footprints from the Ipswich Coal Measures may constitute the entire fossil record of Triassic dinosaurs in Australia, according to Tony THUL-BORN, Department of Zoology, University of Queensland in a paper published in 1996. The Queensland Government along with the previous councils turned these sites into toxic garbage dumps.

The Present:

In The Planning and Environment Court we saw the Queensland Government, represented by the Chief Executive, siding with the Dump companies. In other words, not only was the Council fighting against the Toxic Dump companies, we the residents of Ipswich were fighting the State Government.

Ipswich sits on an area known as the Clarence Moreton Basin, on which The Clarence-Moreton bioregion sits. This spans an area of about 24,000 square kilometres from the Lockyer Valley down to Grafton in NSW. This basin provides all the ground water and drinking water for more than a million people, some of the major food growing areas of Australia who supply all our local supermarkets.

So it's clear that the policy this Council is making are inline with the Australian Government Environment guidelines, but is also taking into consideration what happens outside the boundaries of the Ipswich LGA.

The Future:

In the future, gone are the days when we only thought of ourselves. We have to consider the impact of our decisions on those in the areas where we cannot pollute air we breathe, the soil we grow our plants in, and we must consider our intergenerational equity.

The Queensland Government has at last appointed a Rehabilitation Commissioner, that has taken nearly twelve (12) months, Mr James Purtill. Mr Purtill was previously appointed as the Director General of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines in July 2015, Director General Natural Resources, Mines and Energy in 2017, and prior to his appointment James was Director General of Department Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, a position he held since 2013. He has significant private and public sector experience, a scientist, a business administrator, a professional and he brings more than 30 years of experience to this role. In his new role he is to ensure that all Queensland mine sites have a progressive rehabilitation plan and that they comply with all the regulations relating to their permits.

Giant toxic sewerage pits holding millions of litres of toxic water which will without doubt end up in the Clarence Moreton Basin system, effecting every community existing within that basin for eternity, especially in Ipswich where every site is located below the ground water table which is prohibited in other states, will no doubt be a thing of the past.

The new Ipswich Council has to be congratulated for its policies and I really do sincerely congratulate you. This council has stood up for conflicting pressures from those who seek to restrain economic growth and environment protection for the sake of profits and power. Public participation and decision making has been shunned by previous governments and councils, but this new council has given the public open transparent options to participate as with me being able to present here today, and just a few weeks ago with the public presentation to the committee regarding another application before council.

While maintaining their objectivity and focus on understanding the world, Local Governments should be aware of the policy uses of their work and of their social responsibility to adhere to the Precautionary Principals protecting human health and the environment when announcing and creating policies.

I and many others congratulate Mayor Harding and this Council for being brave enough to stand up for the residents, running a transparent council, one that invites engagement of the community.

I congratulate you Mayor and Councillors.