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Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2015 6:43 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: " Pittwater Council "

Having had to suffer the predation of this monster for twenty years we are uniquely positioned to inform you with regard as to why this false edifice should not be " amalgamated " but utterly destroyed. We ask that someone visit here to take our evidence which will be reinforced by the evidence that is everywhere apparent and upon which we can elaborate ad infinitum. Let us start with the facts: we live on an island which has a population of 1000 or so, but has no infrastructure, except where the rich have used legal pressure to get it, to protect their waterfront property values.

We have no stormwater drainage to any standard, no roads worthy of the name, no refuse collection, illegal vehicles by the dozen - not registered, insured etc or roadworthy and all on council property, no drinking water supply, no sewer, no lighting or other standard public facilities such as parking for boats or cars, and the list goes on.

In twenty years this council, contrary to policy has handed out DA's left and right leading to gross overdevelopment with NO public health infrastructure, contrary to declared planning policy on " environmental land " leading to land and water pollution and environmental degradation. The 100 properties not on the Wealthy Waterfront are in forest, or what is left of it due to the council having no management policy for twenty years: the dangers are obvious, a policy to kill one might say. Do not forget the most damning fact, this council was not elected, NOT elected, it was written into place by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pittwater is still the fiefdom of these people, the council spends all of the rate roll on itself, relying on grants for services etc for the people it is supposed to serve. Councils are supposed to manage roads, recreation, refuse and libraries, manage openly and honestly, as economically as possible. That does not happen here, all the money is spent on the council and its expansion and costs; the GM is paid some \$400,000 pa to manage a council for some 66,000 people, a good third of whom DO NOT LIVE HERE.

This salary alone, for a job that could be done part time by any competent real professional, costs \$7+ per head before we even start!

In twenty years the minimum rate has gone up 400%, in our case whilst this has happened, the services that we enjoyed in 1997 have been systematically removed by the council, these being the most important of all 1. Emergency water supply if required during dry years, esp for fire fighting. REMOVED 2. Free parking for those who actually work, not the rich retired or stay at home self-employed. REMOVED 3. Free boat mooring at wharves for those who actually work, not for the above or purely for leisure. REMOVED 4. Planning controls. REMOVED Items 1 and 2 have been privatized to unelected private clubs; note, this island is zoned BY THE COUNCIL as a high risk bushfire area, so no water in a drought is a death sentence for all, and I know having spent 6 years in the RFS before leaving due to the clear political takeover of the local brigade by a COUNCILLOR in order that all comment, or dissent from corrupt council policies could be controlled and extinguished. Democracy? Local representation? Fair and open conduct? Not here. Anywhere?

The plethora of planning breaches is beyond belief, for a council declared as " sustainable ".

Who allowed the land in the Warriewood valley to be changed from farming to residential, for the benefit of the landholders and the developers and the detriment of everybody else? Some of the best land around Sydney forever lost to barrack style estate development; the effects on traffic density alone are disastrous. All this in the age of " carbon reduction " and " locally based " production for local consumption.

No, this council would rather double the car parking at the Warriewood shopping centre to serve its new ghettos, a place with restricted access already, but with no useful public transport access. Its 200m to the bus stop! You cannot shop without a car - what a disgrace, and contrary to every policy currently being espoused elsewhere! Clearly a place designed by the council with the developers to serve only ONE kind of person, the rest can just get out.

If none of this is bad enough we have the 2005 loss of \$5M of our money by this council gambling on margin risk investments run by Lehman Bros, now \$7M with interest. What has been done to get it back?

Unlike others, absolutely nothing! Have heads rolled? No. Why not?

Surely such an act of negligent and wilful maladministration should have seen the council immediately put under administration, and a full investigation set in train. Why was it not? Do we smell the rotten stench of political fixing, in the seat of McKellar, next to Abbottland where the MP is the best mate of the NSW first minister and darling of the LNP? I think so.

Why has the same " family owned " business held the refuse contract here for 20 years, magically no-one else is interested? They were, once.

It cannot be proved, but when I asked the GM of Sims Metal why they had not tendered here, some 10 years ago, he replied that they had been " warned off " with very serious threats and they declined to have anything to do with the area at all on that basis.

Given that this area has one of the highest property valuation levels in Australia, the average rate revenue is very high per capita of population, and not all property owners live here. This means that the load on resources and services is not 100%, especially given the socio- economic status of most of the inhabitants. Compare and contrast this with, for instance, Western Sydney and you will start to ask , as many have been for a very long time, where does all the money go?

I suggest that you have a close look at the salaries and benefits of the burgeoning council staff, and how the rate revenue expenditure is always being spent on things that enhance the private business interests of certain sectors or individuals in the area. How the council ensure that favoured groups and individuals, the " friends of the council ", get what they want.

Councils are not business agencies or employment centres, they are not intended or supposed to be the honeypot into which anyone can dip their fingers when they want to resource their pet interest or obsession or fund their self - centred enterprises, clubs, groups or associations.

The rates are paid by individuals, we state again, to fund a reasonable standard of road infrastructure for all, to fund reasonable refuse disposal and public health protections for all and to maintain our public land areas in a reasonable and safe condition, to implement long term planning measures that are in the LONG TERM interests of all and to provide library services commensurate to the needs of the population - books, not computers advertizing, propaganda and staff!

We contest that this council has failed to do these things, as evinced by the state of affairs here on Scotland Island in particular, and that this blatant failure to address the highest and most potentially damaging issues for which the rates are supposed to be used, renders this council untenable, de facto. Why does the council spend our rates on multistorey car parks in Mona Vale (that don't work) whilst we cannot park to get access to our homes in a place gazetted and subdivided in 1928!!!!!! Are 87 years not long enough, one quarter of that time being under the control of the highly resourced, sustainable, green and very expensive, but un-elected and therefore un-constitutional, Pittwater Council?.

Why was it that, for instance this council spent \$6M of our money installing itself in MonaVale, totally unnecessarily, and at the same time ensuring that the library complex that they took over could not expand in the future? Very publicly minded? " Ruin the library, put up a council block " - as the song goes.

To conclude, an apocryphal tale or two of total council incompetence, negligence and waste. One.

Near us there is a drain, running directly into the Pittwater. The track is not sealed and so erodes into the drain, over time, until it finally blocks completely and floods the garden of the adjacent rich mans waterfront property. All this because the council failed to carry out simple maintenance. They, the rich, threaten the council with action. The council then spend some \$100,000 on an industrial scale drainage system, massive and expensive just to appease the rich.

The system was incorrectly designed and a year later blocked again in the same place. The result? We have just watched the council tear out the previous system, and install another pattern of drain at another

\$100,000 of cost, all this waste and cost because they cannot simply design and/or maintain the/any system, and this only serves some 100m of a 5km ring most of which has no real drainage after 20 years of management by those who are " fit for the future ". The track at this point was one of the few areas with any seal on it, it is now wrecked, more waste and more cost. Have heads rolled? Two

For some two years I repeatedly wrote to the Mayor and the other 8 councillors to warn about two huge trees in the road reserve just to the east of our land, one dead and fallen onto another which was mostly dead. They should have been removed years ago! Lethally dangerous threat to health and safety! Reaction?

None, the usual silence, the council and councillors don't reply to correspondence, their conduct is managed by the General Manager according to his published " rules for councillors ", of 2005. In other words, salaried puppets.

We recently returned from a trip at 12.30am and by torchlight I saw that these trees had indeed finally fallen across the road coming to rest in a tree on the other side of the road inches from the 20000v power lines. Only by divine intervention was no-one killed!

How long did it take the council to remove this hazard to life? Nine days, including cutting off the power and a very expensive crane to handle the loads involved, for nine days people and traffic continued below 100tons of trees, no road closure, no signs, no warning notices

- nothing to protect anyone and no communication to residents at all.

How much did the removal cost? In total some \$50,000+. How much would it have cost if done when I warned them - \$9000 or so, how was no-one killed - I don't know!. Would you live with this, let alone pay for it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

" Fit for the Future " - do you think so? We do not and we insist that they go, now. We do not agree with any of the options put forward by the State Govt or others and we suggest another option based on tried and tested historic merit. There is not the population to merit 3 levels of govt in this country or the real workload. FACT.

All councils should go, with all their entrenched political corruption and waste. The State Govt, in order to justify its existence, should have a new ministry for " Public Health, Utilities and Land Management " to take care of the basic infrastructure requirements as previously outlined. Roads should all be under the State roads portfolio and Libraries should be within the Education portfolio. Hey presto, the economies of scale are enormous, its simple clear and transparent as there is only one target for us to aim at! The State would have to work harder.

The glutted workforce of these parasitic councils can get jobs in the private sector, the real world, where they will find out what excellence, truth, talent, hard work, responsibility and accountability are all about with no union, job security or inflated pensions, where you are actually expected to make something that actually works, is efficient and makes a profit! God forbid, they would have to satisfy those who pay their wages, rather than as now where they satisfy themselves at the expense of those who are forced to pay them by iniquitous legislation.

We would no longer have to put up with councillors, elected by cliques and cabals interfering in and perverting our lives and taking our money to spend on themselves and their malificent empire building and political chicanery, benefitting their " mates " and their vested interests.

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