

## **Graham Staerk:**

### **A dramatic new Governance proposal for the Gold Coast**

- GCCC Council completely different to BCC in days of Jim Soorley.
- Council is politically broken not because of the politicians. Legislatively and structurally broken.
- Local Government Act dictates that the GC is structurally put together exactly the same as Biloela. Whereas the BCC is set up under its own act of parliament City of Brisbane Act. The Act means that the mayor has got almost unlimited power. (Had a civic cabinet structure). When it has proposed to the past to the GCCC it has been denigrated as secret business making but it is not it is disciplined decision maker.
- Advocate for City of the Gold Coast Act. Why 2<sup>nd</sup> largest council in Australia, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> largest city in Australia. Very large council, has all of the basis to run better and run well but as no legislative basis to operate the way it should.
- Council Administrators: This administration has far too much power. Councillors can't direct any officer to do anything they can merely suggest or go through the mayor who can make a recommendation but not a direction. Have elected Councillors that may as well not exist.
- Eddie Saroff runs a solo campaign to find savings in the last budget. In the bowels of the certain parts of the organisation they want 10% rises every year.
- Voting away more power to people that have no electoral sensitivity. Bureaucracy that is unresponsive to industry and community.
- Solutions: City of the Gold Coast Act – Mayor with more power – Must have political parties – End to the divisional structure where councillors sometimes look for allegiance with another councillor.