

MEDIA RELEASE

If Bundall is so great, why isn't Mayor Tom Tate staying there?

9 JULY 2014

Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) Mayor Tom Tate's move to the old Southport Town Hall from the main administration building at Bundall shows he is far more concerned with making sure he has his creature comforts than ensuring efficient service delivery to the local community.

The Services Union, which represents employees at GCCC has been asking Council management for several months for a comprehensive Accommodation Plan for staff who have or are due to shift into offices at Bundall.

The Bundall site is much further away from where many employees are required to do their field work for the local community.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said all requests have fallen on deaf ears.

"What is very obvious is Council management bought the Bundall building and moved staff into it without any type of plan in regard to how this would affect service delivery to the community," Mr Henderson said.

"We have no issue with the concept of centralising staff, but management have failed to consider simple things such as the lack of parking spaces for staff, the lack of close public transport for employees to get to and from work and how traffic congestion will affect employees doing their jobs with the same efficiency they did when based at Nerang. Of course it also follows that if employees have trouble getting there many residents may experience similar difficulties."

"What concerns us most is Council's band aid response to these issues. These have been to ballot employees for a parking spot or get them to park over at the Turf Club and shuttle bus it into Bundall."

"Even the Cavill Avenue Light Rail is two kilometres away and according to Premier Newman will not be connected to the Gold Coast Heavy Rail Service, ever." Mr Henderson said.

To top it all off, Bundall is soon to be a construction site with an amphitheatre about to be built next door in time for the Commonwealth Games which can only exacerbate the service delivery issues.

"Our Union is calling on Mayor Tate to halt any further movement of staff to Bundall until such time as a comprehensive Accommodation Plan is produced and discussed with affected employees. In developing a plan Mayor Tate should give serious consideration to alternative sites for staff centralisation where existing infrastructure might be more suitable for employees and residents," Mr Henderson said.

"Ultimately the question is if Mayor Tom Tate thinks Bundall is such a great place to centralise his workforce, then why hasn't he stayed there?"

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