

From: BRUCE HAMPTON FRANCAIS [<mailto:bruce.francais@bigpond.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2020 3:12 PM

To: Records (KTC); Jon Raynor; Peter Gazey; Lis Clark; John Zelle; Toni tapp-coutts; Matthew Hurley; chris.mclennan@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Subject: Fwd: Mrs Fay Miller Re Town Square plans

**Mrs Fay Miller, Mayor
Katherine Town Council**

Dear Fay,

On several occasions recently you have informed community members that because of time constraints at open forum we can always write to directly to you and our concerns will be addressed. I have written to you about several matters in the past but you have not responded. Because there is to be no open forum in March and possibly no open forums in the near future, I felt compelled to write directly to you expressing my concerns about the upgrading of the Town Square and public expenditure at the Hot Springs.

1 Does the Council realize that it may be acting unlawfully in having a kiosk operate in a demountable structure in the Town Square? Other residents have been compelled to remove demountables from the CBD area so why should the Council be allowed to use one?

2 Has the Council considered the economic impact of its actions on other businesses that are paying high rents during difficult economic times, difficult even before the impact of corona-virus on the economy, and that it is being extremely disloyal to existing ratepayers?

3 While the Corona virus situation will almost certainly scuttle the Council's plans to upgrade the Town Square, it is to the shame of the Council that its plans were drawn up prior to virus concerns being known?

4 Have government agents exerted pressure on the Council to either use the funds it has been granted or lose them, and if so why didn't the Council tell whoever it may have been that they have not been elected by the people of Katherine to run the Municipality so they should leave the decision making up to the Council, In other words they should butt off out of Council affairs?

5 If C.M.Gunner's agents didn't pressure the Council into acting, why did the Council make such idiotic decisions to build a ridiculous turtle at the Katherine Hot Springs and squander money on the Town Square?

6 Did the Council supply any financial assistance to the establishment of the two pop-up shops that operate on council land and if so how much did it contribute and how much revenue does the Council receive from the operators of the two shops?

7 How did the Council decide who the existing pop-up shop operators would be, for instance was there a public tendering process, and if it builds a kiosk in the park how will it decide who the operator will be and how much revenue does the Council hope to receive from it?

8 When considering the demographics of Katherine's population and knowing what is likely to occur with ablution facilities in the park, will the toilet block have a full time attendant, at great cost of course to the ratepayers?

9 Many years ago when there was a toilet block on the corner where the clock tower presently stands, the place was referred to by locals at the time as Copulation Corner for reasons that I guess I don't have to explain. Southern tourists will certainly have some interesting and rather sordid tales to tell about Katherine when they return home. **Is the Council concerned at all about history repeating itself?**

Council plans to build a turtle at the Hot Springs are quite ludicrous. Unfortunately this project may be too far advanced for it to be halted. The Town Square plans however are not. These plans were foolishly drawn up prior to the impact of Coronavirus on the local economy being realized. The Council has effectively been thrown a lifeline to enable it to scrap the plans to upgrade the Town Square.

Considering the prevailing circumstances, will the Council now scrap its plans to upgrade the area, effectively turning 50 Cent Park into a million dollar park?

Yours sincerely

Bruce Francois

24/03/2020

CC All Katherine Town Council elected members

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