

YOUR SAY

The best reader comments from print and online

Why CQ working together is the key



MY SAY
FRAZER PEARCE
EDITOR

THE word I jumped on was collaboration.

It was a key element in Grant Cassidy's comments (Page 5) about the importance of the upcoming Capricornia Major Projects Forum.

The event offers a starting point for contractors to get a foot in for jobs that could come from big projects such as Adani's Carmichael Mine, Rail and Port Project and the \$1 billion Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative.

Mr Cassidy, who heads the Regional Development Australia Fitzroy Central West Board, stressed the need for the region, that is Central Queensland, to come together in a united effort to "really harness the energy and get the best possible outcome".

"Individually they might find it challenging, but if you can get sectors working in a collaboration model it totally changes the opportunities for businesses to join together and work," he said.

One of the business improvements for the region should follow the recent Senate enquiry in Rockhampton which involved a submission for local suppliers to be given a fairer ADF opportunity and ideally preferential consideration in the contract tender process.

It's hoped the issue can be resolved quickly related to inability of CQ businesses to meet the ADF Tier 1 and 2 business level set out in the criteria for such contracts.

But back to collaboration. The need to work together doesn't just relate just to the businesses with the initiative to seize the moment.

It also applies to the politicians and community leaders who must leave behind their damaging personal feuds and baggage.

CONTACT US

EDITOR: Frazer Pearce
DEPUTY EDITOR: Adam Wratten
DESIGN EDITOR: Matthew Pearce
SUB EDITOR: Christine McKee
SPORTS EDITOR: Pam McKay
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER: Chris Ison
RURAL WEEKLY: Zhanae Conway-Dodd

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rocky council is changing for the better



THE FRENCH LESSON
DAVID FRENCH

WRITING this column for the best part of 16 years, there are some things I notice over and over.

The first is how difficult it can be to separate your current demeanour from what you commit to print and the second is that it is much, much easier to write about negative things than positive things. That second observation probably explains why news reporting seems so negative – it presses buttons and it's easier. But here's the thing – taken overall, there must be more positive events/occurrences than negatives, otherwise the human race would go backwards. Sure it can regress, and sometimes for long periods, but ultimately (at least in the West), the human race compared with 5000 years ago, 1000 years ago or even 100 years ago, is undoubtedly better off.

So although we can face challenging times, eventually the wheel turns. We need to

recognise that, and support those with enough balls to drive the change.

As I have written before, our region has been slipping for 50 years, probably more, and in the last 20, probably at an increasing rate. But something new is happening, and it is worth highlighting. It concerns our council, an organisation with which I have long had an unstable relationship. I think the council is changing and I think the change will be for the good of all.

The last few months provides undoubted clues. Recently the mayor stated that the time for undertaking more studies was over – 'run it up the flagpole and see who salutes' is essentially what she said – that's entrepreneurial, and provided risks are appropriated managed, it's totally right. So now we have a real live trial regarding commercial international flights, investment in bike tracks in Mt Archer's foothills, development related to a cultural precinct and Fitzroy River Water considering the use of solar power (a project which will almost certainly stack up).

Years ago I wrote that the region's 18 or so economic development organisations



REGIONAL PRIDE: Cr Drew Wickerson, Rockhampton MP Bill Byrne and Mayor Margaret Strelow view the recently completed Stage 1b of the Riverbank Revitalisation in June.

were in fact holding the region back. More than a decade later, it seems council has taken on the role. Multilingual and educated, the employment of Young Beamish is a masterstroke providing a credible conduit for international interest in our region. Scott Waters, who amongst other things is responsible for our airport, is more an entrepreneur than a

public servant, and deserves accolades for the clever pitch to Adani – which involved building an airport and organising an airline to service the proposed mine (initiatives both totally within council's control).

While there are still many in the community that think council should be about potholes and poo, those tasks go without saying. Our community desperately

needs economic leadership, and from Cairns to Newcastle to Werribee, progressive councils provide that. A rising tide lifts all boats, and in our region that means more jobs, more people, and busier shops. It's more than that though, the biggest thing is it means a rekindling of purpose, and pride in our region. That folks, is the most valuable thing of all.

Read up on our Constitution, NWH

WELL, NWH Timms has done it again (Letters 10/8) and provided words for which he clearly has no knowledge of their legal import.

People who waffle on about our Constitution would do well to read the

sections which commence with, or include, the words "Until the Parliament otherwise provides". They should realise that the Parliament has otherwise provided in many, if not most, instances including Section 46.

NWH should read a bit ahead to Section 75 which gives the jurisdiction of the

High Court in its original jurisdiction, and look at sub-Clause (III). The Court is a court of record and is charged with hearing and deciding many types of disputes, including the jurisdiction to sit as a Court of Disputed Returns under the Elections Act and decide the meaning of the various Sections of the Constitution

and judge accordingly.

To save the misleading detail which many people, including NWH, attribute to our Constitution, please obtain the High Court Act, the Federal Court Act, the Family Law Act and Court Rules, and determine their jurisdiction which has been set out under Chapter III (Sections 71 to 80) of the

Constitution.

Some light nighttime reading of the Engineers Case (1920) and the Tasmanian Dams Case (1983) will also expand the dismal knowledge shown by many "barrack-room lawyers" of the Jurisdiction of our Commonwealth Courts.

— Paul Hoolihan, Yeppoon

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS ON DAYS LIKE THESE WITH HAIDEE ON MONDAY

Family just isn't fair game,



PAUL MURRAY
Anchor of Foxtel's #1 talk show

A BIG red line was crossed this week by "protesters" in Melbourne who threw paint at the Lord Mayor's house following the council's decision to move homeless people away from the area near Flinders St station.

It's the second time they have attacked his home.

This is beyond not on. Targeting public figures' homes is never acceptable and should be met with a serious response by police and anyone who cares about a civil society.

Sadly, it's not just the physical attacks that go way too far.

You don't have to dig that deep into the internet to find people trying to work out where public figures live with the express purpose of

threatening them.

True, in public life when you lead with your chin someone is going to take the metaphoric swing at it. But family is off-limits.

Sure, play the ball hard, but not the man or woman trying their best to make our country a better place.

One rule for polties, another one for us

HOW is it legal that a serving politician can take money from anyone but the

public while they are in office?

This week we learnt that the former and very effective Small Business Minister Bruce Wilson was paid by the 'Franchise Council' while he was still an MP.

He's gone on to work for them in his post politics life.

Amazingly, the reaction of the major political parties wasn't to close this loophole, only to say it was regrettable.

We have strict rules that

cover dual citizenship and making extra money off the Commonwealth that have seen senators lose their jobs because that activity gives the perception of divided loyalties.

Surely getting paid by a lobby group while you are an MP is worse than either of these fatal 'mistakes'?

But when the club sees no urgency to change this system our ever shrinking faith in politics falls even lower.

PAUL MURRAY LIVE

Monday - Thursday at 9pm