

Deputation to be given to:
Western Downs Regional Council
Meeting - Held in Chinchilla, January 15th 2026

Hello,

I'm here again, to speak about council's plan to re-zone Thomas Jack Memorial Park in Dalby, from a Park - to a Commercial Precinct.
A Plan that would forever damage our beautiful Park.

I am lodging an extensive complaint against this Council with the Ombudsman of Queensland - (as suggested by the Minister for Local Government, Ann Leahy - to Petitioners wishing to Preserve our Park).

Council's plan has been going on for 2 years now - Where is the Development Approval ? Two Tenders later, now seeking a principle Contractor. Is this because the DA would expose that Commercialising our beautiful park, with a Library; Art Gallery/shop; Cinema/ Theatre, and Information Centre - Obviously requires extensive internal parking, by law. Which most people would never agree too.

Here is a short list of other glaring issues I've found - I'm sure the Ombudsman will find more.

1. The preliminary Parking Report used to calculate parking needs only counted people that happened to wander into the information Centre, easily omitting 90% of the cars that actually stop at our park. It appears Councillors can't count.
2. The convoluted and confusing 2 part "Have your Say Survey" in 2024 was pre-framed around "values" and "wants" - Not on where people actually want their Centre.
3. Council has proceeded with planning without consent of residents. Yes people want a Cinema and other facilities, just not in their Park ! Especially when there are other spacious options still available.

Many residents have spoken out against Council's plan, raised petitions, and alarm bells - of the dangers of commercialisation, but we were not heard, we were not treated fairly.

Speaking of Fairly:

FKG Group just built "Fairleigh Residences" in Toowoomba - 18 new apartments - overlooking, the sweeping views of the iconic Mothers' Memorial, and **Queens Park**. For those that don't know, the Mothers' memorial is a tall column topped by a globe - built by mothers whose sons did not return from World War I. It's surrounded by a beautiful flower garden.

Toowoomba Council, and Gary Gardner of FKG who is also a newly elected Councillor, would never dream in a million years of encroaching upon QUEENS PARK ! Because if you develop a Park, it ceases to be one.

Gary Gardner, on GaryGardner dot com - speaks of the importance of good Leadership. Well - Not listening, bulldozing your vision through, and hiding behind vague legislation - *is not leadership*.

The Founders of all great cities planned for their future by - **protecting and preserving areas for parks**, not developing them. They knew as their cities grew how important their parks would become.

Think of some of the world's most iconic parks. Many Australians have taken the pilgrimage to England & London, it's a rite of passage. I remember seeing deer in the vast and beautiful Kensington Gardens, and people speaking at the gates of Hyde. The **borders and boundaries** of these parks, have remained for generations - and rightly so.

I'm told the **Ombudsman** loves cases of maladministration, and hopefully quashes this hare brained scheme of building - within parkland - .
What on the gods' green earth were you all thinking !

