



Is Queens Park in Toowoomba - next to be “Developed” ?

Hello,

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

I have lodged a **Complaint Against Western Downs Regional 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 Sign ? 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.

Council also plans to remove the **Rotary Rotunda and Lions Lagoon**, and understory ! Built by Rotarians and Lions.

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**. 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. Or will Toowoomba Regional Council begin commercially Developing Queens Park in Toowoomba, such as **Western Downs Regional Council** is planning with Thomas Jack Memorial Park Dalby ?

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 am 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 *our* Council leaders thinking.

Wulf von der Decken