

From: Coleen Mackin  
Sent: Friday, October 07, 2016 2:45 PM  
To: Council Members  
Cc: Padilla, Ingrid  
Subject: To the Brisbane Council Regarding the Baylands

Honorable Council Members,

Take all the arguments about safety or dangers of housing on the Baylands and boil it down to risk. There are so-called experts on both sides who will swear that they are right.

Love Canal, Millennium Tower, numerous and problematic bridges, MTBE and so on. Nothing is absolute. Experts can be wrong. Science can change.

The Baylands is unique. One hundred years of unregulated fill, at a site that was formerly the Bay; under water. A land that nature may try to reclaim in rising sea levels.

The toxins are a brew, volatile, mixing, tough to identify. They are at different locations, different depths, constantly changing.

Yes, you can say, remediate! This should not be confused with cleanup. Remediate is only a man-made barrier. Could it fail? Yes.

Don't even compare this to other rail sites that have been successfully remediated. This is not just a rail site. This is far more complex.

So you, our council members have the unenviable task of making a decision. A decision that will have implications for years to come.

Do you respond to the mantra of housing, a short-term gain with much risk? Do you opt for renewable energy, an option that will serve very many for years to come.

Short term gains of housing carry long-term risk. Who will be legally liable if the "barrier" is compromised? Who will people sue if they are sickened by exposure to toxins. Will the developer still be "around" to pay the cost of ill-made decisions?

Who will benefit from renewable energy? Many. It will address the need for energy and reduce the demand on the grid. This is the most appropriate use for brownfield sites according to the federal government. It gives a purposeful use to the land while science learns how to best cope with the toxic messes man has created.

You alone can make that decision.

You alone also carry the weight of the future of Brisbane. Your decision could very literally make or break the financial stability of our community.

We look to you to make a wise decision. You've been dealt a tough hand with enormous pressures in the wings.

How much risk are you willing to take? How much are you willing to put Brisbane at risk? How much are you willing to put the health of others at risk?

You don't have to be an expert to see that renewable energy is the most productive and sensible use for the Baylands. It's the way Brisbane can contribute to the welfare of the area we live in. It's cautious and prudent planning, acknowledging we don't have all the answers or solutions at this time...and yes, we must admit, there are decisions appropriate to time and place.

That's really all it boils down to. Listen to the facts and not all the distractions or "noise".

We're counting on you!

Coleen Mackin  
Brisbane resident