12 August 2011

Sharon Tisdale & Tony Yates

TO: **The Joint Select Committee into Detention**

Dear Committee Members;

The concerns are broad & many. We have tried to condense as much as possible to give an idea of what, as residents we are dealing with.

It is had not to be emotional as we watch total disregard to the residents & worst of all, the damage to the island spectacular environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Huge numbers of Red crabs are killed by the extra traffic
Total destruction of Tourism Industry WE ARE NOW THE DENTENTION ISLAND
Carnage of Robber, huge slow moving creatures are being decimated at an incredible rate. Some of these are in excess of 70 years old
Speeding is now a constant problem & contributes to the road kill.
Total insensitive to the cultural aspects of the community
Illegals are permitted to indiscriminately litter with no intervention from DIAC
The landfill waste is unsustainable on a small island
Raw sewerage pumped untreated in the ocean in tidal currents bought into the cove
The upgraded sewerage treatment plant is constantly compromised by blockages from condoms issued
Power supply upgraded to DIESEL by a supposedly GREEN Government
The Resort is in one of the MAJOR crab migration areas. The number are already struggling from the increased traffic & this could be detrimental to their survival

DESTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND LIFESTYLE

Doors never locked, keys left in cars. Safety was never a problem.
We are now on edge, wondering when the next riot will occur.
Witnessed sites that no one should be subjected to i.e. **boat disaster**
Majority here for lifestyle not to get rich,
The activities on island are few & far between as people are exhausted & overworked
Our casual island lifestyle has been destroyed
The island is being used & abused with no conscience
The community meeting places are now over run with DIAC staff & recent incidents where an Interpreter carried a weapon to a social gathering that was confiscated by AFP is disgrace & this is not the type of behavior that is UNACCEPTABLE! This is not our culture & is not to be tolerated
Crime rate that was nil now soaring, cars stolen, theft is now common,
So many valuable community minded families have left as so disturbed by the situation
Interpreters to social gathering carried weapon
Many ladies on the island no longer feel comfortable going to the gym, as it is usually full of male refugees.
The island tourism is all but destroyed, as the island is now known as a place of RIOTS, aggression & destruction.

HEALTH & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Locals now disadvantaged due long waiting times for appointments due to high demand for services.
Police are snowed under with extra duties & are unable to perform their normal duties because of the constant unrest at the centers.
Emergency Services are stretched & are constantly on call, incase of another uprising
We have gone from 4 AFP to in excess of 200

HOUSING CRISIS INFLATED RENTS

Local have been forced to live in accommodation that is not fit for human inhabitation because they cannot affords rents charged. When not house sitting, we are forced to sleep in a workshop. This would cause an outcry if we were refugees but of course nobody is interested in the plight of Australians. The Government snaps up community housing on the island & it stands vacant incase it is needed.

BLATANT WASTE OF TAXPAYERS MONEY

Bottle water **AIR FREIGHTED**
Cigarettes **AIR FREIGHTED** when are available on the island GST FREE. Then opening the door for litigation for health claims.
Chocolate **AIR FREIGHTED**
Charter flights leave/arrive with small numbers of passengers at cost of $250K + per charter.
Mail services are now unreliable as services are over whelmed
New large screen TV's replaced the new TV's because they were not large enough.
Issuing mobile phones & MP3 players to every arrival, phones have now stopped but MP3 are supplied.
The constant replacement of white goods flown in at huge expense
Huge phone bills are run up at taxpayer's expense

DIAC DOUBLE STANDARS

Illegal are claiming compensation for hardship experienced due to riots & boat wreck etc **Volunteers & get nothing, only nightmares & anxiety attacks**
Breaking Australian laws are accepted with no responsibility or consequence, creating racism & distention in the community & setting little regard for Australian laws.
Illegal are rewarded for bad behavior by fast tracking claims - Australian Taxpayers would be prosecuted
DIAC should be educating new arrivals as to what will be expected of them in an effort to help with integration.
DIAC obstruct official processes, protecting the guilty parties & cover their behinds
DIAC blatantly lied in regards to the rioters & the risks posed to the community. We are not immediately informed of escapees until it is already exposed via bush telegraph
DIAC gags staff to cover it tracks, anyone questioning process are replaced
The community has endured the influx of mainlanders that, in general, have total disregard for the island, road rules, it's cultural sensitivities & it's residents
DIAC houses workers in an establishment that is destroying the environment with its negligence

RIOTING

Rioters infiltrated residential areas & residents were at risk, it would be naive to imply that this situation could not happen again.
We no longer feel safe in our homes & indeed anywhere on the island. This is totally unacceptable. Not only has own island been invaded, we now live in fear.
The burning of public assets given to the Illegals for their own comfort is totally incomprehensible & then they are rewarded for their crimes by fast racking to mainland.
Detention centers are grossly understaffed posing a threat to themselves & the community.
Many reports of rapes & abuse go UN reported & no repercussions for perpetrators

THESE MEN ARE CRIMINALS, THEY HAVE BROKEN THE LAW, AND THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE AN EXAMPLE OF & DENIED RESIDENCY.

MAIL SERVICES

The islands small business is suffering as DIAC freight either takes priority or pays priority fees. Those who can't afford the extra charge have their freight bumped off affecting services.
Express Post has gone from 7-10 days to 3-4 weeks as it is off loaded.
High demands for mail service means mail is delayed, as weight is limited.

CASINO/RESORT ACCOMODATION

The old Casino has been upgraded, VISUALLY as emergency accommodation
Sewerage is being pumped into the ocean as the treatment facility has been PAINTED, but is not operational causing a serious health threat to swimmers & divers not to mention the marine life.
The Casino is also situated in the major red crab migration area; the numbers have been dramatically affected since the increased traffic on the island.
CORRECT investigation into the resort would disclose many areas that do not meet acceptable standards & this is ignored by local authorities that bow to the pressure of the DIAC situation.
We have information from trade's people that the LPG gas, fire & safety & the sewerage equipment in sub standard & the establishment is still operating.

INFRASTRUCURE

The island does not have the Infrastructure to sustain the amount of traffic. The island has only 1 set of public toilets & that is at the cove. The Shire has made no attempt to upgrade facilities to cope.
In February the island was a few days away from running out of fuel. This meant the whole island would completely shut down
Roads are deteriorating by the extra traffic & maintenance is not done
Our sporting facilities are taken over & abused with excrement smeared on walls **repeatedly**

UPGRADING OF POWER PLANT

Million have been spent to upgrade the islands power generation capabilities. (Not necessary until the invasion). The LABOUR Government chose to use DIESEL TURBINES; great considering the CARBON TAX it is marketing. So now we have a very UNGREEN solution when, IF the Government was SERIOUS about greening Australia WHY UP GRADE TO DIESEL?????? The island is perfect location for SOLAR/WIND power generation.

GOVERNMENT MONEY ELOCATED TO CHRISTMAS ISLAND

$5 million was promised to the residents & to upgrade the infrastructure on the island. How was this spent?

ROADS to be upgraded. The only roads that have been improved are the roads to the detention center. Link Water Road is of no use to the community & has been closed for years, as it is too expensive to up keep & is now 1 year behind projected opening. This has direct impact on the crab migration path.
SEWERAGE PLANT upgrade. Was not needed until the invasion.
POWER PLANT upgrade was not needed until the invasion.

NOT A CENT HAS BEEN SPENT TO COMPENSATE THE LOCALS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR LIFESTYLE & WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ENDURE.

It is not 'JUST AN ISLAND' it is our home!

We wont apologise for the emotion, we don't believe we need to, but what is most frustrating is the way the Government has had so little regard to the islander & how this impacts on them.

Surely SOMEONE has a duty of care to minimize the negative affect to our community. Who ever is responsible has certainly failed miserably.

Regards

Sharon Tisdale & Tony Yates