

TIME TO RALLY THE TROOPS!!!

Many of you already know parts of my story, but for those who are unaware, I'll recap the main points briefly. A longer version is also available if you are interested.

My journey into Precious Plastic started in 2019 with bottle caps from the 10c bottles I was collecting. After reading the Precious Plastic website, I began to collect other plastic items as well. Pretty soon, the bulkiness of the plastic I had collected began to place pressure on my storage capabilities. In early 2020, I began to research shredders to reduce the bulk of the plastic and make it easier to store. To be bluntly honest, I am really still on this part journey even today. I have made progress with some significant milestones, but I have been hamstrung by lack of available capital and soaring storage costs.

The nutshell version of my current situation is this: I spend so much money on storage that I don't have any funds to buy machines. Thanks to a loan from a friend, I was able to get a granulator last year, but I have had to endure numerous complications with this machine. First, the 5-pin 3-phase plug wasn't compatible with the 4-pin socket in the shed. Then I discovered the blades were blunt. When they were sharpened, I was told they could not be sharpened again as they were at the end of their useful life. By the time I finally had the granulator running satisfactorily, there was only about one month before I had to start moving all the stuff out of the shed because the lease was ending. I spread it among five different places and put the machine at Rocklea. With no access to 3-phase power, it stayed there while negotiations began for me to operate from Rocklea. Then the February 2022 floods covered it with 1.5m of water for 48 hours. On 2022-05-04, I inspected the motor of my granulator and decided it will need to be replaced. I have also learned that I will need a 20A power supply to operate the granulator. This is probably the biggest hurdle of them all.

Meanwhile, some of the contents of the shed ended up at my place for processing. I was hoping it would only be there a month at the latest, but the constant wet weather made it impossible to work outside. In late January I got COVID and couldn't do anything for a week. Then the February floods. Finally, I was able to start clearing the front yard in mid-March. As anticipated, it was all cleared in about a month.

The Department of Housing began intervening after an anonymous complaint was made to the Brisbane City Council in January 2020. The investigating Council Officer said he was legally obliged to notify the Department, even though the issue was resolved within the specified timeframe.

At every stage of their involvement in this matter, the Department has consistently used the following dubious practices:

- negligent in their duty of care to me
- total disregard for my diagnosed mental disability or my human dignity
- written communications which are vague, use incorrect or false nomenclature and contain offensive, hurtful language
- conducted site visits without warning often only a few days apart (harassment)
- used inappropriate tone of voice when speaking directly to me (bullying)
- on one occasion a group of five Department staff arrived for an inspection (intimidation)
- directly engaged in environmental vandalism by sending cleaned recyclable plastic to landfill (multiple instances)
- removed fully functioning personal appliances and other assets in my absence without prior warning or compensation
- liaised with a non-resident hostile agent to collect covert intelligence about me and my activities onsite

At no time has the Department ever attempted to:

- communicate with me in a manner appropriate for my disability or legal rights
- communicate in a friendly, civil manner
- learn about the activities I am undertaking with a view to reaching a mutually acceptable code of conduct

Midway through 2020, a Department officer contacted my psychologist Dr. Carver in an attempt to obtain my contact information. As we had not seen each other for a few years, he was not able to help. During a meeting in October 2020, Department staff demanded that I resume appointments with Dr. Carver. At this meeting I was also coerced into signing a number of consent forms, one of which gave permission for the Department to discuss information with Dr. Carver. I had my first appointment with Dr. Carver on 2021-01-08. Before this appointment, I had to visit my GP to get a new Mental Health Care Plan. Both the GP and Dr. Carver agreed that there was no need for me to resume counselling, but because of the Department's instructions, I felt obligated to comply. In the 15 months that have elapsed since then, I have seen Dr. Carver 9 times and spent \$673.95. The Department has not contacted Dr. Carver at all in this time. I believe this is a shining example of the total contempt the Department has for my mental health.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Write a letter or email to the Minister for Housing, Leeanne Enoch

GPO Box 806 BRISBANE QLD 4001
communitiesandhousing@ministerial.qld.gov.au

You are writing in support of David Barker to remain in public housing tenancy at Unit 5, 25 Waverley Road Taringa. Your letter should include a request that the Minister intervene in this situation by making application to QCAT to withdraw the Termination Order and Warrant of Possession on Unit 5, 25 Waverley Road Taringa, and you should provide at least one example of how it is in the public interest that she do so.

Your letter may also raise the issues of housing crisis, mental health, environmental stewardship or anything else you consider relevant.