

In the beginning - God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis Chapter 1).....

Quickly, He was faced with a class action suit for failure to lodge a planning application setting out the environmental effects, noise levels, traffic flows, parking requirements, effluent disposal, water storage, flood mitigation and fire hazards to name but a few... After much deliberation, He was granted a temporary permit for the heavenly part of the project but was stymied with a restraining order for the earthly part.

When appearing at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal hearing (*remember, this happened a while ago!*), God was asked why He began the earthly project in the first place. He replied that He just liked to be creative. Under intense questioning from the barristers representing the proponents of darkness, God said ***'let there be light'***.

Immediately, the officials demanded to know how the light would be made. Would it involve strip mining or the removal of native trees? What about thermal pollution, nuclear pollution, global warming and greenhouse gasses etc etc?

God explained that ***the light would come from a huge ball of fire - in the sky.***

He was granted 'approval in principle' to make and use light - on the condition that the ball of fire posed no threat to neighbouring properties, that no smoke would result and that operating noise levels did not exceed 65 dB(A) 'over the fence'. Further more, He was to obtain building and scaffolding permits for the construction phase and must pay the appropriate fees. To conserve energy, He was required to turn the light off for approximately half of the time.

God agreed to all of this and said that He would call the light "day" and the darkness "night". The officials replied that they were not at all interested in semantics.

In response to further questioning from barristers for the proponents of darkness, God said ***'let the earth bring forth green herb and such as may seed'***. The Department of Conservation agreed so long as only native trees and shrubs were used.

Then God said ***'let the waters bring forth the creeping creatures having life and the fowl that they may fly over the earth'***. Officials pointed out that this would require the approval of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department acting in consultation with the Heavenly Bodies Planning Authority, the Audubongelic Society, the Sludge Abatement Board, Department of Aviation etc...

Everything went okay until God said that ***He wanted to complete the project in six (6) days.*** The officials looked horrified. Development Plans such as these take months to analyse, they wailed. Faced with the imminent termination of lucrative briefs, the assembled consultants stood aghast. They loudly protested the unfairness of this immoral tactic introduced by the Lord. They said that, at the very least, the proposal amounted to a 'transformation' and certainly could never be approved as part of the original concept plan. In their collective opinion, the proposal amounted to undue haste; and furthermore, failure to place proper emphasis on each component may place all future developments at risk of failure. After all, previous schemes had failed to live up to expectations. "We must be cautious," they warned.

However, the officials were emphatic that it would take at least 100 days for them to review the application. Then there would be public hearings, twelve months of haggling and political manoeuvring, planning scheme amendments etc before

At this point, God said ***'aaggghhhhto hell with it'***.