



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association

Date 12 August 2011

TAKE THE WRAPS OFF SALAMANDER LAND SALE

TRRA Chairman, Geoff Washington has queried why Council chose to deal with the Expressions of Interest (EOI) for sale of this 9.5 hectares of valuable commercial land in a confidential session. He said that the Tomaree community needs to know that the proper processes were followed and that Council had done everything possible to achieve the best price for the land.

Mr Washington pointed out that Council's invitation to tender reserved a right to publish the names of preferred respondents and to test community reaction to responses. Instead the General Manager insisted that the bids be discussed behind closed doors. We must rely on press reports on how many responses were received and the sale price of \$22.05 million. We have no idea of what others offered or whether there were any innovative proposals for the future development of the shopping precinct.

"Most worrying is the fact that the public are completely in the dark as to the criteria used to select the successful bidder".

Last month TRRA, having studied the EOI invitation documents, wrote to the Mayor expressing concern at the low key approach taken to marketing. Mr Washington observed that our fears were well justified by the fact that only three responses had been received.

We also queried why the Council had not attached any conditions to the sale requiring a purchaser to disclose their plans for development. As it stands the sale leaves the way open for a continuation of the piecemeal development we have seen in the past with separate retail boxes and car-parks completely lacking any integration, not even pedestrian linkages.

TRRA believes the only hope lies with the Recision Motion which is due to go to Council on 16 August. This motion was moved by Councillors who share our concerns about the process and a sale based on such a low level of interest from national and international developers.

Geoff Washington
TRRA Chairman



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