



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

New Port Stephens Council will have to prove itself

Geoff Washington, Chairman of the Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association, commenting on the Port Stephens council election results said that it is too early to predict whether the new council's composition will bring positive outcomes for the community. The new Councillors are relatively unknown in the community and also declined TRRA's offer to present themselves at the four "Meet the Candidates" Forums arranged by TRRA in conjunction with local community groups.

He observed that the new Council will be dominated by the members of the "Team Mackenzie" as listed on the Mayor's election website and his other elaborate election material. "It remains to be seen whether this term of Council will have the probing debate essential for proper consideration of complex issues on the Agenda".

Mr Washington indicated that TRRA would continue to monitor Council's business papers and decisions, to bring the community's views to the attention of all councillors and to keep the ratepayers and residents informed.

TRRA Inc. intends to make early contact with Mayor Mackenzie to take up his offer of consultations made before the elections and to seek a meeting with the newly elected East Ward Councillors. It hopes to discuss arrangements for on-going consultation as well as high priority matters such as the revision of the Port Stephens Local Environment Plan, plans for Salamander Shopping Centre, the future of Apex Park in Nelson Bay and funding for the rejuvenation of the Shoal Bay jetty and foreshore.

The election results are now in and TRRA must acknowledge the voter's choice, even though many seem to have been unaware of the complex preference arrangements which were employed. TRRA will work with the new Council to keep a great lifestyle for us all in a treasured environment.

Geoff Washington
Chairman

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