



**TOMAREE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.
DRAFT MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2016
Meeting held Crows Nest Room, Nelson Bay Bowling & Recreation Club**

- Attendance:** As per attendance sheet
- Apologies:** Bill Stedman, Ken Sadlier, Jean Armstrong, Karen Howard (LNP Candidate), Peter Arena (Christian Democrats Candidate)
- Guests:** Meryl Swanson (Labor Candidate)
John Brown (Greens Candidate)
Peter Davis (Citizens Electoral Council Candidate)
- Kate Washington (State MP for Port Stephens)
- Opening:** President Geoff Washington welcomed all attendees to this bi monthly General Meeting and declared the meeting open.
- Previous Minutes:
Treasurer's Report:
Correspondence:** The minutes of the General Meeting held on April 19, 2016, the Treasurer's Report and Correspondence were held over to the next meeting due to the Candidates Forum
- Candidates Forum:** President Geoff explained the Candidates Forum and requested John James act as moderator.
- John James advised each candidate that they had 6 minutes to introduce themselves and outline their party platform and that they would be called in alphabetical order.
- TRRA secretary Catherine Norman read a submission from Peter Arena. The other three candidates made their presentations.
- John James then called for questions from the floor with each candidate answering appropriately.
- A wide range of issues were addressed in the presentations and questions including education, health, environmental, funding, positioning of candidate promotional corflutes, financial management.

The meeting was asked whether they would want future candidate forums organised by TRRA and unanimously responded in the affirmative.

General Business:

- 1. Mambo Wetlands.** President Geoff invited Walter Lamond, Chairman of the Mambo Landcare Group, to address the meeting on this important issue.

He reported that the sale did go ahead despite strong local protests for \$250,000. Buyer is not yet known but should be identified in about 6 weeks. It is estimated that the parcel of land would bring approx \$18m to the developer. Several submissions have been made to place Mambo on the National Register of Significant Wetlands, Aboriginal Heritage Sites and Ramsar Site. He concluded by thanking all who had helped to stop the sale.

Candidates were then given the opportunity to comment and decried the State Governments decision to sell. Kate Washington spoke against the government's sale action and the lack of time and opportunity to speak against this action

- 2. Council Mergers.** The PSC and a clear majority of its residents opposed the proposed Merger with Newcastle City. In January 2016 PSC approved an expenditure of up to \$200,000 to engage consultants to assist in preparing a case against the merger and for a public information programme.

The delegate appointed to look into the PSC and Newcastle merger recommended it proceed taking no notice of the overwhelming majority of Submissions being against the proposal. Of the 803 submissions received, 747 were opposed, 21 in favour and 35 indicating no opinion. A decision is not expected till after July 2, 2016.

In March PSC, while preferring a stand alone option, decided to support a merger with Dungog Council and allocated a further \$20,000 to prepare a case for this Merger. The State Government's "fit for the future" analyses had concluded that Dungog Council has serious financial problems as a well as asset management issues.

A delegate was appointed to look into the proposal.

TRRA Committee Members identified a number of geographical differences between the interests of the Tomaree and Dungog and potential financial disadvantages of such a union.

The TRRA committee agreed to continue to fight against both merger proposals. Kate Washington agreed with another speaker saying that supporting another merger could be divisive and work against our interests.

Motion: That TRRA complete and submit a submission indicating our opposition to the Dungog merger. Moved Dick Appleby, seconded Fran Corner. Passed

- 3. Donald Street Carparks.** PSC has indicated in very general terms that it has two preferred development proposals:
- (i) Residential units on top of two storeyed carparking
 - (ii) Aged care facility over two storeyed carparking
- Both proposals would require a 9 – 14 storeyed development to be viable which is well above present height limitations.

TRRA will attempt to secure more details of the proposals and evaluate the suitability of the concepts.

- 4. Koala Hospital Proposal.** This proposal is for an addition to the Samurai holiday park site now known as Treescape. \$65,000 has been set aside for a feasibility study on a section of land to house this hospital. Hunter Koala Preservation Society has submitted a business case to PSC in support of the proposal.

Kate Washington indicated the proposal is promising and that the NSW Government has passed recently legislation on land utilisation.

Motion: That the Hunter Koala Preservation Society be invited to make a presentation to TRRA on the Koala Hospital proposal and other issues of importance. Moved Fran Corner, seconded Margaret Wilkinson. Passed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Next General Meeting: Tuesday August 16, 2016

Minutes accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Signed:

Date: