



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association

Date 11 February 2011

ISSUES UPDATE FOR MEMBERS.

1. SALAMANDER LAND SUBDIVISION

The findings of a independent assessor, appointed after council failed in its first attempt to get the DA for the 8 lot subdivision around the shopping centre, were made public last week.

He is highly critical of the proposal, especially in relation to its environmental impacts (koalas and wetlands), impacts on neighbours, and overall poor design.

The assessors' findings mirrored the independent legal advice obtained by TRRA, which stated that council was in breach of its own Koala Plan of Management, and would be open to legal action if they approved the development.

In the face of this damning report (and the legal advice), council has elected to withdraw the proposal rather than face almost certain rejection by the Joint Regional Planning Panel.

Council is now considering whether to sell the lot or try again to develop it itself.

TRRA is again calling for a masterplan for the entire Salamander town centre precinct.

We hope a masterplan will enable development that lets this community get its Big W and Aldi and keep its koalas too!

2. MARINA RESORT

We understand that 40 public submissions were received, by council, with respect to this development application.

It would appear that council would have to dramatically change their policies for the application to be acceptable in its current form and, in any event, it will be referred to an independent assessor and then to the joint regional planning panel for deliberation.

It is likely that this will be around April or May.

3. SALAMANDER SHORES HOTEL

This application is with NSW Planning.

There were 7 public submissions lodged with the Department in November including one from TRRA.

The Department advised us by email on 10th February that they are:

“ aware that the proponent is intending to lodge their response to submissions/preferred project report for the application with the Department soon.”

“the Minister or his delegate will determine the concept plan application.”

4. NELSON BAY MARINA

The Land and Property Management Authority propose to place the draft concept plan on exhibition during the week commencing 21 Feb.

A copy of the draft plan and some supporting documentation (setting out the process) will be forwarded to members of the stakeholder group this week, for review.

We are advised that this will not be an opportunity to 're-invent the wheel' but merely an opportunity to make sure that the main content is that which was agreed at the stakeholder workshop before Christmas.

5. DEPARTMENT OF LANDS FORENSIC AUDIT ON PSC CARAVAN PARK MANAGEMENT

We are informed that the forensic audit carried out by the Land and Property Management Authority has been completed and a number of questions have been put to council in the last few weeks.

The outcome of the ongoing management by council of the caravan parks on behalf of Lands probably remains in the balance until they have reviewed council's responses.

6. DLG/PSC PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Following a series of complaints over past years, the division of local government announced that they will be carrying out a performance review on Port Stephens council, commencing 21st February.

TRRA were requested to make a submission prior to this review, which was completed, in conjunction with the Medowie Progress Association.

We have been advised that our submission is being given '*serious consideration*'.

Both of our speakers at our General Meeting on the 14th February have also called for such a review on council and:

Kate Washington (Lab) stated last October that she was aware "*there have been internal issues raised to ICAC and community issues raised to the department of local government*" and "*would investigate community concerns*"

With Craig Baumann (Lib) in November saying that "*it will not go far enough to uncover the problems in Port Stephens council*"

TRRA agree, and have called for:

"an overall and comprehensive investigation into the management, financial stability, policy decisions, strategic direction and last but not least, the ability of the general manager to adequately control, direct and manage the affairs of council, to advise our councillors appropriately thus enabling them to perform the governance roles expected from them by their community."

ALL OUR SUBMISSIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF OUR CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE. www.trra.com.au

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