



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

Community Expectations high for a new era in Port Stephens

“The election of the Ryan Palmer and other fresh faces to Council could be a real game-changer” said TRRA President Geoff Washington.

The new Mayor, Ryan Palmer, could lead Port Stephens Council into a new era of co-operative and constructive governance.

Early reactions are encouraging, with even the re-elected Councillors appearing willing to rally behind Ryan’s new leadership. All the newcomers and Cllr Paul Le Mottee have expressed support for re-introduction of webcasting, and changes to Council processes to allow for greater community consultation also seem likely.

“We look forward to much greater opportunity for residents and ratepayers to have their say and influence the planning and other outcomes” said Geoff Washington. “Webcasting of meetings alone will dramatically increase accessibility and accountability” he said.

TRRA also hopes for a rational ‘big-picture’ approach to finances and planning in place of ad hoc decisions. “The new Council should take more seriously advice from its own staff and State agencies, and should also take a stronger approach to compliance and enforcement” said Geoff Washington. He added “We hope that the long years of ‘playing favourites’ and projects queue-jumping are over.”

TRRA has congratulated all successful candidates and urged them to get behind the new Mayor in bringing a fresh new co-operative and constructive approach to Council business.

Media Contact: Dick Appleby
TRRA Media Officer
media@trra.com.au
Phone 0418 206 625

Date: 15 Sept 2017

PRESSES RELEASE

