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NELSON BAY PLAN GETS THE NOD

After almost five years of passionate debate and extensive community consultation, Nelson Bay has a new town strategy after its adoption by Port Stephens Council tonight.

Speaking today, Port Stephens Mayor Bob Westbury said the extensive consultation with residents on the Tomaree Peninsula ensured the strategy was developed with the utmost integrity.

"I don't shy away from the fact that we spent a significant amount of money on ensuring we got this plan right," he said.

"It was incredibly important that we gathered the views and opinions from the broad community, and that takes time, effort and money to do properly."

"Clearly, it is impossible to please everybody on such a big project, although some community groups seem to feel they should be afforded more say than others."

"At the end of the day, however, it is Council's job to develop a plan that provides the best possible outcomes for all members of the community."

"This includes business owners, tourism operators and local residents. I believe what we have adopted provides the potential for growth and better urban

outcomes for the town and foreshore."

"The new strategy will certainly assist in connecting the town centre with the foreshore and encourage buildings with greater height and better design standards where appropriate."

"On behalf of Council I would like to thank David Broyd and his planning staff for the incredible amount of work they have put in over quite a long period of time."

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