



## Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association

Date 3 August 2012

### **'MEET THE CANDIDATES' FOR PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (TRRA) is planning three 'Meet the Candidates' Forums in the run-up to the 8 September Council election. There will be an opportunity for candidates to introduce themselves to a public meeting, to provide a brief statement of their priorities for the coming Council term, and to answer questions on matters of concern.

Similar events organised for past elections were welcomed by candidates as a chance to personally present themselves and their visions directly to the electorate.

For convenience, separate meetings are planned, one at Soldiers Point Bowling Club on Monday 20 August, another at Anna Bay Birubi Community Hall on Wed 22 August and a third meeting at the Medowie Community Hall on 27 August – each at 7.00 pm. The Anna Bay and Medowie meetings have been arranged in conjunction with local community groups.

All candidates for Mayor would be invited to each Forum and group leaders for Ward Councillor positions in the forum locality would be invited. Candidates may register their interest to Dick Appleby (email [info@trra.com.au](mailto:info@trra.com.au) or phone 4981 5491).

The Chairman of TRRA, Geoff Washington, observed that this election is critically important as voters for the first time will be choosing the Mayor to lead Council for the next four years and because Council faces major challenges. He said that TRRA hoped to encourage all eligible voters to turn out to booths on 8 September. It is essential to lift people's interest to make sure we do better than last time when 36% of voters in East Ward did not vote at all and 10% of all votes were informal.

The opportunity to connect the person with the name on the ballot paper should make it easier for the public to make up their minds and to cast an informed vote.

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