



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

Medowie Community Angered at Candidates' Indifference

Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association in conjunction with Medowie Progress Association held another very successful and illuminating Meet the Candidates Forum in a full Medowie Community Hall.

Candidates attending presented their platforms and their visions for the coming term of Council. They all accepted the criticisms of Port Stephens Council handed down by the Department of Local Government Review.

Three enthusiastic first-time candidates – Caitlin Spiller, Shaun McEachern and Darrell Doggett - called for a change of leadership and new strategies to turn around the financial problems of Council. Each made a commitment to much improved accountability with fewer matters being dealt with behind closed doors.

Apart from Mayoral candidate Geoff Dingle who attended and willingly fielded questions from the audience, none of the other councillors standing for re-election took the opportunity to present themselves and their platform to the community. The voters attending the meeting felt short-changed that Councillors Mackenzie, Dover, O'Brien and Tucker were not prepared to make their cases for re-election and to be questioned on their past performance.

It was noted that Clr Mackenzie had not attended any of the forums, nor had he participated in a debate among Port Stephens mayoral candidates arranged by ABC Radio Newcastle on the morning of the Forum.

A final Meet the Candidates Forum for Central Ward will be held at Tilligerry RSL Sports Club, Lemon Tree Passage Road, Tanilba Bay at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 29 August.

Media Contact:

Judy Washington

TRRA Media Officer

media@trra.com.au

Phone 49813916; 0416 884 159

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