



TRRA UPDATE – 20 MAY 2013

NEXT MEETING – CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME – Monday 3rd June – 7 pm (Crows Nest at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club). Agenda to come later. Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 April [HERE](#). This includes a Word version of Wonona’s Presentation without maps. [HERE](#). The maps are available on Council website www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au Home ---- Building & Construction ----- Planning and Building ----- Local Environment Plan ----- Draft Port Stephens LEP

WEBSITE

Please bear with us if links on our website do not work the first time and we are not quite as up to date as we were! Our Webmaster has “gone missing” and “the apprentices” just did not do sufficient “test runs” before he left. (.Hurry back Dick!) *Look in both Hot Issues and Recent Posts.*

RECENT DECISIONS

Since our last update to members on 21 April we have seen some significant decisions made by Port Stephens Council relating to Salamander Shopping Centre and Birubi Surf Club. These were made by the elected Councillors and we have to accept their decisions, regardless of the significant issues TRRA has identified – in the case of Salamander for many many years.

The thousands of hours put in by many volunteers since 2009 is well recognized and greatly appreciated. Thank you – you all know who you are. The disappointing outcome is not what we had aimed for. We can but fight for better outcomes for the Lots where our Library is and the land opposite McDonalds which are now “up for sale”.

DEMOCRACY GONE

Democracy took a turn for the worse on 23 April when the Mayor denied two TRRA members public access to address some very important issues about the 3 Lot Subdivision. Read “TRRA Barred Public Access - Our Side of the Story” [HERE](#) and the media release we put out that day. [HERE](#)

BIG W – WE’LL GET OUR SHOPSBUT.....

Linked to the 3 Lot Subdivision was of course the Big W Development Application which was up for decision by the Joint Regional Planning Panel. It was approved with some extra conditions. A report on the outcome from Nigel Waters who appeared for us is [HERE](#). It says it all!

BIRUBI SURF CLUB – All set to go with DA approved. Our concerns relate to funding and that with the \$4.7M to be spent, we will still not have additional car spaces or improvements to the access road..... or an overall plan for that iconic location! See our previous posts on this [HERE](#)

NO..... TRRA IS NOT ANTI DEVELOPMENT!

We repeat once again that TRRA Inc is NOT anti development as is being purported by various sectors of our community and some Councillors. We firmly support shops, jobs, surf clubs & everything that goes with it. Most importantly however we value good planning, financial responsibility and maintaining the beautiful natural environment which attracted us here in the first place.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEWS GALORE

Concurrently there seem to be reviews taking place on Local Government at every level. With limited Committee members at present, TRRA Committee cannot respond to them all and we are asking individual members to make the time to comment. Some are:-

- **Constitutional Review Referendum Question** – Federal Election Day 2013
- **A new Planning System for NSW – White Paper** – Workshops in Newcastle on 30 May
- **Lower Hunter Regional Action Plan** – Extended to 31st May
- **Local Government Review** - View the Port Stephens Council submission to this enquiry [HERE](#). There is a public forum regarding this review to be held at Maitland Town Hall at 5 pm on Wednesday next 22 May. If you are interested in attending, would you please give a brief report on this back to any TRRA Committee member.

ALTERNATE SAND ACCESS ROAD ONTO NELSON BAY ROAD

Our most recent letter [HERE](#) to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure repeats much of what has been highlighted in previous correspondence, including our continued concerns about public safety. A new traffic study was called for in February this year. That study is still based on only 25% of the approved EPA licence extraction for the two sites, with truck movements from both sites having an impact on the Salt Ash roundabout. If the full licence extraction rate were to be used then it is not unreasonable to request a full upgrade to four lanes substantially paid for by any operators who will be using Nelson Bay Road for transport of sand from Stockton beach. Remember that this is our only road in and out of Tomaree Peninsula. This is not a decision to be made by Port Stephens Council but rather an independent Planning Panel.

SOLDIERS POINT MARINA EXPANSION – HEARING TO COME

Thank you to those members who took the time to send in an objection to the expansion of the Soldiers Point Marina. The Soldiers Point Community Action Group is now looking for people to volunteer to present short segments to the Joint Regional Planning Panel hearing which is expected to be held in June at Raymond Terrace. Please contact Colin Howard on 0419281167. You don't need to be a great public speaker. **This is the last chance so please assist.**

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY – Due 31st May

Many will have received this via Council or the Residents Panel. Don't forget to take the time to complete this important survey **and** add your comments. It is used as a basis for many decisions made for use of Council resources. Tomaree Peninsula has always "led the pack" in responding so let's keep that record up – *that's because we do care!* Access from home page www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au

Margaret Wilkinson
Hon Secretary, TRRA Inc