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TRRA Inc. Submission on RECLASSIFICATION OF LOT 10 DP 729986 - 2 JESSIE ROAD, ANNA BAY (FORMER ANNA BAY OVAL). Ref: PSC2013-01904

In 2012 when the reclassification of this community land was first mooted, TRRA Inc. urged councillors to consider the strategic importance of this site at the gateway to the Tomaree Peninsula.

We pointed out that a portion of the site adjacent to Nelson Bay Road has for many years been used as a transport interchange for Port Stephens Coaches serving the Tomaree (especially for school children) and as a park and ride / car sharing facility.

TRRA Inc in its earlier submissions on the strategic planning for the LGA proposed that a suitable site at the approach to the peninsula be set aside for a designated transport interchange and car-pooling facility to reduce the growing density of private vehicle traffic to Newcastle and other commercial and employment centres in the Lower Hunter Region.

TRRA Inc also identified this site as having potential as an Information Bay and /or Visitor Information Centre for those arriving at the Tomaree tourist destination. The Destination Port Stephens Tourism Diagnostic Report of September 2013 includes the concept of a mobile tourism van. Should funds not be available for a permanent VIC, then this concept could be trialled at this location in tourist peak times. There is already a suitable toilet facility at the site.

We note that these potential uses have not been mentioned in the background papers and that consultations have been limited to the pony club. TRRA believes that there should have been, at the very least, discussions with Port Stephens Coaches, a sample of commuters who use the informal car-park and Port Stephens Tourism.

Recommendation: That the boundary of the site recommended for reclassification and ultimate sale be altered to provide sufficient space adjoining Nelson Bay Road to retain in public ownership and accommodate:

1. A formal public transport interchange
2. Car parking for car poolers and peninsula commuters who in the future would transfer to express bus services
3. A visitor information bay

Terry Wall
President
Tomaree Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.

