



The Hon Paul Toole MP
Minister for Local Government

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The Hon S Cotsis MLC
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

13 OCT 2014

Dear Ms Cotsis

Thank you for your letter of 18 September 2014 making representations on behalf of Ms Margaret Wilkinson, Secretary of the Tomaree Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc, seeking an investigation into Port Stephens Council's planning decisions.

Ms Wilkinson also wrote directly to me seeking that I direct the General Manager of Port Stephens Council to conduct a review of the Council's planning and development matters.

Please find enclosed a copy of my response to Ms Wilkinson.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Paul Toole MP
Minister

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The Hon Paul Toole MP
Minister for Local Government

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Ref:
MIN: 2014-479454
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Ms Margaret Wilkinson
Hon Secretary
Tomaree Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc
PO Box 290
NELSON BAY NSW 2315

Dear Ms Wilkinson

Thank you for your email of 15 September 2014 seeking an investigation into Port Stephens Council.

I acknowledge the concerns of the Tomaree Residents and Ratepayers Association, as well as the broader Port Stephens community, due to recent revelations in ICAC's Operation Spicer. I also appreciate the reasons that prompted you to seek that I direct the Council's General Manager to conduct an independent review of the Council's decision making in regard to planning and development matters.

As the ICAC Commissioner has not yet made any findings, conclusions or recommendations, it would be premature for me to comment further, other than to assure you that the Office of Local Government and I will consider the relevant findings, conclusions and/or recommendations made by ICAC in determining what, if any, action to take.

I would also mention that on 16 September 2014, the Legislative Council established the Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the Broader Hunter Region to inquire into and report on aspects of the planning process in Newcastle and the broader Hunter Region. Further information is available on the NSW Parliament website via the following link:

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/443411476728F232CA257D550026EF68>.

I note the Committee is now seeking submissions. The Association may wish to consider making a submission to the Inquiry by the closing date of 24 October 2014.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED

Paul Toole MP
Minister