



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

The battle to maintain Nelson Bay's character just got more difficult

Port Stephens Council decided last night to approve a 32 metre apartment tower at 11-13 Church St, Nelson Bay – twice the current height limit.

"TRRA thanks our local Councillor John Nell and Cllrs Dingle and Kafer for supporting a sensible motion to defer a decision until a report on the recent Nelson Bay Strategy review is available mid-year." Dick Appleby, acting TRRA President said today.

"We are very disappointed that the other two representatives of the local community - Councillors Dover and Morello, chose not to wait to hear the views of their constituents, but instead voted with the 'development at any cost' majority for approval." He said

"While development of this ugly hole in the ground is long overdue, Councillors have effectively announced that height controls mean nothing in Port Stephens"

It was clear from meetings during the Strategy review that there is strong support for maintaining the current character of the town. But even if Council now tries to include sensible height limits in a revised LEP, it has set a dangerous precedent.

"By using a clause in the LEP to allow a building more than double the current height limit, Council has opened the door wide open to challenges to any future attempt to hold the line on any new controls."

Council also ignored the advice of an independent design panel which assessed the proposal for Church St and found it wanting in many areas.

"The Strategy review placed great emphasis on good design excellence as a trade-off for height increases, but Council has now given away even that safeguard."

TRRA will now re-double its efforts to ensure that the new Nelson Bay Strategy reflects community expectations, and has sufficiently strong controls to counter the effect of this premature and irresponsible decision.

Dick Appleby, Acting TRRA President

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