



**TOMAREE RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.
MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY APRIL 19, 2016
Meeting held Bay Room, Nelson Bay Bowling & Recreation Club**

- Attendance:** 28 as per attendance sheet
- Apologies:** Judith Washington, Judith Hearn, Geoffrey Basser, John Nell, Pam Mumford
- Opening:** President Geoff Washington welcomed all attendees to this bi-monthly General Meeting and declared the meeting open.
- Previous Minutes:** The minutes of the General Meeting held on February 16, 2016 having been posted on the TRRA website were passed as a true and correct record on the motion of Jean Armstrong and Margaret Wilkinson.
- Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Dennis Pittorino reported a credit balance in the TRRA account of \$2017.61 after receipts from membership subs of \$113.00 and expenses of \$121.00.
- The report was accepted on the motion of Dennis Pittorino and Nigel Waters.
- Correspondence:** All correspondence for the period February to April is listed in the correspondence register.
- Guest Speakers:** President Geoff introduced our guest speakers, Bianca Gordon-Smith, Port Stephens Telstra NBN Manager and Jake, their Technical Expert who addressed the meeting on the NBN Rollout on the Tomaree Peninsula.
- The speakers answered a wide range of questions from members which demonstrated the keen interest in this subject.
- President Geoff thanked Bianca and Jake for their attendance and presentation.
- General Business:**
- 1. State Government proposal for merger of Newcastle City and Port Stephens Councils.**
 - Members should ensure they remain up to date on this proposal through the media, TRRA Website and other sources.
 - PSC responded with a submission to the NSW Government opposing the merger supported by a petition with 15000 signatures which became the catalyst for a parliamentary debate of the proposed merger. The Minister is to advise on

whether this merger goes ahead or otherwise but does not intend to release delegates' reports on the inquiries on proposals until after his announcements.

- PSC has debated a proposed merger with Dungog Council although no further action will be taken until advice from NSW Government of Newcastle/PSC merger is received.
- It is understood that major changes in council administration and legislative/approval powers could be introduced in conjunction with council mergers. Should a council get into financial difficulties then a financial controller could be appointed. More info available on TRRA Website.
- DA, NW, MW and DP spoke on the future of council after any merger on issues such as sustainability, rating issues, land usage and the transition to merged councils.
- President Geoff asked members for any suggestions for future TRRA action.

2. Report on Development Applications

- Nelson Bay Golf Clubhouse
 - Reconstruction will be similar to original design
- Woolworths Nelson Bay
 - Final design due in part to TRRA intervention
 - Landscaping not as desired
 - Donald Street frontage not up to standard, no landscaping
 - Exit from underground car park dangerous
 - TRRA to write to PSC requesting bike rack in Donald Street and remove dangerous aspects from carpark exit.
- Donald Street Car Parks
 - Council reviewing detailed proposals for each site
 - Recommendations to go to Council during May
 - Including preferred tendering and consultation processes
 - Two uses have emerged (an aged care living 55+ through to nursing home, and a mixed resident/permanent residential apartment with commercial)
 - Each development must include as a minimum the same number of free car parks as presently exist
 - Commercial viability will require 9-11 storey buildings
 - PSC intends to "partner with the Department of Planning to achieve these heights.
 - PSC officer offered to meet TRRA reps for further discussion

3. Current Issues/Information Sharing

- a. PSC Integrated Plans/Long Term Financial Plan**
 - Currently out for comment
 - MW suggested individual ratepayers hone in on Strategic Work Plans
- b. Hunter Regional Plan**
 - JJ reported the big picture is good but will depend somewhat on merger results

- Submissions have been lodged
- c. Renaming of Apex Park**
 - To be known as Apex Memorial Park, TRRA raised no objection
- d. Cycle Way Route – Corlette**
 - Foreshore erosion still a concern for residents
 - Community consultation – one to watch
- e. Soldiers Point Marina Proposed Expansion**
 - Developer has applied to the Land & Environment Court following disapproval by PSC
- f. Proposed Offshore Fish Farm**
 - Expressions of Interest have been called to develop the farm
 - Huon Aquaculture have indicated interest
 - Development in conjunction with Port Stephens Fisheries Institute
- g. Boomerang Park, Raymond Terrace**
 - PSC have drafted a Plan of Management which will remove the cultural significance of the park and leave the way clear for rezoning and allowing seniors and other housing development.
 - Public would prefer to have the park remain as is including the cultural significance.

4. Section 94

- Members should be aware of article in the Port Stephens Examiner asking for comment- Ferodale Road Medowie is site proposed by PSC for a “recreation club” (Stage 1 will cost \$3.8m)
- TRRA should object to this use of Sect 94 funds
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Other Business:

1. Brief discussion ensued on the following

Medowie Saw Mill
 Mayor Mackenzie landfill situation

Meeting was closed at 9.20pm

Minutes accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Signed:

Date: