



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. 9 March 2018

Solution in sight on Nelson Bay heights

Hopeful signs of a solution to the contentious issue of building heights in Nelson Bay emerged at a packed public forum last Tuesday night (6 March).

More than 300 people attended, including Mayor Ryan Palmer; Councillors Jaimie Abbott, John Nell, Sarah Smith and Paul Le Mottee, and Council staff.

“The Mayor’s willingness to review the current proposal to allow 10 storey buildings anywhere in the town centre is to be commended,” said Nigel Waters, spokesperson for the Tomaree Residents and Ratepayers Association, which organised the forum at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club.

“It was very clear, as it has been all along, that the local community is overwhelmingly opposed to high rise development, and frustrated that Council keeps coming back with plans to ‘lift the lid’ on heights,” he said.

“We particularly welcome the strong support for this community view announced by Councillor Jaimie Abbott and State MP Kate Washington.

“We would all like to get behind the new Council’s *Nelson Bay Next* initiative, which we can only do once the threat of high rise has been removed.

“We therefore welcome the Mayor’s commitment at the forum to consider finer-grained ‘stepped’ height controls, as part of a solution.”

Mr Waters said the planning controls also need to be consistent with the Strategy’s objective ‘...that the wooded ridge and headlands that surround the Bay be visible and not eclipsed by buildings’.

“This means no high rise buildings, even on the edge of town, that rise above the tree line on surrounding hills and ridges,” he said.

“TRRA also welcomes the Mayor’s commitment to preserve the foreshore parkland east of the marina buildings, after a motion calling for this was passed unanimously.”

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Media Contact :

Nigel Waters, Convenor, Planning Committee, TRRA Inc.
planning@trra.com.au 0407 230 342

www.trra.com.au

