



TRRA MEMBER COMMUNICATION – 23rd MAY 2018

DIARY NOTE: NEXT GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 18TH JUNE 2018

We will be reverting back to Monday night meetings for the remainder of the year.

Our guest speaker at our next general meeting to be held on **Monday 18th June** commencing at 7 pm will be the new **Chief Executive Officer of Destination Port Stephens, Ms Eileen Gilliland**. The meeting will be held in the Crows Nest Room at Nelson Bay Bowling Club.

We encourage all members to note this date in their diary as we could experience some technical hitches with further direct member communication about the meeting due to Committee members being away in the lead up. Please check on the TRRA website closer to the time. www.trra.com.au

PRESENTATION - LAST GENERAL MEETING – 18th APRIL – The minutes are on the website. Presentation [HERE](#) is well worth viewing (Warning: large download). The meeting was well attended and members were provided with updates on many local issues. Have a look, for example, at the plans shown by our Vice President and Researcher John James, of the proliferation of DA approvals (and subsequent variations) to manufactured home and over 55 villages approved on Nelson Bay Road approaches.

NELSON BAY STRATEGY

We await the next presentation to Council of the Nelson Bay Strategy, including the proposal for 10 storeys across Nelson Bay CBD. No timeline is available. However, we will be looking to member support when this does come back to Council.

TRRA Committee continues to talk to the Mayor and Councillors. We were particularly encouraged that the Tomaree Business Chamber submission closely aligned with the TRRA position on building heights in the CBD.

We remain strongly opposed to high rise in Nelson Bay. Watch for posts on our Facebook page “Save Nelson Bay from High Rise” as any alerts will be immediately posted there.

PUBLIC DOMAIN PLAN BEGINNINGS

TRRA was pleased to be represented by Geoffrey Washington and Nigel Waters at the initial presentation by consultants engaged to prepare the Public Domain Plan for Nelson Bay. This aspect of the Nelson Bay Strategy is fully supported and we were

pleased to hear that Council received a grant for this Plan to be prepared. Funding for the actual implementation is not part of this grant.

EXCEPTIONS CLAUSE USED WELL

We were encouraged that the new Council planning staff has used the LEP Exceptions Clause wisely to recommend approval of a re-development in Church Street opposite the Anglican Church. The plans were referred to an independent Design Excellence committee and many of the changes recommended were taken on board by the developer. This will see a very minor increase in the existing height limit in part of the development and TRRA did not object to this DA. As Cr John Nell said in supporting the DA at the recent Council meeting “This shows you don’t need 10 storeys to have a viable development”.

WORKING WITH TOMAREE BUSINESS CHAMBER AND NELSON BAY NOW FOR AN INTERIM MAKEOVER

As shared previously with members, TRRA is supportive of making improvements to Nelson Bay CBD while we await the bigger plans ahead. The Yacaaba Street extension is not far off opening and Apex Park should also receive some attention in the future following Council’s successful grant application.

Nelson Bay NOW are continuing to negotiate improvements to parking.

On Sunday next (27th) the Civic Pride Group, a subset of the Chamber and Nelson Bay Now are holding a working bee to clean, paint and plant in the CBD. TRRA is fully supportive. Two of our members are assisting with the organizing and we hope our members will turn out to help out. Details were sent separately recently.

SIGNAGE AND GATEWAY

At our general meeting we heard about plans being developed by the Nelson Bay Rotary Club to improve at least one of the roundabouts on our entry point adjacent Port Stephens Drive.

We welcome Council moving on the implementation of the Gateway project which will see updated signage to replace the outdated suburb signage plus other initiatives to present our area in a much better way than at present.

TRRA is also taking up with Council enforcement of the ugly signage on trailers which proliferate along the entry to our lovely area. State government legislation was introduced from 1st March to assist with this initiative.



Nelson Bay Road Approaches – Is this what we want?

109 FORESHORE DRIVE, SALAMANDER BAY – LOSS OF KOALA HABITAT/ACCESS AND ICONIC VIEW

TRRA has expressed concern at Council’s plan to sell this site located at the corner of Port Stephens Drive and Foreshore Drive. The adjoining Mambo Wetlands group has joined forces to object to any sale of this important block of foreshore land as this is a known access point for koalas to the sand. It is also adjacent to the Mambo land sold off by the State Government. This is land was classified as “Operational” (ie able to be sold) over 25 years ago.

Good news (...for now)At the Council meeting tonight (22nd) Councillors agreed to defer a decision on the sale, pending site inspections and further consultation by Councillors with their community.

Note: We will be calling at short notice on our members and other interested community members to rally at the site at a suitable time within the next 2-3 weeks.

TRRA President Geoffrey Washington spoke in public access prior to the meeting and suggested that Council look to other avenues of funding for the \$64M proposed Tomaree Sports Complex rather than resorting to sell off of valuable ratepayer owned foreshore land.



(109 Foreshore Drive – half of this open space)

MAMBO WETLANDS DA REFUSED – Other good news from the Council meeting is that the DA was refused. The Conservation Group will now await further advice from the State Government on any proposed buy back.

TREE REMOVAL – STOCKTON STREET

We have requested Council to provide more background for the reasons for removal of two trees adjacent the Stockton Street stage. Our concerns relate to a possible flow on effect to Magnus Street if the same issues are presenting. These valuable trees should in our opinion be retained for as long as possible to provide summer shade and winter sun. The value of trees cannot be underestimated.

It was interesting that the Consultant engaged for the Public Domain Plan commented on the beauty of Magnus Street on the recent walkaround. Council has cleared completely all 3 gardens in Stockton Street in readiness for re-landscaping as part of the Civic Pride Group working bee. Hopefully we will see some added spring and summer colour in the space.



Before trees taken out in Stockton Street 30.1.18

TOMAREE SPORTS COMPLEX – COMMUNITY FEEDBACK BEFORE SUNDAY NEXT 27TH MAY

Sally Dover, previous East Ward Councillor spoke tonight in public access about the omission from the current Tomaree Sports Complex plan of an indoor Youth Skate Park which had been approved by Council in 2010 – a facility promised to the youth of Port Stephens for many years.

This reminder from Sally Dover highlights the importance of the community actually checking out this plan and making comments – both good and not so good. Go to “Have your Say” on Council website. With the extreme word limit on the survey option (250 characters for best elements; 150 for anything of concern; and 150 for other comments, perhaps the best option available is to email your submission to taylah.carney@portstephens.nsw.gov.au

Margaret Wilkinson

TRRA Membership

On behalf of TRRA Committee

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