



No secret deals please!

The TRRA is concerned about the lack of transparency with Council plans for the development at the Salamander Centre. The Council appears to be pursuing secret 'deals' for land sales around the shopping centre and community facilities even before it has approved its own development application for subdivision.

Council rejected Councilor Nell's motion calling for a Master Plan, and has so far declined to make public earlier Urban Design Guidelines for the Centre. TRRA has now made a Formal Access Request for this information.

'This development appears to maximise short term returns without any long term benefits for the community,' TRRA Chairman, Bob Young said. 'Where is the strategy to manage the traffic and parking demands that will accompany this large development? What's going to happen to all the community facilities? Why hasn't there been a consultation process with retailers to avoid a hodgepodge of commercial outlets? What are the financial consequences for ratepayers with Council having to provide most of the infrastructure as a result of this piecemeal approach; and what effect will this development have on the Mambo wetlands.'

The TRRA will address these concerns, as well as the controversial recommendations in the Patrick Partner's report for the redevelopment of the Nelson Bay CBD, at its first meeting of 2010 on Monday 8 February.

TRRA has responded to this report calling for a plan that allows the CBD to reinvent itself to offer a unique experience and 'sense of place' for residents and visitors.

'This is particularly challenging in light of the proposed developments at the Salamander Centre, and once again highlights the need for long term and sustainable planning,' Bob Young said.

Everyone is welcome to attend the TRRA general meetings and have a say about any issue that concerns or impacts on the Tomaree community.

General Meeting: Monday 8 February, 7:30pm, Nelson Bay Bowling Club

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