



TRAFFIC CHAOS

Chaos on the roads around the Peninsula over the Christmas New Year week was predictable given the number of visitors, the weather and the shambolic state of our road, and emphasized the necessity for a Fingal Bay By-pass.

Visitors and locals experience traffic jams on all main roads, and in particular Dowling Street was so traffic bound, it took 10 minutes to navigate 500 yards past the Golf Club. And this was a picnic compared to the bumper to bumper traffic from Shoal Bay to Nelson Bay where cars stretched from the new traffic lights almost to West's Club.

The Tomaree Peninsula has suffered from the lack of a traffic management plan for too long, and in a recent report the Council's Chief Planner has acknowledged that a comprehensive traffic and parking management plan is needed for the area.

'Considering the Council is working on a number of major development proposals, including the Nelson Bay CBD and the Salamander Shopping Centre, TRRA supports the need for such a plan as a matter of urgency,' TRRA Deputy Chairman, Geoff Washington said.

The amount of traffic on our roads has outgrown the infrastructure, traffic flow is impeded because roads are overcrowded and in poor condition, and the area does not have adequate parking to accommodate the huge influx of tourists for up to six months of the year. If this isn't enough to encourage a serious attempt for funding for the Fingal Bay By-pass or at least alternative new roads in the shorter term, there is a safety aspect that needs to be considered. With only one main road servicing the whole Peninsula, in the case of a catastrophe such as a bushfire, how does the population safely exit the Peninsula if there is a bottleneck through Nelson Bay.

'It is imperative the Council develops a sustainable and long term traffic management and parking strategy, not only ensure that Tomaree can look forward to better and safer road conditions in the near future, but as a prerequisite to finalising the Nelson Bay CBD redevelopment strategy,' Mr Washington said.

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