



MINISTERS OFFER 'AN EAR' TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The Tomaree Ratepayers & Residents Association (TRRA) delegation met with the Minister for Development, Frank Sartor, and Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, and their senior staff, for congenial in-depth and fruitful discussions, when the State Government held its recent Cabinet meeting in Maitland.

President of TRRA, Mark Brady, said that it was *'considered imperative that we met with the Ministers to express our concerns regarding the ad hoc planning assessments by Port Stephens Council, and the need for a strategic master plan for the Tomaree Peninsular.'*

The Ministers offered an 'open ear' to the delegation and showed much consideration for the concerns regarding the many planning and development projects currently being proposed by the Port Stephens Council and the Department of Lands. TRRA held a wide ranging discussion with the Ministers which included:

- Community apprehension about all development in the Tomaree Peninsular needing an overarching development strategy to ensure infrastructure such as roads, parking, public amenities and spaces, and lifestyle, were a major consideration;
- A series of overlapping major development proposals along the southern foreshore of the Port that lacked any strategic linkages, and the proposed commercial funding of these developments;
- Port Stephens Council's readiness to make 'spot rezonings' for developer-led proposals which do not conform with Local Planning Instruments.

Both Ministers stated they were pleased that TRRA had raised these issues with them on behalf of the community, and that their respective departments would *'liaise and work closely with TRRA'*. In addition, the Association was offered a place at the table on the Department of Lands Foreshore Reference Group.

The time and courtesy given by the Ministers was much appreciated by TRRA, and the delegation welcomed the NSW Government's preparedness to listen and recognize legitimate community concerns.

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