



## **RESIDENTS APPLAUD COUNCILLORS' REJECTION OF GATED NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENT IN NELSON BAY**

TRRA congratulates the Councillors who took a strong stance against the New Year's Eve rave party at Fly Point. This would have alienated the headland here, a prime vantage point for fireworks, from local families and visitors staying in the town. It has in previous years been a catalyst for encouragement of antisocial behaviour in young people, many of whom come to the town specifically for that event, to the detriment of a harmonious and safe environment in the town for residents and visitors alike.

On Tuesday, Councillors at Port Stephens were to vote on an Operations Committee Report relating to the New Years Eve activities on Nelson Bay Waterfront and Fly Point. While providing three options for management of the Fly Point event, the recommendation of the report was for establishment of a 'controlled precinct' in Nelson Bay in collaboration with NSW Police. This would have allowed road closure with barricades encompassing Nelson Bay Town Centre and Foreshore with security entrances. Approval of this recommendation by Councillors was to form the 'policy basis' for assessment of the Development Application for running of the Evebay Event (the Fly Point rave party) over the next three years.

At the meeting East Ward Councillor John Nell moved an alternative motion, that there be no gated event or controlled precinct in Nelson Bay, and that Council approach the Liquor Licensing and Gaming Board to ban the sale of packaged liquor after 9.30 p.m. on New year's Eve. This was amended by Cllr Sally Dover, with the addition that the Nelson Bay Blues Football Club put in a submission to the Sports Council to hold a New Years Eve Party at Tomaree Sports Complex. The final motion was passed with a majority.

Cllr Nell commented that he hoped the measures would be successful in curbing the disorder and drunkenness of previous years. He stressed that it was important to review the effect of the measures early in 2010.

The matter will come to a Council vote on Tuesday 28 July. President of TRRA Robert Young stated that 'TRRA trusts that at this meeting Councillors will hold to their strong and principled stance on the matter and oppose closing Fly Point to the public on New Year's Eve and the holding of the rave party there'. Experience in Byron Bay and The Entrance has been that disorderly conduct has lessened considerably with the removal of similar New Year's Eve parties and restricting public outdoor events to family friendly activities. TRRA feels the Marina fireworks fit into the latter category and both sessions should be retained.

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