



OPEN LETTER TO COUNCILLORS

4th September 2010

Dear Councillors,

I have been away for the past three months and return just before you deliberate and vote on who is to be our Mayor leading up to the next council elections.

In the past two years we, as a community, have seen nothing but factional infighting, disruption, disputes and walkouts.

There is a widely held perception, in the community, that Port Stephens Council's democratic processes and its administration need a new direction under competent and balanced leadership.

The community has been the unfortunate witness to savage personal attacks, Code of Conduct cases, some councillors taking part in discussions and votes where they have had obvious pecuniary interests, and lastly, a group of councillors who have disengaged themselves from their community, showing little or no real interest other than steamrolling through various policies, proposals and developments that have not been properly discussed, work-shopped or given appropriate community consideration, and which ignore policies and guidelines issued at State level.

Our new Mayor needs to be someone who can win community respect that has been significantly lost over the last two years.

Our new Mayor needs to be a leader who can unite all of you.

Our new Mayor has to be one who will engage with the community in the interests of the community now and into the future.

Our new Mayor has to be one who wants decisions to be inclusive of all of your views, as well as one who will include all of you in decision making processes, meetings and proposals.

TRRA believes that the letter from the Department of Local Government (re the rate increase) clearly illustrates the failed performance of council under the present management during the last 2 years. We believe a council, split as badly as it has been, has not focused on proper policy, financial management or land planning decisions, and a further two years of similar performance will bring the council totally into disrepute.

TRRA stands ready to work constructively with any and all Councillors who are prepared to put the public interest first, listen to the community, and introduce a much needed financial discipline.

We urge you all to seriously consider just who this leader should be, in the interests of the Port Stephens community, and to cast your vote independently of direction or sectional interest.

Robert Young
Chairman, Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association.