



10^h March 2011

NELSON BAY BOAT HARBOUR DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN IS ON EXHIBITION

The Draft Concept Plan prepared by Ardent Leisure and the NSW Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) was placed on exhibition on 9 March with 28 days to make comment.

The draft is posted on the LPMA website <http://www.lands.nsw.gov.au/>

The latest draft has changed little from that which was tabled by the consultant at the final Stakeholder Workshop held in December.

TRRA has been advised that the Plan has not been lodged under part 3A of the Environmental Planning Act, which allows for projects of state significance to be referred directly to the state level for assessment. The proponents considered it desirable to develop the concept through a process of community consultation, which was undertaken last year. TRRA had 2 Stakeholder representatives.

The Coalition policy is to repeal the 3A provision with the objective of returning greater planning powers to the local level. As the Draft Concept Plan will not be finalized until after the election there may be some uncertainty as to which planning process will apply.

The consultants state that there was “majority consensus” at its final workshop on the Draft Plan but acknowledge that on some matters there was not “absolute consensus”. TRRA came to the view that despite some concerns on specific aspects, the Draft should be put on exhibition to enable public comment.

Aspects on which there was not full consensus were the proposals to transfer the Fisherman’s co-op to the Eastern Groyne, the replacement of the beach inside the harbour with a boardwalk and building heights in the commercial/residential precinct west of the existing marina buildings. TRRA and other interests have called for a comprehensive Traffic and Parking Strategy for Nelson Bay as a whole to be part of the planning for the Boat Harbour Plan. So far this has not eventuated.

The TRRA Committee will be studying the draft plan and intends to make a submission within the 28 days. TRRA members are encouraged to make their own submissions but our committee would appreciate receiving a copy (send to deputychair@trra.com.au) to help formulate its submission.

