



14th September 2010

Dear Councillor Westbury,

On behalf of the Management Committee and the members of the Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association, may we congratulate you upon your appointment, as Mayor of Port Stephens, following the ballot at council tonight.

When we wrote to all councillors last week, we saw an opportunity for a new way forward and a bridging of the differences that have divided our councillors over the past two years.

We urged for a leader who can unite all our councillors, to enable a proper and cohesive overview of council administrative, financial, policy and land management matters so that, as a team, the better, long term, interests of Port Stephens is the primary focus.

You, and most of your fellow councillors, have been elected to previous councils and have worked harmoniously with each other, and with the community for many years.

TRRA can see that this can be achieved again, under your direction and leadership.

As such, we look forward to the next 1 to 2 years, where balance can be brought back into the Council Chamber, where there will be a solid re-engagement with the community, that policy and planning issues are fully discussed and debated and where some strong financial discipline is introduced into council operations.

As we stated in our 'Open Letter', 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.

This offer more than extends to you, as our new Mayor, and we welcome ongoing frank and open discussions with you on those matters of concern to all of the community.

We also ask that you pass on our congratulations to Councillor Sally Dover, a long-standing member of this Association, as your Deputy, and we wish both of you the best in your respective positions.

We also extend to you an invitation to address our membership immediately following our Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club commencing at 7.30pm. It would provide you with an excellent forum to present your aims and direction of council under your leadership. Our invitation also extends to your fellow councillors if they wish to attend.

We will contact your office in the next few days to seek your availability.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Young  
Chairman, Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association.