



Minutes TRRA Inc GENERAL MEETING
Monday 12 August 2019 – 7 pm
Nelson Room, Nelson Bay Bowling Club

1. Apologies: Monica and John Hargrove, Jean Armstrong

Attendees: 50 people signed the attendance sheet

2. Guest Speaker: Kate Washington Member for Port Stephens in the Legislative Assembly and Shadow Minister for the Environment Heritage and Rural Health.

Ms Washington said that she was actively pursuing the Government on high priority undertakings made at the last election, in particular the upgrade of Nelson Bay Road to 4 lanes between Bobs Farm and Paul's Corner, retention of the Tomaree Lodge site in Public ownership and on-going support for the development of the Koala Hospital. Ms Washington asked for public feed-back on the election promise of \$188 million to construct the Fingal Link Road. She queried whether the RMS would ever deliver this road?

She was monitoring the State and Federal committees dealing with the PFAS contamination at Williamstown and has lodged a motion to secure a ban on the use of PFAS in NSW which would bring us into line with Queensland and South Australia.

Ms Washington is pushing to increase the range of services on offer at Tomaree Community Hospital, especially dialysis together with additional nursing support in the palliative care unit.

In relation to her Environment and Heritage responsibility Ms Washington listed the following matters receiving her attention;

- Managing feral animals impacting on Kosciusko National Park
- Proposals to remove the protection of river red gums from logging in the Murray Valley National Park
- Continuing destruction of habitats especially for Koalas
- Addition of the valuable natural forested land north of Fisherman's Bay Road to the Tomaree National Park

Matters raised from the floor included:

- Need to clarify the status of lot 424 at Halifax Park as public parkland
- Funds promised for the Fingal Bay Link Road could be better spent on a roundabout at the junction of Gan Gan Road and Nelson Bay Roads and further duplication of Nelson Bay Road. Ms Washington considered that after the Bobs Farm stretch, the next priority would be from Williamstown to Newcastle
- Inadequate nursing and medical staffing of the Tomaree Hospital especially at weekends
- Fear of PFAS contamination of drinking water if Grahamstown Dam is topped up with bore water. Need to ensure measures at Newcastle airport to prevent further escape of PFAS in periods of heavy rain.
- Need for support for Friends of Tomaree Headland in implementing a co-ordinated vision for the iconic site and a plan to ensure continuing occupancy of the Lodge buildings to avoid vandalism.

3. **Minutes of last Meeting** – 18 June 2019 (refer to website) accepted with a modification moved by John James. The changes to the DA for the Birubi Information Centre are to be revised.
4. **Matters Arising** are included in the Agenda.
5. **Treasurer's Report was tabled and is available on the website.** Denis moved acceptance seconded by Margaret Wilkinson.

6. **Correspondence**

Items from Kate Washington outlining action taken in response to our query regarding the Fingal Bay Link Road.

- a. Kate made representation to the Minister of Transport and Roads seeking clarification on the Fingal Bay Link Road. She also lodged a written question on notice in the NSW Parliament.
- b. A request from EDO for funding support

7. **Nelson Bay Town Centre and Foreshore Strategy Review (NW)**

- For the increase in height levels there need to be changes to the LEP including needed revised height limits and floor space ratios. The Department has yet to give approval.
- Nigel Waters reported that the department of Planning website indicates that is still assessing Port Stephens Council's planning proposal for amendments to the LEP.
- Once approved the Council will need to place the draft on exhibition and there will be a further chance for public submissions.
- Council will make the final decision

8. **Nelson Bay Public Domain Plan (GW)**

Public Domain Plan

The plan addresses visual appeal, function, access, parking, streetscape, signage and wayfinding. Consultation will be ongoing as part of the detailed planning design and delivery of the project implementation over the next 20 years, depending on availability of funds.

It was pointed out that notwithstanding that 42 submissions were received, no changes were made to the draft plan on the grounds that community consultation will be ongoing as part of the detailed planning, design and delivery of projects.

TRRA is concerned that some matters of significant concern such as the proposals to relocate the playground on the foreshore and for Norfolk Pines, a very large and dominating species, to be planted alongside Victoria Parade were not taken on board.

9. **PSC Funding for Proposed Community Projects**

After the rejection of the SRV rate rise there is a new list of projects proposed by Councillors to be undertaken in the three wards. In total projects costing \$15 million are being considered.

A number of members attended the community consultations.

TRRA expressed dissatisfaction with the consultation process applied to confirm the East ward list of project priorities. This involved a presentation of a list prepared by Council followed by an opportunity to show support for individual projects by stickers (limited to two votes per person) and discussion of priorities on a one to one basis. There was no opportunity for general discussion from the floor.

The final list of projects together with proposed funding sources will be presented for Council approval at its meeting on 27 August 2019.

10. Plans of Management Halifax and Shoal Bay Caravan Parks (JJ).

Vice president John James, who attended the public consultation session on these draft plans, reported that the format of the meetings was commendable, with those attending having an opportunity to comment and raise questions from the floor.

The plan for Halifax Park rearranges some of the layout to make better use of the space and provides for a reduction in the number of permanent caravans. The amenities block will be significantly upgraded.

The use of Lot 424 for camping is not included due to the state requirement that no site may be located more than 100 metres from an ablution block. No mention was made of other objections relating to the proximity of camping to neighbouring residences or impact on Koala habitat.

Lot 424 will be used for recreation with the possible addition of a children's playground. No fence is planned to enclose the lot within the Caravan site.

Those opposing the original proposal for a campground strongly supported the view that lot 424 should now be reclassified as a public open space for recreational use.

The plan for Shoal Bay caravan park included a replacement of the amenities block and replacement of a number of permanent caravan sites on the north eastern corner with two storey cabins.

Comments from the TRRA meeting raised concern that the row of 2 storey cabins could have been located further back in the site avoiding the possibility of such cabins detracting from the visual amenity of the Shoal Bay precinct.

11. PSC Extra Ordinary Council Meeting Re: 2 Dowling Street, Nelson Bay (Lagoons Estate)

This meeting was closed and there is no access to any reports or advice given to Councillors.

The Council's resolution is minuted as follows:

It was resolved that Council authorise the General Manager to negotiate the settlement of these proceedings and execute a Deed of Settlement and Release on behalf of Council in accordance with the terms set out in this report.

The discussion in the TRRA General Meeting identified TRRA concerns as:

- The long period of time taken to settle this issue (12+ years) and the cost burden to owners and Council, including legal costs
- Council's lack of transparency in dealing with this case when ratepayers have an important interest in existing and potential Council liabilities

TRRA resolved:

TRRA Inc. calls on Port Stephens Council to inform its ratepayers and residents of:

1. *Relevant information and technical reports which form the basis for its negotiations on the situation with drainage affecting 2 Dowling Street, Nelson Bay*
2. *An estimate of all the costs so far incurred by Council in dealing with this issue, since the commencement of the dispute, including legal costs*
3. *Council's assessment of what actions are required to overcome "water in excess of natural flow" entering into Lagoons Estate together with the estimated costs involved.*

12. DAs of Interest

- **1 Yacaaba Street (NW):** It was noted that Council had approved the DA for 1 Yacaaba Street against the recommendation of the Planning staff and advice from an independent Design Panel which queried several aspects of the proposed development.

- **97 Stockton Street (NW):** It was noted that the DA for 97 Stockton Street had been withdrawn.

13. Public Exhibition of the Tomaree National Park Plan of Management Draft Amendment – Coastal Walk and Visitor Experience Improvements

- It was noted that TRRA president Geoff Washington was accepted as a member of the Coastal Walk Advisory Group. Heritage protection and interpretation along with adding to the tourist appeal on the Tomaree Peninsula are key objectives of the Amendment.
- TRRA has raised the need identified by the Friends of Tomaree Headland for an integrated vision for the whole Headland including the Tomaree Lodge site. This site, soon to be vacated, is heritage listed and has great potential for interpretative facilities and space to accommodate additional car parking essential to the success of the coastal walk.

14. General Business

- Matters of concern to members

Secretary: Cath Norman