



TRRA INC NEWSLETTER, 31 July 2020

TRRA 3 August General Meeting to be by ZOOM

In accordance with the current limitations on public meetings TRRA General Meetings can no longer be held in the Bowling Club. As an alternative you will have received an email invitation from TRRA on 27 July to meet via Zoom over your home computer. Agenda follows:

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting** (Posted on TRRA Website)
- 3. Business Arising**
- 4. Correspondence In and Out**
- 5. Business Arising from Correspondence**
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
- 7. Reports**
 - i. Climate Change Policy
 - ii. Gateway to the Tomaree Peninsula
 - iii. Nelson Bay parking
 - iv. Council withdrawal of advertising from local press
 - v. Future of Tomaree Headland
 - vi. Nelson Bay Now
 - vii. Crown Land Review
- 8. Planning.** TRRA Current Issues - DAs of Interest
- 9. General Business**

NEXT MEETING: Monday 26 October 2020

Renewal of TRRA’s membership fees fell due on 30 June. See TRRA website for how to pay – [HERE](#)

NEWSLETTER

1. Matters of General Interest

TRRA Facebook Page now named “Tomaree Voice”

TRRA has changed the name of its Facebook page from ‘Save the Bay’ to ‘Tomaree Voice’. The original name reflected our primary campaign when we created the page in 2017 – to oppose major increases in building heights in Nelson Bay Town Centre. While this campaign continues, the Committee decided on a new name and image to better reflect our overall purpose and the breadth of our activities.

Last chance to object to high-rise in Nelson Bay Centre

Council is exhibiting proposed changes to the planning instruments (LEP and DCP) that are required to give final effect to the increased height limits and other changes adopted back in late 2018.

Most of the changes are positive and will help advance those aspects of the Nelson Bay Strategy that have broad support in the community. BUT we think the height and floor space ratio (FSR) changes are a threat to the character of the town.

We call on everyone concerned about this to object and to remind Council that they are forcing these changes through against the clear wishes of the local community, repeatedly expressed over many years.

We have prepared this submission guide, suggesting some key points you may wish to include in a submission to Council. The original deadline for submissions was 30 July but in response to public requests this has now been extended to 5.00 pm Friday 14 August 2020.

Full Submission Guide– [Click Here](#)

Smart Parking for Nelson Bay

Council has resolved to invest in a technology-based program to manage car parking in Nelson Bay. This forms part of a broader Smart Cities initiative for the LGA. The intention is to extend this scheme to other urban areas such as Shoal Bay, Anna Bay and also Birubi Point.

Parking in the Nelson Bay CBD and Foreshore including kerbside and council car parks will be subject to time limits and fees. There will be a 15 minute free period and all Port Stephens LGA residents and workers in the CBD will be allowed to park free. This concession will be available to those who register their car with Council for this purpose. Visitors will be required

to pay electronically (phone) or at meters. Each space will be monitored electronically via number plate recognition.

Any profits earned will be directed to improving the presentation and infrastructure of the town centre where the revenue is raised. A recent presentation by Mayor Palmer to the Tomaree Business Chamber on this scheme is [HERE](#). In his closing remarks he invited inquiries about the operation of the scheme and said Council was even now feeding more ideas in.

TRRA and the Tomaree Business Chamber have raised a number of queries in relation to this initiative. In the first instance we have requested a thorough business plan which assesses the full cost of implementation and on-going operation which should indicate the prospective profitability. We have also raised questions as to whether the proposed charging could deter tourists and even local residents from visiting Nelson Bay when other centres such as Salamander Bay have no limits or charges on parking.

TRRA Submission – Port Stephens Council – Draft Climate Change Policy

We welcome the development of this policy, which is long overdue, the need for it having been flagged by Council itself at least since 2009, and by many in the community for much longer.

We submit that the Policy can and should be much more ambitious. It is too narrowly focussed on Council's own operations and appears limited to management and adaptation with little recognition of the need for mitigation.

Full Submission – [Click Here](#)

Port Stephens Council Tree Management – Draft changes to Development Control Plan (DCP)

The statement in the report to the 23 June 2020 Council meeting: '*There are no policy changes proposed ...*' is misleading. Council's proposed introduction of a 'self-certification' regime, without input from a qualified arborist, as the means of implementing a 2017 State Government Vegetation policy^[1], does in practice mean a significant (and undesirable) change to the Tree Management provisions.

In our view, the draft amendments:

- make tree removal easier, increasing the risk of removal for inappropriate reasons
- do not adequately support the objective of the 2017 State Government Policy – to preserve and protect trees
- weaken Council's ability to perform its legislated role under the 2017 Policy

Full Submission – [Click Here](#)

^[1] State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in non-Rural Areas) 2017 (Vegetation SEPP)

TRRA Submission on State Electoral Boundary Review

TRRA made a submission arguing that the current boundary for Port Stephens electorate should be retained as it meets the Electoral Commission's criteria for determination of boundaries. The area is marked by a reasonable social, economic and geographical affinity and there it largely coincides with our Local Government boundary.

We strongly opposed a proposal to cut out the Tomaree, Tilligery and Medowie areas to be added to the Gloucester electorate. We pointed out that there are serious geographical barriers to cohesion with the Gloucester area some 120 km distant. We have little in common with that area.

Tomaree Headland Heritage Group (THHG) now incorporated

The "Friends of Tomaree Headland" is now an incorporated Association with a new name Tomaree Headland Heritage Association under the Governance of a Board. TRRA is represented by Geoff Washington who was elected Vice President. The Tomaree Museums Association was accepted as an additional member of the board and will be working collaboratively to plan for the future of Tomaree Headland, having in mind the ultimate transfer of all residents of the Tomaree Lodge and the possibility of adaptive reuse of the heritage listed Tomaree Lodge site.

The THHG has been communicating with the responsible State Ministers to encourage early consideration of future use of the Lodge site and administrative arrangements.

The interim President of THHG, Peter Clough, had public Access at the 14 July Council Meeting. Council subsequently indicated its interest in the THHG vision for the Headland resolving that it:

"Recognises the significant opportunities that Tomaree Headland, Shoal Bay offers and therefore requests the development of a plan of management for the overall headland site to be developed by the owners"

The Minutes on this Agenda item and the additional Council investigative actions can be seen [HERE](#) Page 218

Streets as Shared Spaces NSW DOP New Initiative

Port Stephens council has applied for grants under this state scheme for funding to:

- Improve the cycleway and footpath around Fly Point to Little Beach, and
- Provide temporary widening of sections of footpath in Magnus and Stockton Streets to encourage additional dining and seating facilities

TRRA Inc. Proposal for Achieving Enhancement of Gateways to Port Stephens and the Peninsula



TRRA'S Management committee has resolved to give priority to this issue over the current year and raised it with The Mayor in our last quarterly meeting with him and senior Council officers.

TRRA's President wrote to the Mayor on 17 April submitting its proposal, together with a dossier of photographs illustrating the problem. The President also wrote to a number of councils across NSW who have been successful in protecting their gateways, asking for advice on how this has been achieved. Informed by these responses, a formal Project Brief was submitted to Council staff on 27 May.

We await Council's Strategy and Environment Section Manager's agreement to a meeting date to discuss TRRA's proposals.



2. Planning Update

This update will be provided at the 3 August General Meeting.

Geoff Washington
Media Officer