



TRRA Inc GENERAL MEETING

**Nelson Bay Bowling Club
Monday 13 February 2023 – 7.00 pm
Minutes**

Attendance: 21, including 7 Committee members

Apologies: Ros Armstrong, Lorrence Salter, Nan and Geoff Basser

Minutes of the previous meeting (Posted on TRRA Website)

1. Moved Brenda Egan, seconded Sharon Grady, that the Minutes be accepted. Agreed by consensus.

Matters Arising

2. None.

Correspondence

3. None.

Treasurer's Report

4. The Treasurer's report was presented. Moved Denis Pittorino, seconded Geoff Washington, that the report be accepted. Agreed by consensus.

Reports

5. *Proposed PSC rate increase.* Geoff Washington reported that the Council had unanimously agreed to seek a rates increase of 9.5% each year for three years. Public submissions could be made on the IPART website from 15 February. One member asked TRRA to put up a template to assist people who wished to oppose the increase. He was upset that the Council's submission gave inadequate justifications for the increase. Moreover, according to the consultants' report, the rate increase would not fully cover the forecast losses over the next 10 years so further increases could be expected. Geoff Washington disagreed, noting that Council had provided a detailed justification based on cost increases. Councillor Anderson referred to the debate at which Council adopted the rate increase proposal, which is available online. She had added some conditions to the agreement, to keep a close eye on expenditure, and the application of the increase could

be cancelled if it was found to be unnecessary. Another member was concerned about the list of projects to be funded from the increase. Councillor Anderson noted that road repair and maintenance would be a major cost. The President noted that no projects had been specified in advance this time. Recognising that there were divergent views in the community TRRA would not be opposing the increase this time; individuals were free to make submissions.

6. *Amendments to the Port Stephens Development Control Plan 2014. **(I don't have anything in my notes on this – was it discussed?)***

7. *PSC Advertising of development applications.* Geoff Washington reported that Council had agreed to resume advertising DAs in the local press for a six month trial, extended this time also to the News of the Area. He encouraged individuals to sign up to receive weekly notices of DAs by email. One member pointed out that it was not easy to identify which were the major developments.

10. *TRRA submission – future of Tomaree Lodge site.* Geoff Washington summarised the history of discussions on the future of the site during which many options had been proposed. A Government consultation process had ended in January 2022. TRRA had made a submission supporting the proposals of the Tomaree Headland Heritage Group (THHG), of which it was a member. One member pointed out that the lack of parking was a major drawback while another referred to the need for buses linking Shoal Bay to Birubi Beach for walkers using the Tomaree Coastal Walk. In response to a member's question Geoff Washington said that representatives of the Worimi peoples had not yet become involved in THHG. He added that the National Parks and Wildlife Service seemed to be uninterested in issues of parking and transportation related to the use of the headland. The President invited members to study information on the website and return to the issue at the next meeting.

11. *TRRA submission – PSC plans for replacement of amenities at Little Beach.* The President reported that grants had been approved for two buildings, one of which was required by the grant conditions to be a unisex facility while the other included a sophisticated system integrated with the boat ramp providing disabled access to the water.

12. *Report on major graffiti outbreak on the Peninsula.* Judy Washington reported that there had been a major increase in graffiti last month, now cleaned up. The police had been helpful. She called for additional volunteers and asked everyone to be vigilant. The meeting expressed the community's thanks to her by general acclamation.

13. *Proposal for the intersection of Gan Gan and Nelson Bay Roads.* The President reported on the measures that Council planned to take to reduce the risk of accidents at this intersection, including removing visual obstructions and installing audio tactile centre and side lines. TRRA's suggestion to move the beginning of the 60 kph speed limit so as

to reduce speeds at the intersection had not been acted on: Council said that this was under the jurisdiction of State authorities. TRRA therefore intended to submit a report to Transport NSW.

14. *Gateway improvements, especially signage control.* The Secretary said that there had been a huge increase in the number of roadside signs between Nelson bay and Pauls Corner since she had gone only a few months earlier to gather photographic evidence so she would be taking a new set of photos. When she had met with PSC staff members they had said that it was “too hard” and suggested that TRRA focus on a more limited stretch of the road.

15. *Traffic plan for Nelson Bay CBD.* Nigel Waters reported that Council will be carrying out various traffic management works around the town from April. They include recent speed limits and kerbing on approaches to roundabouts, extension of the 10km ‘shared use’ zone in Magnus St across the intersection with Donald St, and moving the pedestrian crossing outside Woolworths slightly to the east, to dissuade pedestrians from ‘charging’ across without looking. In discussion, most of these changes were welcomed but issues were raised about the crossing move.

The wider issue of transparency of Local Traffic Committee decisions was also raised.
~~(Nigel: we didn’t take notes of this item and I can’t find the Powerpoint – could you please provide something?)~~

Planning Issues

12. Nigel Waters reported:

~~that~~ The planning proposal for the Church Street development would be considered by Council on 28 February.

The applicant behind the proposed Anna Bay “heliport” was appealing against Council’s refusal despite strong public opposition to the proposal and it seemed likely to be decided in court – a ‘conciliation conference’ on 13 March is unlikely to resolve the matter.

A major proposed expansion of a Salt Ash sand mine would allow mining up to 30 metres below ground level, with implications for the water table, and would result in a more than doubling of sand mine truck traffic. The proposal would be on exhibition until 1 March and he strongly encouraged members to make a submission.

The revised Williamstown Special Activation Precinct Master Plan, on exhibition until 22 February, significantly reduced the area of the precinct which would disappoint landowners affected by PFAS who had hoped to be able to sell their land.

He referred to a number of other DAs including for Ronald Avenue Shoal Bay, the Ingenia development at Bobs Farm, the Armona apartments at Dutchies Beach and 70 Magnus Street, to which TRRA would not object.

General Business

13. None.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.

Next meeting: 17 April 2023.

Bill Salter for Robyn Williams, Secretary
28 February 2023