



THE ENTRANCE PENINSULA

COMMUNITY PRECINCT

ENCOMPASSING: THE ENTRANCE; THE ENTRANCE NORTH; LONG JETTY TOOWOON BAY; BLUE BAY; SHELLY BEACH & MAGENTA

The Mayor, of Wyong Shire Council, Councillor Doug Eaton's Presentation on 19th October, 2010 at 7:00pm



The Mayor, Councillor Doug Eaton was warmly welcomed by our chair Vivienne Scott.

Doug advised the meeting that he had been a Councillor since 1991. and was previously Mayor in 1996-97. He went on to tell us that he lives in Wyong and is a local businessman, owning Eatons Mitre 10 at Wyong and that he was a lawyer with a conveyancing practice.

Doug had written to TEPCP requesting the opportunity to address our precinct and had asked TEPCP to provide him with a list of items that we would like him to address. These items formed the basis of Doug's presentation.

The first item referred to his personal vision for The Entrance. In Doug's view the future of the Entrance, and to Wyong Shire generally, is not as tourist destination. He believes that it is critical for The Entrance to have more permanent residents to be sustainable. In responding to issues with particular developments raised by TEPCP Doug advised:

That The Entrance Resort was a deferred development and that they were working through the large number of approval conditions, and that he thought the commencement was at least 3 years away for this 10 year development that contains 500 apartments.

Even though the Key site in The Entrance adjacent to the KFC has recently been sold again he did not expect it to be developed in the near future.

The Lakeside Plaza redevelopment was being negotiated with Council and no firm proposal had been published and that a DA had not been lodged. In the discussion that followed Doug told us he was not in favour of the six to eight storey planning height limits, saying that it resulted in a larger footprint covering three quarters of the site. A tower with a foot print that occupied a quarter of the site resulted in more open space and more views through the developments.

The Fisherman's Wharf site is in receivership and he hoped that the site would be improved and that new business would be opened to make this site successful.

TEPCP had also asked Doug what is view on the future role of Precinct Committees. He advised that he did not expect the role to change in the near future. He noted our concerns and commented on the age profile of Precinct Committees which had difficulties in attracting younger people who did not have enough time to attend meetings. He saw the future of community feedback in the electronic media and

that Council was proposing to establish a new site that would allow the community to comment on the items. He advised that the Council's Service Delivery review may result in a dedicated person servicing the needs of Precinct Committees. He noted TEPCP's Treasurer's request to put in place an annual budget for approval by WSC.

Doug indicated that he was in favour of the merger of Wyong and Gosford councils as the combined region of three hundred thousand would have a stronger voice and be in a better position to attract funding to the of Merger of Gosford and Wyong Councils. He said there would be some savings in a combined Council, but the biggest item was it's ability to speak with one voice. He indicated that for too long our region had been ignored by both State and Federal governments and that this was the reason for the poor state of our infrastructure. He gave the example of both Councils seeking funding for a performing arts centre and when the two councils compete for funds there is a danger that neither will get what they want. He saw a combined Council consisting of three wards, with five Councillors for each ward, fifteen Councillors in all, as opposed to the twenty now in the two councils.

The only questions for the Mayor involved the merger of the councils and the possible change in rates as a result. Doug indicated that put simply rates were based on the amount of money needed to run the Council, divided by the number of rateable properties and apportioned according to property values, and that Gosford properties generally had a higher value than Wyong properties.

Vivienne thanked Doug for his attendance.

Doug Darlington note taker.