

## **Shoal Bay Community Association – Response to Issues of Concern Jaimie Abbot**

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*1. Tomaree Lodge is set to close by mid-2018. What is your position on maintaining public access to this historic and spectacular precinct?*

**Response:** Access to the iconic Headland Trail begins at Tomaree Lodge under an agreement between NPWS and NSW Department of Aged Disability and Health Care. This agreement must be preserved in perpetuity. There is potential for National Parks to manage the built heritage as well as natural environment at the site. I support a full community briefing and consultation to inform future decisions about the site.

*2. Will you actively support construction of the Fingal Bay bypass within the next term of Council.*

**Response:** Yes. However getting this project off the list of promises and onto the list of funded projects requires more than support – it needs a proper community campaign putting pressure on local MPs and State and Federal Ministers. If elected I would launch an action plan to ensure we are heard, including petitions, meetings, rallies, and use of social and formal media. Council needs to advocate strongly and I believe I have the skills to drive a successful campaign.

*3. Given that another severe storm could see the path beside the Shoal Bay foreshore undermined, if elected will you make beach nourishment a high priority in Council planning? Have you given thought to any other solutions?*

**Response:** Coastal erosion is affecting a number of Port Stephens beaches including Shoal Bay and I support sand nourishment as a short term measure. A long term plan to defend our public and private assets is needed and this requires a clearer understanding of movement of water in the bay especially during storms. Options include construction of structures located underwater or on the shoreline to mitigate wave action during storms. I do not support “planned retreat” I want Council to work on the basis of finding solutions.

*4. In 2015 Shoal Bay volunteers, with permission of Council, built a pathway from the shops through the foreshore reserve with a view to eventually linking with Anzac Park. However, work ceased at a point just beyond the Holiday Park on the understanding that Council would complete the path. If elected, will you follow through on Council's undertaking to complete what is commonly referred to as the 'missing link'?*

**Response:** Council should complete the footpath at ratepayers expense. The continued dithering is angering residents and rightly so. Private citizens and businesses should not be asked to pay for public footpaths this is Councils responsibility.

*5. A number of roads in Shoal Bay are in urgent need of resurfacing, kerbing and guttering, pedestrian pathways, and better lighting. For example, Tomaree Road and Rigney Street are key access roads to Shoal Bay Primary School, yet the roads are in poor condition and there are no pedestrian pathways. Mothers with strollers, and children, are forced to share narrow*

*Tomaree Road with school buses, coaches and other traffic. In the new Council, what priority would you place on remedying this dangerous situation, and on generally upgrading roads in the area?*

**Response:** Roadworks priority must always prioritise safety issues – the problem is we have a number in East Ward, and an unacceptably high rate of pedestrian deaths. It is unacceptable that cyclists, joggers, pedestrians, and parents with prams are being forced to use roadside break down lanes on busy roads due to a lack of footpaths. Remedying this requires a proper roads infrastructure plan for the Peninsula, residents need to be part of that planning and safety issues need to be the basis for prioritising improvements.

*6. Up to 40 cars are now being parked on the southern side of Anzac Park, creating an ugly point of entry into Shoal Bay and damaging tree root systems. Will you investigate alternative parking arrangements for Harbourside Haven staff, such as having them park in Beach Rd on the northern side of Anzac Park?*

**Response:** If elected I will work with Harbourside Haven management, Council staff and Shoal Bay Community Association to resolve the conflict with resident parking.

*7. What is your attitude to Council's planning instruments? Do you regard them as standards to be upheld or only as guidelines, as seems to be the existing view, and why?*

**Response:** I support adherence to all planning instruments. If they are routinely disregarded then having them is pointless. These instruments have been developed in close consultation with communities so communities need to be consulted again if there are proposals to depart from the previously agreed planning provisions.

*8. Will you ensure community concerns expressed about any proposed structure, infrastructure or other plan are factored into Council decision-making.*

**Response:** Yes.

*9. Will you work to ensure the generally low-rise character of Shoal Bay is not compromised by developers seeking to lift building heights.*

**Response:** Yes I support adherence to height limits and any exceptions need to be referred to the community for consultation prior to Council making decisions.

*10. Residents and students who rely on public transport are poorly served with bus shelters. Will you press for more shelters to be built, and old unsightly structures replaced*

**Response:** Yes. I strongly believe in better bus shelters – children on their way to school, and adults shopping or going to work should not be saturated before their trip has even begun. This is a social equity issue – we need to respect public transport users and better meet their needs.

**Jaimie Abbott**  
**Independent Candidate – East Ward**