

## 'Welcome news:' Community input sought on future of former Tomaree Lodge site



By Laura Rumbel  
August 7 2024 - 1:30pm



<https://www.portstephensexaminer.com.au/story/8719151/tomaree-lodges-future-to-be-decided-by-port-stephens-community/>

The future use of the Tomaree Lodge site is now in the hands of the community with residents invited to have their say on the site's future.

A new community committee is currently being established to assist long-term planning and shape more immediate upgrades.

Tomaree Headland Heritage Group (THHG) Peter Clough said the update comes as welcome news for the community.

'It's been a long five years, but it was great to hear from Kate Washington that the Tomaree Lodge is definitely going to go to the community in some sort of format' he said.

Member for Port Stephens and Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Inclusion Kate Washington attended a meeting of THHG'S in July and identified the constraints evident on the site.

The constraints include military and cultural history, environmental factors and fire risk, but Mr Clough said there is certainly things the community can do on the site in the meantime.

At the group's meeting, Ms Washington shared the state governments plans to look at getting started by commencing meanwhile projects at the former Tomaree Lodge site, such as showers, additional parking and the possible use of the sporting field.

'The important thing is that whatever is created for these meanwhile projects doesn't compromise the integrity of the long-term planning of that site,' he said.

Ms Washington said Tomaree Headland is one of the most spectacular parts of Port Stephens and she knows how much the community cares about it.

'This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in the future of this very special place and I encourage people to apply' she said.

An idea put forward by the THHG is a café and information kiosk at the entry area of the site.

'There is such a great need to create a sense of arrival for the thousands of visitors who visit the Tomaree Headland,' Mr Clough said.

The Tomaree Lodge Community Engagement Committee will play an important role in the NSW government's commitment to ensure the site is retained for community use and public enjoyment.

'I look forward to working together with the community to ensure that Tomaree Headland is an amazing destination for locals and visitors alike, now and into the future,' Ms Washington said.

An expression of interest (EOI) process for the community to join the committee is now open until 23 August 2024.

### To apply visit:

<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/engage-with-us/public-consultations/statutory-reviews/future-use-of-tomaree-lodge-site.html>



An artist's impression of the café and information kiosk. Picture supplied