



UPDATE – January 2024

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES for REPURPOSING of the TOMAREE LODGE SITE *following extensive community engagement over the past 5 years*

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- **STATE HERITAGE REGISTER** - Tomaree Lodge site and its buildings are listed on the Register
- **TRANSITIONING THE SITE TO PORT STEPHENS** - The State Government has committed to **transition** the site for community and recreational use and this *has Bipartisan support*
- **MUST BE FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE** - The future uses of the Tomaree Lodge site will need to generate revenue to meet the significant maintenance & security costs (**\$1m pa**) related to the site
- **SITE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC** - Will need to have **ongoing** which has been strongly reflected during the community consultation.
- **PARKING AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT** - currently there is no public transport and also parking is extremely limited and traffic management is very poor
- **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION** - In 2023 the State Government undertook a consultation process on Potential future uses for the site and outcomes are currently being withheld from the Public. A **Master Plan** will need to be developed before repurposing can proceed
- **MANAGEMENT MODEL** - Our organisation favours the creation of a **Management Trust** made up of Community, PS Council and State Government as well as other expertise. This model has been used in other jurisdictions for similar sites in NSW.

POTENTIAL USES

- Visitor Kiosk and Information at the entry point
- Student excursions and accommodation (including secondary/tertiary levels). On-site cottages are dormitory style with communal facilities
- Dining outlets
- Training Academy supporting local business and industry
- Marine Science Research and Education and related activities
- Recreational and sightseeing activities including BBQ and picnic facilities - There are some locations within the Lodge site which could also be suitable for outdoor events such as music, dance, drama and celebrations such as weddings
- An Interpretative/Museum Centre
- Memorial Walk showcasing of the WWII History connecting various Military remnants, Gun Emplacements, the Radar and dedicated to those who have 'served' from Port Stephens. Also there is potential for WWII re-enactments. Many of the historic military elements are located in the adjacent National Park and it is therefore important that any planning, management, restoration and interpretation should be approached in a holistic manner
- Guided walking tours and trails embracing elements such as Military, Indigenous and marine history as well as flora and fauna
- Marine e.g. oyster hatchery and Eco tourism facilities e.g. Ecology and Marine Discovery Centres
- Arts Precinct including craft displays/galleries/exhibitions etc/
- Performing Arts Centre
- Reinstatement of the Jetty with a Pontoon to allow access by ferry and cruise operators particularly to reduce the reliance on parking
- Reinstatement of the offshore swimming baths

Our belief is that a number of these elements are able to complement each other for the future repurposing of the Tomaree Lodge site which should always remain open to the public.

January 2024

Tomaree Headland Heritage Group Inc.

