

Residents seek future accessibility to Shoal Bay and Fingal Bay

[Rod Thompson](#)

August 20, 2024

SHARE

<https://newcastleweekly.com.au/residents-seek-future-accessibility-to-shoal-bay-and-fingal-bay/>

The Tomaree Headland Heritage Group (THHG) is urging Port Stephens Council to immediately address the need for an additional access and egress road to Shoal Bay.

Concerned members have even taken steps to write to the local government organisation following the release of its recently adopted Shoal Bay Place Plan.

Their plea was also accentuated by beach erosion episodes and subsidence of Shoal Bay, particularly during the extreme weather conditions of late.

“This is not a new phenomenon... but it has again highlighted the vulnerability and fears of Shoal Bay and Fingal Bay residents,” THHG president Peter Clough said.

“That region, alone, boasts a combined population of approximately 3,500, which escalates substantially during holiday periods.”

He added there were many other reasons for introducing extra road access, including:

- The appeal of the Tomaree Headland, which attracts well in excess of 200,000 people each year
- The recent introduction of the Tomaree Coastal walk
- The increased appeal of the Shoal Bay foreshore, which has undergone a recent upgrade
- The growth in the ‘Eat Street’ appeal of the Shoal Bay shopping precinct
- The impending repurposing of the Tomaree Lodge
- The strong recent growth in ‘Infill’ development, which is occurring [and encouraged by Port Stephens Council] in Shoal Bay together with the uplift in allowable building heights closer to the foreshore that will elevate the level of residential development underpinned by the national housing crisis
- The strong growth in local events particularly the Fingal Bay Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) beach-related activities, the Fingal Bay Markets and the weekly Park Run as well as activities planned for Shoal Bay

Further factors, which have the potential to impact Port Stephens and Shoal Bay in the longer term, are:

- Substantially increased visitation following the Newcastle Airport offering international travel
- The growth of cruise activity at Carrington
- Widening of the Nelson Bay Road

“There are many key benefits of having an additional access road,” Mr Clough said.

“It will address vehicle congestion during busy periods; residential and visitor growth; the appeal of the Tomaree Headland and the Shoal Bay business precinct; and key safety issues at the time of peak periods and potential catastrophes/emergencies in the Shoal Bay and Fingal Bay precincts.

“There is also little doubt the demand for public transport services such as shuttle buses will grow, particularly related to the recently introduced Tomaree Coastal Walk and the repurposed Tomaree Lodge, which reinforces the need for appropriate and adequate road linkages.

“Whatever is done at the Tomaree Headland, there will be consequences.

“So, we should be prepared particularly as there are already parking and traffic management issues.

“It’s come to the point where we believe the situation is urgent and, therefore, time to act.”

