

# *NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING*

## *PUBLIC SUPPLEMENTARY*

### *AGENDA - B*

An Ordinary Meeting of City of Parramatta Council will be held in the Dundas Community Centre, 21 Sturt Street, Telopea on Monday, 10 May 2021 at 6.30pm.

Brett Newman  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
<b>8</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LORD MAYOR</b>	
8.1	200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia National Mass .....	3
8.2	COVID-19 Crisis in India .....	5
<b>9</b>	<b>PUBLIC FORUM</b>	
9.1	PUBLIC FORUM: 26 April 2021 Council Meeting - Notice of Motion - World Falun Dafa Day .....	7
9.2	PUBLIC FORUM: Item 18.1 - Notice of Motion - Re-establishment of the Wentworth Point Working Group .....	9

***After the conclusion of the Council Meeting, and if time permits, Councillors will be provided an opportunity to ask questions of staff***

**MINUTE OF THE LORD MAYOR**

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<b>ITEM NUMBER</b>	8.1
<b>SUBJECT</b>	200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia National Mass
<b>REFERENCE</b>	F2019/03630 - D08042407
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Lord Mayor, Councillor Bob Dwyer

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Lord Mayor Minute is for Council to note the national celebrations being held on 24 May 2021 by the National Catholic Education Commission to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Catholic Education in Australia.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) **That** Council note the National Catholic Education Commission is holding a National Mass, to celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in Australia;
- (b) **That** Council note the National Mass will be live streamed from St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, from 10.15am AEST on 24 May 2021.
- (c) **That** Council note that Council officers have collaborated with the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta to acknowledge this milestone through online programs.
- (d) **Further, that** Council note Lord Mayor Minutes were also tabled in September 2019 and October 2020 in recognition of this milestone.

**BACKGROUND**

- 1. Catholic Education is celebrating 200 years in Australia, marking the bicentenary of the first Catholic school established in Parramatta in October 1820.
- 2. The first Catholic school in Australia was founded in October 1820 by Irish Catholic priest Fr John Therry and run by convict and lay person George Marley. The school, which Catholic historians believe was in Hunter Street, Parramatta, taught 31 students. By 1833, there were 10 Catholic schools in the colony.
- 3. Over 200 years, Catholic schools have grown to become the largest non-government provider of schooling in Australia, with one in five school age students attending a Catholic school.
- 4. This represents 777,000 students in 1,755 schools across the country, employing over 100,000 teachers and staff.
- 5. The formal celebrations were due to be held from October 2020 to October 2021. However, due to pandemic restrictions, the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) held over celebrations to the 2021 school year.
- 6. The official national launch of the celebrations was held virtually on 18 February 2021 and included students from St Patrick's Primary and Parramatta Marist

schools in the Diocese of Parramatta, celebrating their linkages to the first Catholic schools.

7. A National Mass will be celebrated across all states, territories and dioceses on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians – Patroness of Australia on 24 May 2021.
8. The National Mass will also be live streamed from a number of sites, including St Mary's Cathedral Sydney from 10.15am AEST Monday 24 May 2021.
9. The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, through the website <https://200years.parra.catholic.edu.au/home>, have developed an online program to celebrate the bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia. They are also delivering activities to recognise this milestone, as well as using this occasion to motivate and stimulate student learning.
10. Council officers have also released research articles and photos recognising this milestone, available through our Parramatta History and Heritage website, <https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/>.
11. A Lord Mayor Minute was tabled on 26 October 2020 to recognise the anniversary, and the online programming from both Council and the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.
12. I congratulate the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, and the National Catholic Education Commission, on this significant milestone and their contributions to education in Parramatta and Australia.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATION FOR COUNCIL**

13. There are no new financial implications for Council as a result of this Lord Mayor Minute.

**Lord Mayor, Councillor Bob Dwyer**

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no attachments for this report.

#### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**MINUTE OF THE LORD MAYOR**

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<b>ITEM NUMBER</b>	8.2
<b>SUBJECT</b>	COVID-19 Crisis in India
<b>REFERENCE</b>	F2019/03630 - D08042710
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Lord Mayor, Councillor Bob Dwyer

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Lord Mayor Minute is to acknowledge the devastating impacts of the current wave of the coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping across India.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) **That** Council acknowledge the devastating impacts of the current wave of the coronavirus pandemic in India;
- (b) **That** Council acknowledge the strong ties that exist between Parramatta and India, and that we stand in solidarity with our Indian-Australian community in this difficult time;
- (c) **That** Council acknowledge the positive work of the Federal Government in arranging medical supplies to be sent to India;
- (d) **Further, that** Council note members of the Parramatta community wishing to contribute to on the ground responses in India can donate to the Covid-19 appeal initiatives of organisations including Unicef Australia and World Vision.

**BACKGROUND**

- 1. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in many countries around the world. Globally there have been over 155.6 million cases and over 3.2 million deaths, with around 842,000 new cases and more than 13,000 deaths reports in the last 24 hours.
- 2. Sadly, in India there were more than 400,000 confirmed cases in the previous 24 hours. The World Health Organization advised in their COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update that as of 2 May 2021, India accounted for 46% of global cases and 25% of global deaths reported in the previous week.
- 3. The City of Parramatta is deeply saddened by the devastating impacts of the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping across India.
- 4. Parramatta and India have a strong relationship built on extensive community ties, with Parramatta home to more than 27,000 people of Indian ancestry who contribute to all aspects of life in our City.
- 5. We know that people from across our community have been separated from loved ones, or have tragically lost loved ones during the pandemic, especially most recently in India, and we stand with our Indian-Australian community in this difficult time.
- 6. With India's healthcare system under enormous strain, the City of Parramatta welcomes Prime Minister Scott Morrison's recent announcement of a medical

support package for India, which includes the provision of ventilators, survival masks, gowns, goggles, gloves and face shields, as well as the procurement of oxygen concentrators.

7. Members of the Parramatta community can also donate to response efforts on the ground through organisations include Unicef Australia ([www.unicef.org.au/appeals-india-covid-19-crisis](http://www.unicef.org.au/appeals-india-covid-19-crisis)) and World Vision ([www.worldvision.com.au/end-corona](http://www.worldvision.com.au/end-corona)).
8. Donations received will help these organisations provide urgent supplies to health centres and support the ongoing distribution of Covid-19 vaccines through the COVAX initiative.
9. The City of Parramatta's deepest sympathies go out to the people of India, and all those worried for friends and family.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATION FOR COUNCIL**

10. There are no new financial implications for Council as a result of this Lord Mayor Minute.

**Lord Mayor, Councillor Bob Dwyer**

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no attachments for this report.

#### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

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**ITEM NUMBER** 9.1  
**SUBJECT** PUBLIC FORUM: 26 April 2021 Council Meeting - Notice of Motion - World Falun Dafa Day  
**REFERENCE FROM** F2021/00521 - D08040136  
Alice Wong

Dear Lord Mayor Dwyer and Councillors,

On behalf of the local Falun Dafa group, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for recognising the World Falun Dafa Day 2021, as well as your ongoing support for Falun Dafa group over the years.

The conscious choice also sends a strong message to the larger community, that our city stands for values of openness and tolerance, and freedom of religion and conscience.

As a resident of Parramatta, I am proud of the stance our Council have taken in supporting the righteousness and goodness.

Falun Gong also known as Falun Dafa is a traditional Chinese cultivation practice, which consists of moral teachings and five meditative exercises. Although first introduced to the public in 1992 by Mr Li Hongzhi, its roots extend back thousands of years. By 1998 the China State Sports Commission estimated that upwards of 70 million people in China were practising Falun Gong, with reported dramatic improvements in health and moral conduct.

Today Falun Gong has brought improved health and wellbeing to more than 100 million people in over 90 countries around the world. Falun Gong has received thousands of citations, awards and proclamations, conferred by government officials before the persecution of Falun Gong in China.

History always repeats itself. The darkness may prevail for a while but at the end of the day, it is righteousness and goodness that win.

History is a mirror for us to learn. The Christians were persecuted for more than 300 years and they have not disappeared but they are cherished by God.

This same situation is happening in China with CCP regime. The persecution of Falun Gong has continued for 21 years, with thousands killed and hundreds of thousands incarcerated for their beliefs. But we have remained firm in our faith and flourishing.

I can be freely to do my exercises without facing persecution in Australia. I hope one day soon I can return back to my home to visit my family.

Wishing you all are very best and Parramatta City continue to be prosperous.

**STAFF RESPONSE**

No staff response was provided.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no attachments for this report.



**PUBLIC FORUM**

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<b>ITEM NUMBER</b>	9.2
<b>SUBJECT</b>	PUBLIC FORUM: Item 18.1 - Notice of Motion - Re-establishment of the Wentworth Point Working Group
<b>REFERENCE FROM</b>	F2021/00521 - D08040193 Anna Han

Thank you for the opportunity to address Council. I am here tonight with other concerned residents to explain why we feel the re-establishment of the Wentworth Point Working Group is urgently needed. In order for Councillors to understand the issues we face as residents and hence the need for this request, I will start by providing some background.

I attended a 'Council-run' Wentworth Point Working Group back in 2019 where residents were given direct access to the Lord Mayor, Ward Councillors and Council officers to discuss development and infrastructure issues that were important to the community. At the time, I believe the idea was that the Community Association committee representatives would relay information back to owners. However, this method of communication no longer works in the current environment as we now have more than 6 CAs compared to the three originally, and with all the new developments we now have a very high proportion of tenant population and these people are not given a voice via the CAs since one has to be an owner to be part of a CA. For this reason, we believe an appropriately amended Terms of Reference should be adopted in consultation with community representatives.

The Council-run working groups have since stopped, and our community recently found out about a developer-run working group which started last year. These are invitation-only, closed meetings run by the developer of Block H. The broader community was not consulted prior to the establishment of this meeting, and details of discussions and meeting minutes were not available for viewing. Residents feel that community working groups should be open and transparent and all residents should be allowed a voice and be able to provide feedback.

Residents of Wentworth Point have long suffered from the lack of infrastructure and continued uplift for higher densities in our suburb. While we understand that other suburbs in the LGA may not have council working groups, however, it is important for Councillors to be aware that NO other suburb has only one road in and one road out! NO other suburb gets flooded and all residents are trapped inside! NO other suburbs are denied a public park and our children have to play on an empty car park! NO other suburb have to wait years and years to have a roundabout or traffic light so our drivers and pedestrians don't risk their lives getting home! These are only some of the many issues we experience as residents, and this is all on top of endless developer proposals for further uplift and higher densities! Wentworth Point has been undergoing massive redevelopment and is quite different to most other suburbs in the LGA.

We believe Councillors can see the need and benefits such a working group can be for a community that is rapidly changing, hence the reason why Council did try to endorse the Working Group Meetings as official Council's' meetings in late 2017. Our neighbouring suburb of Rhodes which is also a high density suburb and experience similar development issues, has an established residents consultation group which was initiated by their Lord Mayor 15 years ago and is still currently a Council-run event. Why can't we have this Working Group for the residents of

Wentworth Point when our transport and infrastructure issues are much worse than that of Rhodes? In closing, we believe the re-establishment of the Wentworth Point Working Group is urgently needed to provide an opportunity for residents to come together and voice our concerns.

A petition with over 500 signatures has been presented to Council requesting for this, and we hope the Lord Mayor and Councillors present tonight will listen to the community and show us your support. Additionally, I have a question regarding paragraph 18 from the response provided by the Executive Director for Property & Place. You mentioned Council actually provided the library venue for those developer-run meetings, however, you then continued to suggest that community groups should pay for any future usage even though council paid for those developer meetings. Growing up, I have visited multiple libraries in Ryde, Eastwood and Hornsby where group-study rooms are available free of charge for students that may need to work on an assignment together, or for residents and community working on a project together. This service is NOT available at the Wentworth Library. There are no free rooms for students or residents. All rooms are charged and are run like a for-profit business. My questions is, why doesn't the Wentworth Point Library offer free group-study rooms like other libraries, so our community lobby groups have a place to meet, and our students have a place to work together?

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SERVICES RESPONSE**

The Wentworth Point Community Centre and Library has been designed to incorporate a large, dedicated quiet study space. When operating without COVID restrictions, this area includes 44 work stations and extended community access beyond staffed library opening hours. The first floor of the WPCC&L also has an extensive open floor plan, along with furniture designed to facilitate group working. All rooms at WPCC&L are available for hire in line with Council's standard Fees and Charges, including available concessions for community organisations and self-help groups.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no attachments for this report.