



15. NOTICES OF MOTION

Item 15.1 – Cr Gross – Morning of Mourning

The following speaker made a verbal submission in relation to this item:

Jason Briggs

Addressed Council on behalf of the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council and spoke in support of the Notice of Motion.

MOVED Crs Gross/Brand

That Council:

1. Notes the advice from the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (BLSC) that they are prepared to work with the City of Port Phillip; to develop and include a morning service to recognise and commemorate the loss of country – remembrance of Ancestors and Elders who maintained traditional elements of our community's ancient cultural heritage since colonisation circa 1835 - as an integral part of its Australia Day ceremonies.
2. Notes that the proposal is for a morning ceremony on Australia Day at a place, to be identified, ideally in view of the Port Phillip Bay and would be an addition to other Australia day ceremonies and not replace them
3. Notes that the ceremony would focus on respectful symbolic acknowledgement - that recognises the impact of European "settlement" on Boonwurrung people and first nation peoples and their tremendous determination to maintain a proud cultural heritage connection to both lands and seas.
4. Notes that informal discussions have been held between the Mayor and the CEO of the National Australia Day Council in Canberra, with the latter being supportive of local indigenous ceremonies for Australia Day where the morning stage is one of solemnity and indigenous recognition.
5. Requests the CEO to engage with the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (BLSC), the Australia Day Council and other interested parties, including the Boon Wurrung Foundation, to progress the proposal and provide a further report for consideration by Council with event details, timing, costs and funding sources to hold the ceremony on the morning of Australia Day, 2020.

AMENDMENT

Moved Crs Baxter/Simic

That the following paragraph be added:

6. Appends the "Proposal for advancing a Service for Australia Day" submitted to the Mayor by the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (BLSC) on 18 September 2019 to this motion.

A vote was taken and the AMENDMENT was CARRIED unanimously.



SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes the advice from the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (BLSC) that they are prepared to work with the City of Port Phillip; to develop and include a morning service to recognise and commemorate the loss of country – remembrance of Ancestors and Elders who maintained traditional elements of our community's ancient cultural heritage since colonisation circa 1835 - as an integral part of its Australia Day ceremonies.
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4. Notes that informal discussions have been held between the Mayor and the CEO of the National Australia Day Council in Canberra, with the latter being supportive of local indigenous ceremonies for Australia Day where the morning stage is one of solemnity and indigenous recognition.
5. Requests the CEO to engage with the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (BLSC), the Australia Day Council and other interested parties, including the Boon Wurrung Foundation, to progress the proposal and provide a further report for consideration by Council with event details, timing, costs and funding sources to hold the ceremony on the morning of Australia Day, 2020.
6. Appends the "Proposal for advancing a Service for Australia Day" submitted to the Mayor by the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (BLSC) on 18 September 2019 to this motion.

MORNING OF MOURNING & REMEMBRANCE.

The Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (BLSC) proposes that they are prepared to work with the City of Port Phillip; to develop and include a Dawn Service to recognise and commemorate the loss of country – remembrance of Ancestors and Elders who maintained traditional elements of our community's ancient cultural heritage since colonisation circa 1835 - as an integral part of its Australia Day ceremonies.

In our discussions with BLSC leaders; it has been acknowledged that change to the current date of Australia Day (26th of January) may take time and promotional awareness to achieve – and the inclusion of a Morning of Mourning & Remembrance – is an initial step that will promote awareness and enable our community to attain a wider consensus and come together on an important and inclusive part of our broader historiography.

By initially focusing on and working with the Boonwurrung Traditional Owners as represented by the BLSC and endorsed previously in our joint-MOU – a new conceptual paradigm could create a significant ritual process that endorses and enhances all subsequent ceremonies of the day that will enrich the awareness of our community with

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new citizens that acknowledges, the past, injustices, the survival and achievements and triumphs of the lands and seas original traditional owners- providing a moment of mourning, remembrance and a traditional 'Blessing' (like a traditional imprimatur for the rest of the day's activities and ceremonies) that enables us as a broad and diverse community located in the most beautiful parts of Australia to move forward while acknowledging the past and working towards sincere and effective future partnerships between the City of Port Phillip and the BLSC.

This ceremony will include a Traditional Welcome and a Tanderrum (a pronouncement of Land & Sea use) – a continuation of sovereign acknowledgement of the Boonwurrung people from the BLSC. The aim of this first symbolic ceremony is to both celebrates our history on this significant date, acknowledge how far we've come and how far we have to go to achieve an ideal equilibrium of inclusiveness that recognises a truly remarkable culture with noble, harmonious and altruistic aims that work in conjunction with the policy aims of the City of Port Phillip.

These objectives will achieve working towards an inclusive approach to Australia Day. It is proposed that the City of Port Phillip endorse and support a service that would have the following characteristics.

Characteristics of a proposed service

The service would be led by the traditional custodians (the Boonwurrung as represented by the only Boonwurrung traditional owners and elders I.e. BLSC) and recognise other first nations and people who have been impacted by the events of 26 January 1788.

Service would be held at Dawn on Australia Day (similar timelines to the ANZAC Dawn Service) at a place, TBA, ideally in view of the Port Phillip Bay.

The Service would focus on respectful symbolic acknowledgement - that recognise the impact of European "settlement" on Boonwurrung people and first nation peoples and their tremendous determination to maintain a proud cultural heritage connection to both lands and seas.

A service would be particularly symbolic if it were held on the beach at St Kilda – supported by a small contained symbolic fire, a meaningful scheduled traditional Welcome and Speech of past Achievements and Future Aspirations that Benefits the Wider community and Local Government Partnerships.

The service would not involve or be used as a platform for contentious political or controversial speeches but engage the following acts:

The reading of names of Ancestors and Elders past and present;

The reading in Boonwurrung language of the specific impact on country;

The acknowledgement of impact on other nations; and

An inclusive statement of aims of harmony and the involvement of wider community initiative to celebrate, in effect, our shared collective history of the lands and seas of which the City of Port Phillip, as the local government, develops and delivers as a representative influence for our entire local community.

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Symbolic Sounds

In order to create a unique sound that reflects the traditions of the Boonwurrung and the first nations – the following are suggested:

- *Traditional Boonwurrung drumming (traditionally undertaken by Boonwurrung women on possum skin drums);*
- *Use of clap sticks/singing or didgeridoo to acknowledge other first nations people;*
- *Torres Strait Islander – drumming in recognition of Melbourne's TI community.*

Symbolic Gestures

The laying of the kangaroo apple flower by individuals - in the waters of the Bay – (noting the kangaroo apple flower was the symbol of the Boonwurrung women who have been officially recognised by the BLSC as the main bearers of culture and heritage; during the era since colonisation).

End.

A vote was taken and the MOTION was CARRIED.