

MAYORAL MINUTE

MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - BONDI TRAGEDY

Summary: This Mayoral Minute responds to the tragic events at Bondi and affirms Council's condemnation of violence and hatred in all forms. It acknowledges the impact of the tragedy on victims, families and the broader community, recognises the importance of unity, compassion and respect and notes the joint media release issued with Griffith City Council. The Mayoral Minute also provides for Council to observe a moment of silence in honour of those who lost their lives, those who were injured and those affected by the events.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a receive and note this Mayoral Minute
- b acknowledge the joint media release issued with Griffith City Council in response to the Bondi tragedy; and
- c observe a moment of silence in recognition and honour of the victims of the Bondi tragedy, those injured, their families and loved ones and in acknowledgement of the bravery of first responders and members of the public.

Report

We live in a welcoming and connected country, state, region and city. Our communities are made up of many countries of origin, faiths and traditions representing all of those histories. Our ability to respect different cultures and backgrounds is what makes us the amazing country that we are.

What happened last night was an act of sheer terrorism. For innocent members of a faith community to be injured or killed whilst gathering to celebrate Hanukkah is beyond comprehension. Our country is built on respect and compassion for everyone who calls Australia home. Any person who does not share that respect or compassion should be openly and loudly condemned.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their families in this time of loss and grief. Be aware that all Australians stand with you in this darkest hour and we as a country wrap our arms around you in love. Together in grief and ensuring that we focus on the love and support across our communities is what we as a country can do to stand up against horrendous events such as this.

The City of Wagga Wagga and the Riverina region have developed over generations based on a tapestry of many, many cultures from a multitude of backgrounds that have grown into diverse, caring and inclusive communities. By universally condemning the selfish and cowardly hatred displayed by individuals at Bondi last night, we will all be stronger.

The worst of our community emerged yesterday and it was met by the best of our community. Today, it is only the best of our community acting in chorus. Long may it be so.

A Poem In the Wake of Tragedy goes a small way to verbalise the many feelings we are all processing today.

*In the wake of tragedy, we stand,
With heavy hearts, we join our hands,
Through sorrow's veil, a light will spark,
To guide us forth from shadows dark.
Each story shared, a bridge we build,
To lift the pain and hearts distilled,
With purpose found in darkest night,
Together we shall reignite the light.*

We will now observe a moment of silence to recognise and honour the victims of the Bondi tragedy. We remember those who lost their lives, those who were injured and the families, friends and communities whose lives have been forever changed by this act of violence. This moment is also to acknowledge the bravery of first responders and members of the public and to stand together in compassion, respect and solidarity during a time of profound grief.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

Wagga Wagga City Council Code of Meeting Practice

Link to Strategic Plan

Vibrant

Inclusive and diverse community

Create an environment and opportunities where everyone feels welcome and included in our community. Programs exist for various groups including First Nations People, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD), people of all abilities, women, men, families, children, young people, older people and LGBTQIA+ people.