

Item 3.1**Commemoration of Marriage Equality****File No: S051491****Minute by the Lord Mayor**

To Council:

On 15 November 2017, hundreds of thousands of people gathered in public spaces across Australia, including over 30,000 in Prince Alfred Park, to hear the results of the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

Many were positive and confident, others were cautiously optimistic. Few people wanted to contemplate a negative result. For many LGBTIQ Australians, their friends and families, the postal survey had been hurtful, cruel and the source of great anxiety. Having to ask their fellow Australians to pass judgement on their personal lives was challenging and confronting. Yet, faced with the reality of the postal survey, they had little choice but to campaign to win.

Shortly after 10am, the Australian Statistician revealed that over 60 per cent of Australians had voted for marriage equality. Cheers and jubilant shouts of "yes" rang out across the park. After years of campaigning, and months of enduring the hurt and hostility caused by the survey, it was time to celebrate. It was a moment of national unity, of Australians coming together to say "we are all equal". Love had won a landslide victory.

The co-chair of Australian Marriage Equality, Alex Greenwich MP, has written to me proposing that the City of Sydney permanently commemorate this momentous event in Australia's progress towards equality and inclusiveness.

I agree with Alex Greenwich's proposal. Naming the south-western lawn of Prince Alfred Park "Equality Green" will serve as a permanent reminder of a significant event for many of our fellow Australians.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name the south-western lawn of Prince Alfred Park "Equality Green" and that the name be placed on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum period of 28 days; and
- (B) a report be submitted to Council on the results of the public consultation process.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE

Lord Mayor

Attachment A. Letter from Alex Greenwich MP

Attachment A

Letter from Alex Greenwich

13 September 2018

Lord Mayor Clover Moore
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Clover

Equality Green Prince Alfred Park

I write to ask that the City of Sydney name a section of Prince Alfred Park as Equality Green as a permanent reminder of marriage equality reform. The community event supported by the City of Sydney in Prince Alfred Park where we held the community rally on 15 November 2017 and heard the announcement that the marriage equality plebiscite had succeeded is an appropriate site for this honouring.

There is strong community support for a permanent reminder of this progress towards equality and the massive community effort for equal legal treatment for LGBTIQ citizens. I would like to propose a section of Prince Alfred Park where we held the community event be named Equality Green or similar as a way to remember and celebrate Australians' support for equality. It would be fitting that this could occur on the anniversary of this significant day – 15 November.

The long term support that the City of Sydney and you personally have given LGBTIQ communities has been vital to achieving this reform and I believe that a permanent reminder in the park would celebrate this contribution.

Could you please consider the City of Sydney naming a section of Prince Alfred Park Equality Green to celebrate this reform?

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

