

Memorandum of Understanding - ANZAC Day 2020-2022

File No: X012633

Summary

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Sydney (City), The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) (RSL NSW), the Dawn Service Trust Inc. (the Trust) and the State of New South Wales (the State) proposes to provide a commitment between the State and the City, RSL NSW and the Trust to cooperate in the organisation and staging of ANZAC Day services (ANZAC Day Dawn Service, the ANZAC Day March, the Commemoration Service and the Sunset Service) from 2020 through to 2022.

These arrangements enable the City to work collaboratively with the State, RSL NSW and the Trust to deliver the annual events, which are acknowledged by all parties as significant events as part of the veteran landscape and an appropriate way to commemorate and acknowledge ANZAC Day in Sydney.

The scope of the agreement includes the principles, roles and responsibilities that each of the four agencies (the City, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), the Trust, and RSL NSW) will cooperate under regarding the organisation and facilitation of the annual ANZAC Day events.

Implementing the Memorandum of Understanding has the potential to:

- clearly define the responsibilities of the City and associated agencies in regard to support, coordination and facilitation of ANZAC Day events, including associated costs;
- maintain the ongoing cooperative relationship with the associated agencies and other parties in regard to the organisation and facilitation of ANZAC Day events; and
- highlight the significance of, and demonstrate the City's commitment to the ongoing facilitation of ANZAC Day events in Sydney now and in to the future.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, on 16 March 2020; RSL NSW decided to cancel all public ANZAC Day commemoration services across the state. However, the Memorandum of Understanding is still necessary in order to effectively facilitate future ANZAC Day events.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with The Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch), the Dawn Service Trust Inc. and the State of New South Wales as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (C) Council note the funding implications for the implementation of ANZAC Day services as detailed in the subject report.

Attachments

Attachment A. Draft Memorandum of Understanding

Background

1. The City is involved in ANZAC Day Events and Ceremonies both in a participative role and that of coordination and facilitation. This has been undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Dawn Services Trust (the Trust) and RSL NSW who are the primary agencies involved in a range of events that take place annually on 25 April.
2. The City has previously provided support towards the facilitation of ANZAC Day ceremonies and events in the form of pre and post-event cleaning, lighting coordination, removal of infrastructure and equipment, access to power, provision of banners, access to the venue sites, and cash grants to assist with the cost of event facilitation.
3. The development of a Memorandum of Understanding between all agencies has been undertaken in order to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each party in relation to the coordination and facilitation of the event and financial commitments specifically in relation to Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM).
4. Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders have been defined and outline the support and coordination required from the City and other stakeholders.
5. The Memorandum of Understanding will cover the official NSW ANZAC Day Dawn Service, Martin Place; ANZAC Day March, Sydney CBD; the Commemoration Service at the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park South and the Sunset Service, Martin Place Cenotaph.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

6. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City - the Memorandum of Understanding demonstrates the City's recognition of the significance and ongoing commitment to the facilitation and support of ANZAC Day Events.
 - (b) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships - The implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding cements the continued partnerships with the three other agencies and demonstrates good governance through the clear allocation of roles and responsibilities.

Organisational Impact

7. Given the City already participates in the coordination and facilitation of ANZAC Day activities including providing financial contributions and value-in-kind support, there are no new organisational impacts.

Risks

8. The Trust and RSL NSW have cited an inability to carry out the event without the City's support both in a practical sense and financially.
9. There is also a reputational risk that the City may be perceived as having a disregard for the significance of ANZAC Day were it not to be actively involved at a similar level to other agencies.

Social / Cultural / Community

10. ANZAC Day is a socially significant day in that it commemorates those service men and women who served in conflict on behalf of Australia. There is a community expectation that ANZAC Day traditions in the form of the dawn service and ANZAC Day parade be held annually as part of this commemoration and day of reflection.

Environmental

11. There are no relevant environmental impacts or outcomes which are affected as a result of agreeing to the Memorandum of Understanding

Economic

12. Whilst the significance of ANZAC Day is commemoration, the day and associated events do attract a high level of foot traffic in to the City which has a natural flow on effect for local businesses.

Budget Implications

13. Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the City agrees to contribute one third of the budget, up to a maximum of \$60,000 (including GST) annually towards the Hostile Vehicle Mitigation of ANZAC Day for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 events.
14. A further \$10,000 (excluding GST) annually to the Dawn Services Trust to assist in the implementation and delivery of the events and 150 veteran's themed banners for up to two weeks (pending availability) to the value of approximately \$30,000 Value in Kind.
15. These amounts had previously been budgeted and provided through a grant from the City. Given the nature of this agreement, sufficient funding has now been included in the 2019/20 operating budget and future year forward estimates.

Relevant Legislation

16. Local Government Act 1993.
17. Anzac Memorial (Building) Act 1923.
18. RSL NSW Act 2018.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

19. The critical relevant dates are 25 April 2020 or prior in preparation for the coordination of this year's ANZAC Day events.

Public Consultation

20. Consultation has been undertaken with the external agencies involved in order to develop the Memorandum of Understanding and the Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders.

DAVID RIORDAN

Director, City Services

Peter Rugg, Manager Venue Management