

## Item 16.5

### Notices of Motion

#### Vale Jack Munday

By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the passing of John Bernard (Jack) Munday, former City of Sydney Councillor, environmentalist and union giant, aged 90, on Sunday 10 May 2020;
- (ii) Jack's rich contribution to the trade union movement, environmentalism and political life over many decades. In urban Sydney, as leader of the NSW Builders' Labourers Federation (BLF) from 1968 to 1975, Jack protected Sydney's heritage and natural environment from developers by enacting the world leading green bans;
- (iii) Jack's activism was the first international trade union movement of its kind to champion environmental activism, with his staunch advocacy for public spaces, and the need for them to belong to the public, ensuring green spaces and parklands like Centennial Park weren't converted into shopping centres;
- (iv) Jack successfully fought for working-class residential areas, organising and helping to change the NSW Builders' Labourers Federation's position to accept social responsibility of labour to protect heritage buildings and support affordable housing. Alongside Tom Uren, this advocacy successfully led to the preservation of public housing that still stands today in The Rocks, Millers Point, Glebe and Woollahroo;
- (v) Jack provided pivotal support for Indigenous activists to bring the first successful Aboriginal land rights claim in Australia;
- (vi) Jack's legacy, with the work of NSW Builders' Labourers Federation, led to 54 green bans across Sydney and held up \$5 billion worth of building activity, beginning in Hunters Hill when the Builders' Labourers Federation supported a women's campaign to save Kelly's Bush. Jack said it was "the first time the enlightening working class teamed with the enlightened middle class to fight for the environment anywhere in the world";
- (vii) the NSW Builders' Labourers Federation green bans in Sydney were echoed by unions around the world. Countries around the world followed Jack's leadership and he was invited to address the first United Nations Conference on the Built Environment in 1976; and

- (viii) Jack was known to be a trustworthy, genuine man. He believed in the power of rank and file union members, in solidarity, and successfully leaves a legacy of campaigns for conservation as well as Indigenous rights, women's rights and queer rights;
- (B) all present in the meeting take one minute of silence to honour the memory of John Bernard (Jack) Munday;
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to examine options for the City of Sydney to collaborate with State and Federal governments to fast track Sydney Square, a shovel-ready project that would provide invaluable economic stimulus to Sydney during Covid-19, and grow Sydney's open and green spaces in the heart of our City's central business district; and
- (D) Council note that the Lord Mayor has written to Jack Munday's family expressing the Council's sincere condolences on his passing.

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