

Item 16.7

Notices of Motion

Patyegarang Statue

By Councillor Phelps

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) fifteen-year-old Gadigal woman, Patyegarang, was Australia's first teacher of Gadigal language. She taught her language to First Fleet naval officer Lieutenant William Dawes and ensured its survival. Dawes recorded their conversations and his notebooks are the only known first-hand accounts of the Gadigal language;
- (ii) the Black Lives Matter protests in the US, which started on 26 May 2020, spurred on by a string of racially charged events, has sparked a global Black Lives Matter movement, with protests across Europe, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. These protests have included the defacing and/or removal of colonial statues;
- (iii) Australia has a long history of discrimination and injustices against the First Nations people, whose land we are standing on today;
- (iv) despite being the custodians of this land for tens of thousands of years, there are only four statues nationally representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and
- (v) in the Sydney CBD, there are 25 publicly funded statues of the colony's early leaders. Among them are Captain Cook, Governor Arthur Phillip, Lachlan Macquarie, Queen Victoria, explorer Matthew Flinders and even his cat Trim; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) work with local Aboriginal groups, including a representative from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC), to identify potential options to commission a public artwork commemorating Patyegarang; and
- (ii) report the findings back to Council.

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