

Item 12.5

Notices of Motion

Go Native

By Councillor Phelps

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney is located in a spectacular and unique part of the Sydney basin. The inner city is home to around 365 local native plants and 90 different native bird species;
- (ii) while the City's urban population has grown, the urban biodiversity has been greatly reduced from its original state in the City of Sydney local government area;
- (iii) the City should create areas that celebrate local native plants that thrive in the Sydney region and that create habitats for native fauna;
- (iv) through its Urban Ecology Strategic Action Plan, the City encourages residents to create "habitat gardens," in backyards, on balconies, in common areas, or community spaces like local schools;
- (v) the City of Sydney's Street Tree Master Plan focuses on planting "the right tree in the right location," but the Master Plan does not account for available habitat or assist in the movement of native fauna species between those areas;
- (vi) currently 75 per cent of the City's park trees and 58 per cent of the City's street trees are native. Approximately 30 per cent of plants in the City's park and public domain gardens are native; and
- (vii) there are restrictions on what species can be planted in particularly harsh urban environments, however, the City can continue to improve on its efforts to create lush green spaces which showcase native Australian plant species and provide homes for native animals and birds; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) consult with WIRES to compile a list of preferred trees and shrubs for planting in the City of Sydney that creates suitable habitats to enable birds, frogs, lizards, flying foxes, microbats, possums and other small mammals such as bandicoots to successfully survive;
- (ii) use this list in planning considerations and maximising the planting of native flora where possible; and
- (iii) share the list via the CEO Update.

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