

Item 12.25**Notices of Motion****From Little Things, Big Things Grow: Rethinking the Community Garden Model**

By Councillor Miller

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) urban agriculture and horticultural practices provide people living in cities with important ways to understand and connect with food and natural systems. These practices also provide critical opportunities for residents to meet their neighbours and build social resilience;
- (ii) currently the City of Sydney offers its community opportunities to partake in gardening on public land as outlined in:
 - (a) the City of Sydney's Community Gardening Policy (adopted by Council in February 2016); and
 - (b) the City of Sydney Footpath Gardening Policy (adopted by Council in 2013);
- (iii) there are 23 existing community gardens within the City of Sydney;
- (iv) currently 80 per cent of residents within the City of Sydney live in apartments (over five times the national average);
- (v) of all dwelling types in the City of Sydney, medium and high-density housing has seen the biggest growth in the last decade. This trend is predicted to continue to accommodate current population forecasts;
- (vi) the City of Sydney's City Plan 2036: Local strategic planning statement outlines the City's vision for land use planning and sets the thirteen priorities that will guide future planning including:
 - (a) supporting community wellbeing with social infrastructure;
 - (b) a creative and socially connected city;
 - (c) creating great places;
 - (d) protecting and enhancing the natural environment for a resilient city; and
 - (e) creating better buildings and places to reduce emissions and waste, and use water efficiently; and

(vii) the demand for space in which community members can engage with urban agriculture and horticultural practices is far greater than what is currently available; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) as part of Sustainable Sydney 2050, investigate innovative models that enable community-based urban agriculture and horticultural practices, including:
 - (a) governance models such as social enterprises, not-for-profits and public-private partnerships;
 - (b) garden clubs and community nursery models; and
 - (c) vertical and indoor farming opportunities;
- (ii) identify barriers and opportunities for urban agriculture and horticultural practices within current planning controls, specifically in relation to residential apartment buildings and Plans of Management for council-owned assets; and
- (iii) as part of the City of Sydney's new Greening Sydney Plan, test a new model for community gardening by way of a pilot project to achieve greater equity of access to community-based urban agriculture and horticultural practices.

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