

# **Attachment A**

**Letter from the Minister for Veterans**

**The Hon. David Harris MP**

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty  
Minister for Gaming and Racing  
Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Medical Research  
Minister for the Central Coast



Ref: D23/2810305

Ms Monica Barone  
Chief Executive Officer  
City of Sydney  
GPO Box 1591  
Sydney NSW 2001

Via email: mbarone@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Barone, *Monica*

I am writing to you with regards to the delivery of the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place and proposed changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) currently in place until 2025. The MOU currently has four parties that are signatory, including NSW Government, RSL NSW, the City of Sydney and the Dawn Service Trust.

Due to the scale and complexity of managing the whole of Anzac Day, where RSL NSW is central in the delivery of the program of events across the day, the State President has determined, in their role as the Custodian of the Cenotaph in Martin Place, to take on the full responsibility for delivery of the Dawn Service. This will help streamline responsibilities across the day, ensuring future sustainability and governance. The State President has written to the Dawn Service Trust to advise their committee of this proposed change.

The NSW Government supports the actions of RSL NSW, as custodians of the Cenotaph and the largest Ex Service Organisation in NSW, to host the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place. The event requires a large level of government and stakeholder coordination to mitigate the risks associated with delivering such a large event on such a significant day, and to ensure the event is delivered respectfully and with its original intentions.

The Anzac Day Dawn Service is an event of state significance, which is reliant on the support of NSW Government and the City of Sydney, as well as multiple other government agencies, as outlined in the current MOU.

RSL NSW, with the support of NSW Government, has proposed that a new MOU be established to recognise RSL NSW as the event owner and host of the Dawn Service as well as the Anzac Day March, who also deliver lunchtime and evening services in the city. As signatory to the document, I am seeking the support of the City of Sydney to approve the new MOU which is enclosed for your review, and that of Council.

The changes to this new MOU are as follows:

- Acknowledgment of RSL NSW as the event owner and host of the Dawn Service
- Removal of the Dawn Service Trust as a signatory
- Name change from the Department of Premier & Cabinet to the Premier's Department
- Mr Giles Hurst as the new Chief Executive Officer of RSL NSW, and signatory

The Roles and Responsibilities document, an attachment to the MOU, is also included. This document references the above changes, as well as the change to RSL NSW as the new recipient of funding from the City, towards the Dawn Service.

There are no other changes to Council's obligations in either document.

The NSW Government seeks the support and approval of Council at your upcoming meeting to ensure planning can commence as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Caroline Mackaness, Director NSW Office for Veterans Affairs should you require any more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Harris', followed by the date '21/10/2023' written in the same ink.

**The Hon. David Harris MP**  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty  
Minister for Gaming and Racing  
Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Medical Research  
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