



**Randwick City  
Council**

a sense of community

## **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER MAYORAL MINUTE**

**TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, 1st floor, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick on Tuesday, 26 September 2017 at 7:00pm

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## Mayoral Minute No. MM26/17

**Subject:** Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey



**Folder No:** F2004/08275

**Author:** The Mayor, Cr Lindsay Shurey

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### Introduction

The Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey commenced on 13 September and is now open for all residents to respond with 27 October as the last date for return posting.

### Issues

It has been stated to me that statistics show that if a postal vote is not returned by its recipient within the first three days, the vote is never posted.

There have been complaints that legitimate recipients have been disenfranchised by having had their ballot papers stolen from their letter boxes. The Australian Bureau of Statistics states that the period for requesting replacement forms is open from the 25 September to 20 October.

There have been disturbing reports that LGBTQIA individuals (including vulnerable teenagers) are presently experiencing heightened levels of anxiety as a result of disrespectful and unenlightened debate over the survey.

### Financial impact statement

The cost of printing banners as per option 2 is estimated at \$300 per banner.

### Conclusion

Randwick City Council has the opportunity to positively address potential divisive issues arising in our community as a result of the ongoing Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

### Recommendation

That the General Manager is delegated to survey all Randwick City Councillors for endorsement to undertake none, any or all of the following options relevant to the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey should a majority of Councillors indicate support to him:

**Option 1** - The flying of the rainbow flag at Randwick Council;

**Option 2** - Installing rainbow banners on Randwick Town Hall and using Council's Community Information Banner sites at South Coogee, Kingsford, Maroubra, Randwick and Barwon Park depending on availability;

**Option 3** - The immediate issuing of a public statement via print advertisements, the Mayoral Column, email systems, Council social media platforms, email systems, and web sites indicating that Randwick City Council supports a "yes" vote;

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**Option 4** - Run "Mail Your Vote" stalls at key hubs in the community; and

**Option 5** - Use Council officers or consultants to form an Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey response team to help Randwick residents:

1. Deal with emotional anxiety or harassment associated with the survey;
2. Obtain replacement ballot papers for legitimately stolen or lost ballot paper; and
3. Obtain background context on LGBTQIA issues;

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

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