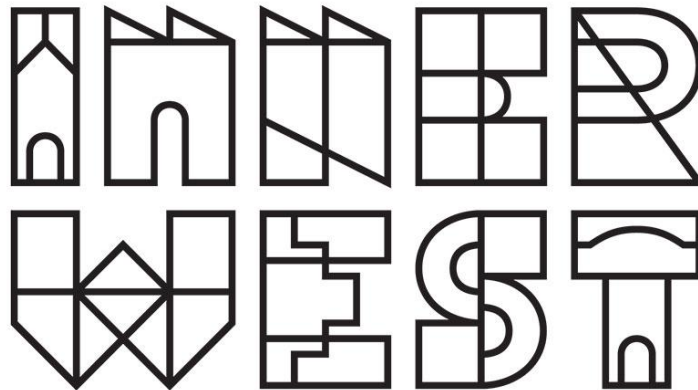


SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA 1

Distributed on 25 October 2022



COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2022

6.30pm

Location Ashfield Service Centre, 260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield

MEETING AGENDA – PRECIS SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

The following reports appear as late items as information required for the preparation of the reports was not available at the time of distribution of the Business Paper.

1 Mayoral Minutes

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Item No: C1022(1) Item 44
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: SUPPORT FOR JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVE
From: The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

MOTION:

That Council:

- 1. Welcomes the formation of the Justice Reform Initiative, seeking an evidence based criminal justice policy for this country that identifies alternatives to incarceration and enhances community safety. We recognise the harm and cost of over-incarceration, the overrepresentation of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in the criminal justice system, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the need to address the social and health drivers of incarceration. We support the call to all parliamentarians to implement evidence-based policy and the reduction of costly and harmful over-incarceration and further agree to the support of council for this resolution being recognised on the website of the Justice Reform Initiative; and**
 - 2. Condemns the NSW Government's recent decision not to allow United Nations Inspectors to attend and inspect NSW Prisons.**
-

Background

See attached correspondence from the Chair of the Justice Reform Initiative, Robert Tickner.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. [↓](#) Letter to Councillor Darcy Byrne**



Councillor Darcy Byrne
Mayor
Inner West Council
PO Box 14
Petersham NSW 2049

Dear Mayor,

As the Chair of the Justice Reform Initiative, I am writing to you to request the support of the Inner West Council for the work of the Initiative.

The Justice Reform Initiative is a new organisation, seeking to shift the public conversation and public policy away from building more prisons as the primary response of the criminal justice system and moving instead to proven alternative evidence-based approaches which break the cycle of incarceration- especially for young people.

We are committed to elevating approaches which seek to address the causes of contact with the criminal justice system including homelessness, mental health, cognitive impairment, unemployment, lack of access to education and problematic drug and alcohol use.

We are honoured to have two former Governors-General of the Commonwealth of Australia as our joint National Patrons in Chief and they are Sir William Deane AC, KBE, QC and the Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD,CVO. You will also see from our website that in every State and Territory we have highly respected people of goodwill who have joined our ranks. We have been honoured to have the former Chief Justice of NSW the Hon Tom Bathurst accept the position of Head Patron in NSW.

We are seeking Council's endorsement of a draft resolution noted below which supports the core principle driving our work; the need for evidence based justice reform; the need to reduce incarceration; and the need to build communities in which disadvantage is no longer met with a default criminal justice system response.

We are very much aware that the Inner West Council over recent years has given a large degree of multi-partisan support to important social policy issues impacting on the people of the Inner West. We believe therefore that the Council will be very supportive of calling on our elected parliamentarians to support evidence based criminal justice policies.

We have produced a substantial public report highlighting our concerns about the huge increase in the NSW prison population and highlighting the cost effective and evidence



based alternatives which cut the extraordinary high recidivism rate in NSW. Our report can be found on our website [here](#).

We are not seeking to directly attribute blame to either the current NSW Government or the Opposition for this state of affairs which has been created over the last three decades as a result of so called "law and order" auctions. We are however calling on both sides to put this era behind them and to work together with minor parties and independents in a multi-partisan way to find common ground in evidence based policy.

We now have an incarceration level in Australia which is higher than all the countries in Western Europe and Canada and these policies are failing to turn around the very high recidivism rate which comes at such a great cost to our country. The annual cost of the operation of our prison system across Australia is now five billion dollars per annum and the capital cost of proposed new prisons will add billions to that financial cost.

The Australian Productivity Commission recently reported that only two other countries in the world had a faster growth in the rate of incarceration than Australia in the years 2003 to 2018. Those two countries were Columbia and Turkey. Even in the United States of America, Republicans and Democrats are increasingly working together to reduce incarceration levels in that country.

I have included a link with our website which outlines our work. <https://www.justicereforminitiative.org.au/>

You will see on our website the names of more than 100 prominent Australians who have joined our ranks of patrons. This includes prominent former members of parliament from both sides of politics, from minor parties and from independents. The patrons also include former justices of the High Court of Australia, Chief Justices and Judges from the Courts of Appeal, as well as a significant number of former heads of Children's Courts and the former heads of Corrective Services among many others. Highly respected Aboriginal leaders including Pat Turner, Pat Anderson, and Jackie Huggins are also represented.

Among the many organisations supporting our work, we have received the very solid backing of the Law Council of Australia as well as the Australian Medical Association. Our wider support is also growing quickly across the country as so many people of goodwill believe that we need to move to evidence based public policy in the criminal justice field in Australia.

Importantly, as I have stressed, we are strictly non-party political and bring together people of goodwill across the political spectrum as you will see from our list of patrons. It is this achievement which gives us the potential of the necessary breakthrough to achieve reforms that we are seeking and to elevate this issue as a state and national priority and above the fray of party politics.

An important step in this process is to win the support of Local Government which has so often shown the way to other levels of government.

We have prepared the draft resolution below for the consideration of council in support of our objectives:

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

“Council welcomes the formation of the Justice Reform Initiative, seeking an evidence based criminal justice policy for this country that identifies alternatives to incarceration and enhances community safety.

We recognise the harm and cost of over-incarceration, the overrepresentation of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in the criminal justice system, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the need to address the social and health drivers of incarceration.

We support the call to all parliamentarians to support evidence-based policy and the reduction of costly and harmful over-incarceration and further agree to the support of council for this resolution being recognised on the website of the Justice Reform Initiative.”

In conclusion, may I again emphasise that the unanimous support from the Inner West Council for the adoption of evidence based criminal justice policies would send a powerful message to other local government authorities, to the parliaments of our country and to the wider Australian community that it was time for a constructive cross party supported approach to this vitally important area of public policy.

After you have read and considered our letter the Justice Reform Initiative will be reaching out to other members of council in order to ensure that they are also briefed and supportive of this initiative.

Should it be necessary, I would be more than happy to provide any further information and to brief Council or individual councillors in person.

Thank you so very much for your consideration of our request for support for this important issue for Council, our state and our nation.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely



Robert Tickner AO
Chair
Justice Reform Initiative
0457505207

Item No: C1022(1) Item 45
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: PARTNERSHIP WITH INNER WEST COMMUNITY ENERGY
From: The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

MOTION:

That Council:

- 1. Partner with *Inner West Community Energy* and other relevant renewable energy advocacy organisations in the Inner West to progress plans for community batteries to be installed and operated here;**
- 2. Prepare a report outlining what work Council has undertaken on how to facilitate community batteries in the local government area including an audit of Council controlled land that would be suitable for the installation of community batteries; and**
- 3. Invite the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, to attend a public forum in the Inner West to address how Council and our community can take advantage of the Federal Government's renewable energy policies to establish community batteries and electric vehicle infrastructure in the Inner West.**

Background

On 1 October *Inner Wests Community Energy* (IWCE), a local organisation promoting renewable energy and assisting local residents and organisations to install and procure solar energy, held a community forum to begin working towards establishing community batteries in the Inner West. IWCE and attendees of the meeting requested collaboration and support from Council in progressing their work.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C1022(1) Item 46
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: FREE USE OF TOWN HALLS AND FACILITIES FOR LOCAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS
From: The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

MOTION:

That a report be tabled for the November Ordinary meeting:

1. Detailing amendments to the fee schedule to allow for an automatic full fee waiver for all local not-for-profit organisations when booking council facilities for meetings and events that are not primarily for fundraising. If adopted the amended fees are to be placed on public exhibition immediately; and
 2. Identifying changes to allow the booking of facilities to be made simpler and easier for the community.
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Background

In the last term, Council voted to reverse new fees that had been introduced by the unelected, state government appointed administrator for the use of town halls and council facilities. Despite this, under the current booking system community organisations are sometimes reporting that the booking system is difficult to navigate and that it is too onerous to apply for a full fee waiver for meetings and events.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.