

8.2 FLYING OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FLAGS

Submitting Councillor: Mayor, Cr Paul Klisaris

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council flies the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags permanently on Council flag poles at the Civic Centre, in recognition of the traditional custodians of the land occupied by the municipality of Monash.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to the 2006 ABS Census data, the City of Monash has a total of 333 Indigenous persons living within the municipality, this is an increase of almost 12% from the previous 2001 ABS Census data.

In 2007, Council endorsed the City of Monash Indigenous Action Plan 2007-2011. The aim of the Indigenous Action Plan 2007-2011 is to develop and strengthen Council's relationship with its Indigenous community. The Framework also proposes that Council officers will "investigate opportunities to display appropriate indigenous signage that welcomes Indigenous people to the Monash Civic Centre".

It is considered appropriate that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags be permanently raised on the flagpoles at Council's Civic Centre.

The Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags were proclaimed as flags of Australia under section 5 of the Flags Act 1953 on 14 July 1995.

Flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags demonstrates in practice Council's commitment to the Indigenous people of Australia and recognizes their role as the original owners of this land. It also shows respect for the cultural traditions, history and diversity of Aboriginal people.

Furthermore it demonstrates leadership on behalf of Council and strengthens Council's position with respect to developing relationships and engaging meaningfully with the Aboriginal community in Monash and beyond.

By flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags Council is consistent with its commitment to all aspects of diversity in Monash, it enhances Council's leadership within the region and contributes towards building an inclusive, connected and harmonious community.