

**SUBJECT: LMM 28/09/21 - PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG**

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**MOTION**

That City of Newcastle:

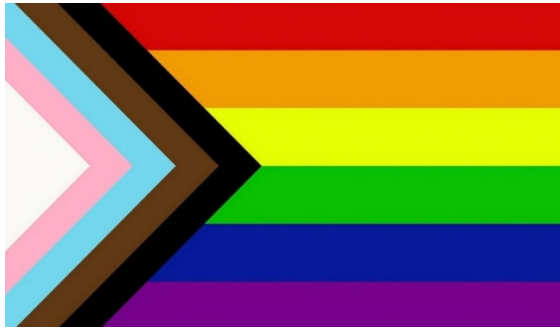
- 1 Notes our long held and consistent advocacy for Newcastle as a diverse and inclusive City, and our proud activism in support of our LGBTQI+ community, including raising the Pride Flag in support of Marriage Equality and sponsorship of Newcastle's Pride Festival;
- 2 Notes with pride that City of Newcastle received the highest 'Yes' vote in Regional Australia in support of Marriage Equality;
- 3 Notes that on 20 September, City of Sydney resolved to fly the Progress Pride Flag in Sydney during Mardi Gras Festival and Pride Week annually, and at other times significant to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community as required or requested, noting that the Progress Pride Flag was designed by non-binary artist and graphic designer Daniel Quasar in 2018 and incorporates the existing six-colored Rainbow Flag, widely recognised as the symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, designed by Gilbert Baker for the 1978 San Francisco Freedom Day Parade by adding a chevron (a V shaped element) comprising black and brown for Indigenous people and people of colour and white, pink and blue, the colours of the Trans Pride Flag designed by American trans woman Monica Helms in 1999 - to represent trans, nonbinary and gender diverse people.
- 4 Joins City of Sydney in celebrating our gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, queer, intersex and sexually and gender diverse communities, by flying the Progress Pride Flag at City Hall, Civic Park, the City Administration Centre, and other appropriate locations, during Mardi Gras, Pride Week and other times significant to Newcastle's LGBTQI+ community.

**BACKGROUND**

I acknowledge City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore's Lord Mayoral Minute of 20 September 2021, *Transition to Progress Flag*.

Lord Mayor Clover Moore advised City of Sydney that the Progress Flag was designed by non-binary artist and graphic designer Daniel Quasar in 2018 and incorporates:

- the existing six-colored Rainbow Flag, widely recognised as the symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities, designed by Gilbert Baker for the 1978 San Francisco Freedom Day Parade; and
- a chevron (a V shaped element) comprising black and brown for Indigenous people and people of colour and white, pink and blue, the colours of the Trans Pride Flag designed by American trans woman Monica Helms in 1999 - to represent trans, nonbinary and gender diverse people.



The Progress Pride flag was designed in 2018 by Daniel Quasar to be more inclusive for the LGTQI+ community.

## Council flying the flag for marriage equality

12 Oct 2017

City Of Newcastle will support this weekend's YESfest event to back the 'yes' vote in Australia's national marriage law plebiscite before hoisting rainbow flags above Civic Park next week.

Council has partnered with the Newcastle LGBTIQ Alliance to support the YESfest picnic in King Edward Park from 11am-2pm on Sunday. The free event will see prizes awarded for the best themed-picnics and include music, lawn games, art activities and speeches by young local LGBTIQ people.



"I'm proud to lead a council that supports the right of all Australians, regardless of their sexuality, to marry," Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said.

"Sunday's picnic is about showing members of the local LGBTIQ community that our city stands beside them in supporting their right to marry the person they love.

"We'll host a stall on the day and support the event before raising rainbow flags above Civic Park on Monday as a powerful statement that Newcastle is a progressive city that stands up for the rights of all people."

The Lord Mayor will host a flag-raising ceremony in Civic Park on Monday at midday. Flags will be raised on six poles lining King and Darby streets until results from the national plebiscite are due on 15 November. Rainbow flags will also be raised at other

Council sites across the city and be offered to local businesses for them to hoist. Members of the community are also welcome to attend Monday's noon ceremony.

Last month, almost a year after unveiling a rainbow-walk in Islington Park, Council voted in favour of a Lord Mayoral minute recommending five measures to support the right of same-sex couples to marry.

They included reaffirming the city's commitment to marriage equality in correspondence to federal political leaders, an advocacy campaign supporting the 'yes' vote as well as a community event and banners and flags.

## **Council supports marriage equality**

26 Sep 2017

City Of Newcastle has resolved to support the 'yes' campaign in Australia's current marriage-law plebiscite after reaffirming a commitment to marriage equality made in 2015.

Almost a year after unveiling a rainbow-walk in Islington Park, Council voted in favour of five measures to support the right of same-sex couples to marry.

"I am so proud to lead a progressive council that supports the right of all Australians, regardless of their sexuality, to marry," Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said.

"This is about showing members of the local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex or queer (LGBTIQ) community that our city stands beside them in supporting their right to marry the person they love.

"Beyond Blue stats show the rate of suicide attempts is up to 14 times higher among LGBTI people. They are also twice as likely to have a high level of psychological distress. We as a community and through the resources of City Of Newcastle can send a message of marriage equality that helps alleviate these stresses."

The Lord Mayoral Minute adopted tonight will see City Of Newcastle:

- Re-affirm the city's commitment to marriage equality
- Write to the Federal Government and Federal Opposition, advising them of the City's support for marriage equality
- Show support for marriage equality by flying the rainbow flag above City Hall
- Deliver an advocacy and communication strategy that affirms Council's support for marriage equality and the 'yes' campaign on its website, social media accounts and by erecting banners across the city
- Hosts a community event in support of a 'yes' vote.



Adding the final touches to the Islington Rainbow walk

City Of Newcastle previously resolved to support marriage equality in a successful Notice of Motion at the ordinary council meeting of 28 July 2015.

The city has long been at the forefront of progressive community advocacy in Australia.

The Council led by Joy Cummings, Australia's first popularly-elected woman Lord Mayor, was the first in Australia to raise the Aboriginal flag above a city or town hall 40 years ago this year.

"The flag flies without challenge or controversy given its now-overwhelming support by Australians," the Lord Mayor added.

"City Of Newcastle expects that marriage equality will ultimately be seen in decades to come as an assumed and just right for all people."

Council joins 52 other councils around Australia, including City of Sydney, Brisbane City, North Sydney Council and City of Melbourne, in supporting marriage equality.

Last year, City Of Newcastle opened a rainbow walk in Islington Park to acknowledge the area's historical association with the LGBTIQ community.

## **RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

Lord Mayoral Minute – 26/09/17 – Marriage Equality