

MOTION

That Newcastle City Council:

- 1 Re-affirms the City of Newcastle's commitment to Marriage Equality;
- 2 Writes to the Federal Government, and Federal Opposition, advising them of the City of Newcastle's support for Marriage Equality;
- 3 Shows support for Marriage Equality by flying the Rainbow Flag at City Hall;
- 4 Delivers an advocacy and communication strategy that affirms Council's support for Marriage Equality and the "Yes" Campaign on its website, social media account, and by erecting banners across the City in support of Marriage Equality;
- 5 Hosts a community event in support of a "Yes" vote.

BACKGROUND

The City of Newcastle has long been at the forefront of progressive community advocacy in Australia. Newcastle elected Australia's first popularly-elected female Lord Mayor and was the first Council in Australia to raise the Aboriginal Flag over a City or Town Hall.

Newcastle City Council has previously resolved by Notice of Motion at the Ordinary Meeting held on 28 July 2015 - Equality for Novocastrians, that the City:

- i) Affirms its commitment to valuing and respecting diversity in our community including in the provision of services and as an employer of equal opportunity;
- ii) Seeks to further its support by adopting the Safe Space Charter and increasing the number of Council venues (such as the libraries, museum, art gallery and pools) registered with ACON NSW's Safe Space Program;
- iii) Supports the establishment of a permanent rainbow crossing as a placemaking project on a local road or alternate suitable public place within the Newcastle LGA to symbolise the City's commitment to equality;
- iv) A report be received by Council at or before the October meeting of Council which identifies a number of location options and estimates the costs and other constraints of establishing a permanent rainbow pedestrian crossing on a local road or in alternative public space. This report is to consider the potential of establishing a permanent crossing in locations of current and historical significance to the local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex or queer (LGBTIQ) community including Beaumont Street, Hamilton;
- v) Adopts a position supporting marriage equality; that is that civil marriage should be available, without discrimination, to all adult couples, regardless of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity;
- iv) Publicly shares this statement including by publicising on Council's website and social media, and by writing to the Prime Minister, Federal Opposition Leader and Federal Members for Newcastle, Charlton, Shortland, Paterson and Hunter advising them of Council's support and encouraging support of marriage equality bills before the commonwealth parliament
- iiiv) Become the first Council in Australia to take part in the Pride in Diversity Workplace Program, which is designed specifically to assist Australian employers with the inclusion of LGBTIQ employees; and

- iiiv) Work towards achieving the national accredited Rainbow Tick for Council Services which formally demonstrates LGBTIQ inclusive practice and service delivery.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil