

**ITEM-15 LMM 29/06/21 - NEWCASTLE AS A NUCLEAR FREE CITY & SUPPORT FOR A  
NEWCASTLE PEACE PARK**

**MOTION**

**PART A: Hiroshima Day Peace Flag Raising Ceremony**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes correspondence received from Hunter Peace Group (**Attachment A**) requesting a Flag Raising ceremony and Civic Reception to mark Hiroshima Day, on 6 August 2021;
2. Reiterates our previous support for a world free of nuclear weapons, with Councillors unanimously supporting a motion to join the Nobel Peace Prize winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (**Attachment B**), as well as the City's 1982 declaration of Newcastle as a Nuclear Free Zone (**Attachment C**);
3. Supports the Hunter Peace Groups efforts to raise awareness about the ongoing campaign to abolish nuclear weapon, as well as our long and proud history of activism against nuclear weapons, particularly as a City with a large, working harbor, and holds a Flag Raising Ceremony and Civic Reception on 6 August 2021 to mark Hiroshima Day.

**PART B: Establishing a Newcastle Peace Park**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Acknowledges Hunter Peace Group's request for assistance to establish a Peace Park in Newcastle, aimed at recognising Newcastle's long and proud activist history in the fight for nuclear disarmament, and in the pursuit of world peace;
2. Notes that Lord Mayor Joy Cummings AM was a Peace activist and dedicated advocate for Newcastle as a Nuclear Free City, joining with Hunter Peace Group, the Trade Union movement, and activists to hold demonstrations to raise awareness about nuclear disarmament and the importance of Newcastle as a Nuclear Free City and Port;
3. Notes that many City's across the nation are home to Peace Parks, with Peace Parks located in Adelaide, Hobart, Canberra, Bankstown, Wallarah Point, Albany and locally at Cessnock and Tanilba Bay.
4. Works with Hunter Peace Group to establish Newcastle Peace Park at Tighes Hill Reserve, adjacent to Islington Park.

**BACKGROUND:**



*The ICAN Cities Appeal was endorsed by the City of Newcastle on 26 February, 2019.*

## STATEMENT

City of Newcastle Commitment Statement:

***“City of Newcastle is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for our people and the environment. Therefore, we warmly welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017, and we call on our national government to sign and ratify it without delay.”***

**Councillors:** Cr Byrne, Cr Clausen, Cr Duncan, Cr Dunn, Cr Nelmes, Cr White and Cr Winney-Bartz.



*Image: ICAN Australia board member Dr Sue Wareham delivers an ICAN flag to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Nuatali Nelmes.*

## FURTHER ACTION

2020: The City of Newcastle submitted a motion in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) for discussion at the 2020 National General Assembly.

In August 2020, after receiving submissions from local councils across the nation, the Australian Local Government Association board wrote to the Senator the Hon. Marise Payne Minister for Foreign Affairs with a message: *Councils urge the Australian Government to sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.*

**Hiroshima Day, 1982:**

week rally last Sunday that the *Goldborough* visit had made many people question nuclear issues and the US alliance.

Visiting US Black clergyman C T Vivien told the rally that US bases in Australia were immoral because Australia would be the first to be bombed in "the new war".

He described the ANZUS alliance as "annihilation with consultation". A City Square rally organised by Students for Nuclear Disarmament last Friday attracted over 300 people.

Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) secretary Ken Stone provoked bitter debate at the VTHC

# Hiroshima Day round-up

**Hiroshima Day rallies and marches around Australia last week attracted thousands of people in support of nuclear disarmament.**

In Sydney, 10,000 people attended a successful Hiroshima Day candlelight march and rally last Friday night.

A broad coalition of anti-war, anti-uranium and church groups, together with unions, Labor Against Uranium, and others organised the protest.

Sydney anti-war and anti-nuclear movements will protest against the

visit of the USS *Goldborough* next Thursday and Friday. The protests will begin with a picket outside Garden Island Dockyard at 2 pm next Thursday. The protesters will then move to Mrs Macquarie's Chair overlooking the warship, for

an all-night vigil beginning at 3.30 pm.

A flotilla of protest boats will assemble near the *Goldborough* at about this time and will also mount an all-night vigil until the warship is scheduled to leave at 10 am on Friday.

The Garden Island Naval Dockyard unions' shop committee has drawn up a letter to be presented to the *Goldborough's* captain which expresses concern at the possibility the ship is carrying nuclear weapons. Other maritime unions have banned any servicing of the ship.

shareholders. Messages can be sent by writing to: PO Box 311, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022. Phone (02) 264.5036.

was organised by a broad coalition of peace activists, anti-nuclear groups and trade unions. Efforts to heal the differences are under way.

## Wollongong

Over 2,000 people marched in Wollongong on Saturday, twice the number at last year's protest. Ethnic groups, churches, peace organisations and ALP branches figured prominently in the colorful rally. The rally was addressed by the Rev Clyde Dominish of the Uniting Church and the crowd joined in singing with Margret Roadknight.

Aboriginal activist Pat O'Shane also spoke at a concert, organised by OICD, the Australian Peace Committee and various unions and churches, and which followed the march.

## Newcastle

In Newcastle, 450 people marched to a meeting at the City Hall. The march was led by the Anglican Bishop of Newcastle, A C Holland, who later addressed the meeting. Other speakers included Mayor Joy Cummings, Professor Steve Leeder of the University's Department of Community Medicine, and Labor MLA for Swansea, Don Bowman.

The march and meeting were organised by the Newcastle Peace Forum which includes anti-nuclear and peace groups, Christians, Labor Party branches and trade unions.

In Western Australia, there was no co-ordinated movement action but several initiatives from individual groups earned good publicity and raised major issues.



**HOBART:** Sixty people picketed against the *Goldborough's* visit. Hobart, with its legal casino, is being fostered as a recreation stop for US warships between Pacific and Indian Ocean theatres of potential nuclear war.

## Adelaide

In Adelaide, 2,000 people attended a Hiroshima Day rally on Saturday. About 1,000 had taken part in a candlelight vigil on Friday night.

Speaking at the rally, Metal Workers Union (AMWSU) state secretary Mick Tumbers called for direct action against the state's nuclear industry. Marches and rallies were not enough, he said. Unions such as his own should convince their members not to participate in the nuclear industry.

"The whole nuclear industry won't dismantle itself," he said. There could be no guarantee that material produced by Australian mines would not find its way into nuclear warheads.

The Hiroshima Day activities were marked by differences in approach. People for Peace (PFP) sponsored the vigil, while the rally

TRIBUNE, AUGUST 11, 1982

**5 April 1978:**

# ANTI-NUCLEAR ROUND-UP

• *Novo Provos* street theatre carrying 'poisoned innocent bystanders'

**NEWCASTLE:** Over 300 people marched in dreadful weather. Local Aborigines attended the rally for the first time including girls from the Durungaling College.

Pat O'Shane spoke on the land rights issue at the rally in the main shopping centre. The rally was chaired by Newcastle Mayor Joy Cummings.

The *Novo Provos* street theatre "poisoned innocent bystanders" with a nine foot long yellow cake. The victims were loaded on to a hand-pushed "death cart" and wheeled away.

**PERTH:** Nearly 9,000 people marched last Saturday in what the local media called "a mass march of humanity" and "one of the biggest protests seen in Perth".

The march was led by a group of Aborigines. With them were Ken Colbung from the Aboriginal Land Trust, Tom Uren, and Peter Cook, Trades and Labor Council secretary.

The previous day 300 people marched through Fremantle to a protest meeting at the Entertainment Centre.

The rally after the Saturday march was addressed by Tom Uren. He said "against the advice of the Fox Commission the Fraser government is going to use the extremely repressive Atomic Energy Act .... against the Aboriginal people and Australian workers ....

"Talk of safeguards is a ploy to neutralise the mounting public opposition to uranium mining. There are no adequate safeguards."

One hundred and fifty *Tribunes* were sold at the rally and march. □

**RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS:**

- NOM 26/02/19 - ICAN CITIES APPEAL - SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
- REPORT OF TOWN CLERK 29/06/82 – FINANCE, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE – DECLARATION OF CITY AS A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- CORRESPONDENCE FROM HUNTER PEACE GROUP
- NOM 26/02/19 - ICAN CITIES APPEAL - SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.
- REPORT OF TOWN CLERK 29/06/82 – FINANCE, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE – DECLARATION OF CITY AS A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE.



# Hunter Peace Group

*Peace Justice Friendship*

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10<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Clr Nuatali Nelmes,  
Lord Mayor, Newcastle City Council,  
Cnr Stewart Avenue and Hunter Street, Newcastle West NSW 2302

Dear Lord Mayor

Members of Hunter Peace Group recently participated in a meeting with your office which we found extremely productive. During the conversation we discussed two issues – the first being –

- The reinstatement of naming Newcastle as a Nuclear Free City by way of a flag raising ceremony in Civic Park at 10.30 am on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August (76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki) followed by a morning tea at City Hall. This was on the proviso that the past Motion to Council could be found – which it has been by the wonderful Librarians at Newcastle Library. Hunter Peace Group is very appreciative of the work your office has put into this issue and we sincerely hope Council will be supportive of marking this important occasion.
- The second item discussed was the possibility of achieving a Peace Park which Hunter Peace Group members believe would be perfect at the Tighes Hill Reserve (opposite the Tighes Hill TAFE Maitland Road). This section of Islington Park which is separated by Throsby Creek, with well established fig trees interspersed with picnic table settings overlooking the creek has quite a large (but not too much) grassland with 3 gazebos and a couple of circular flower gardens and benches. It is a very peaceful spot and requires very little addition. We believe that a suitable sign naming the park e.g. **(Newcastle Peace Park achieved by Hunter Peace Group with approval and assistance from Newcastle City Council)**; 3 or 4 more benches or 3 benches and another picnic table setting. Minor updating of the gazebos with one gazebo being made weatherproof to allow us to record the history of the Newcastle/Hunter past, present and future peace activists would make it an ideal haven to hold HPG events, family picnics or simply sit and read and/or contemplate the peaceful atmosphere. Should this proposal be successful we will be approaching major Trade Unions to assist with cost of extra benches/picnic settings and the upgrading of the gazebos.

We do hope this can become a reality and we await with anxious interest the outcome of Council deliberations.

**Yours in peace and friendship**

Lynda Forbes

Secretary, Hunter Peace Group

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**The aim of Hunter Peace Group is to promote peace and disarmament globally, nationally and locally**

**Hunter Peace Group: Contact email: [hunterpeacegroup.2016@gmail.com](mailto:hunterpeacegroup.2016@gmail.com)**

See us on **Facebook at Hunter- Peace- Group**

**SUBJECT: 26/02/19 – ICAN CITIES APPEAL – SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**COUNCILLORS: CR BYRNE, CR CLAUSEN; CR DUNCAN; CR DUNN; CR NELMES; CR WHITE; CR WINNEY-BAARTZ**

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## **MOTION**

That City of Newcastle:

1. Notes that 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winners 'International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' (ICAN), and Hunter Peace Group, have asked City of Newcastle to support the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the Treaty), and to endorse the ICAN Cities Appeal campaign which is aimed at building support and awareness for the Treaty;
2. Supports the ICAN Cities Appeal campaign by publishing our commitment statement on City of Newcastle's website and social media channels.
3. Writes to the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader, calling on the Federal Government to sign the 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

## **BACKGROUND**

On 7 July 2017, 122 nations voted to adopt the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Following this, 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winners 'International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' have enacted a global call for cities and towns to pledge their support for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons prohibits the use, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and lays the foundations for their total elimination.

Although the Australian Government ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1973, it has not yet signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, introduced in July 2017.

### **City of Newcastle Commitment Statement:**

*City of Newcastle is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for our people and the environment. Therefore, we warmly welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017, and we call on our national government to sign and ratify it without delay.*

**Attachments:**

- International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Cities Appeal fact sheet
- Correspondence from Hunter Peace Group

## FINANCE, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT &amp; ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

No. 229 - REPORT OF TOWN CLERK - 29th June'82

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF CITY AS A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE  
 - File No.60/74/60/5

The Council on 25th May'82, resolved in respect of the undermentioned report of the PPC. meeting dated 11th May'82, that the report be received and referred to the next meeting of the FHEEC for consideration, namely:-

" No. 73 - REPORT OF TOWN CLERK - 11th May'82  
 "  
 " SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF CITY AS A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE  
 " - File No.60/74/60/5  
 "  
 " The Council on 13th October'81, resolved inter alia, that the Town Clerk report  
 " on the feasibility of the City area being declared a nuclear free zone in respect  
 " of transportation of material and include actions taken by other Council in this  
 " respect.  
 " In accordance with the Council's decision, letters were forwarded to the following  
 " Council seeking advice with respect to this matter, namely:-  
 " The Council of the City of Sydney  
 " Canterbury Municipal Council  
 " The Council of the Municipality of Shellharbour  
 " Municipality of Leichhardt  
 " Municipality of Marrickville  
 " The replies received from the above Councils are appended to this report.  
 " Also appended to this report is an article prepared by D.C. Hampson, General  
 " Manager, Uranium Information Centre Ltd., Melbourne, titled "Some Implications  
 " of Nuclear Free Zones"  
 "  
 " Submitted for consideration  
 "

Copies attached are:-

Letter from CONVENORS - NEWCASTLE PEACE FORUM, and

Letter and submission from WOLFE STREET GROUP FOR NUCLEAR FREE ZONES.

NOTE: Invitations has been extended to the Newcastle Peace Forum and the Wolfe Street Group for Nuclear Free Zones for representatives to attend the meeting at 6.30pm.

Submitted for consideration

## COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:

229

## DECLARATION OF CITY AS A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

NOTE - Mr. Dawson of the Newcastle Peace Forum and Mr. S. Flood of the Wolfe Street Group for Nuclear Free Zones were in attendance and addressed the Committee.

NOTE - The Newcastle Peace Forum and Wolfe Street Group for Nuclear Free Zones submitted documents to the meeting and these are attached.

FINANCE, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 29 JUN 1982

FINANCE SECTION

"That the report be received and that Council supports the decision and action taken by the Sydney City Council and Leichhardt Council, Shell Harbour Council and others in declaring their municipalities Nuclear Free Zones and also that Council resolves to declare Newcastle a Nuclear free City and port and resist the establishment of any nuclear industry such as reactors, enrichment plants etc., within its boundaries.

"Council does not however, appose the use of suitability protected and controlled materials for medical, agricultural and industrial uses. These would be exempt from this embargo. Until a suitable and safe handling and disposal procedure is established to give the community maximum protection, Council seek to discourage the passage of all other radioactive materials that cannot be proven safe in terms of public health and safety.

"Further that the City Engineer be requested to submit a report on the possible location of up to 10 suitable signs covering major arterial roads and port access locations. These signs to be similar to that erected by the other municipal areas so declared. That enquiries be made and advice be given by the Chief Health Surveyor so as to allow Council to explore procedures for the handling and transport of radioisotopes and wastes and possible treatment of mineral sands."

*COUNCIL DECISION — 6TH JULY, 1982*

923. Motion (Aldermen Morris/Price)

"That the report be received and adopted."

Amendment (Aldermen Robertson/Campbell)

"That the report be received and in view of the importance of this issue and the grave concern within the community, that this Council conduct a referendum on the matter of declaring this City a nuclear free zone in association with the 1983 Triennial Elections."

Note:- The meeting adjourned for supper at 8.53 p.m. and resumed at 9.19 p.m.

Alderman John Tate foreshadowed a further amendment concerning the size of the proposed signs, location of notices in Council libraries and the World Health Organisation standards for handling radio active materials.

Following length discussion and reply by the mover of the motion, the amendment was put to the meeting and declared defeated.

The foreshadowed further amendment was moved by Alderman John Tate and seconded by Alderman Alma Tate.

Following discussion on the contents of the foreshadowed further amendment, the mover and seconde agreed to incorporate it in the motion following a suggestion by Alderman A.A. Morris.

The motion then read as follows:-

- "1. That the report be received and adopted subject to the word 'design' being included following the word 'possible' as appearing in the second line of the third paragraph of the recommendation.
- "
- "2. That a report be submitted by the Council's officers on the World Health Organisation standards for the handling of radio active materials and this report when submitted be considered by the Council for adoption.
- "
- "3. That the FHEEC give consideration to the Council placing declaration notices of this nature in the foyers of Council buildings."

This motion was then put to the meeting and declared carried.

FINANCE, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 29 JUN 1982

FINANCE SECTION

RECEIVED & ADOPTED  
- 6 JUL 1982  
BY  
COUNCIL

REFERRED TO: TOWN CLERK  
FOR ACTION/NOTATION ON  
12/7/82

6/10  
D/E called quotation for mgs  
of E awaiting concurrence  
of DM/R  
Sub plan  
6/10

DTC.  
As your attention

WV

12/7.

Copy of Resolution  
to C/S & C/E  
DTC to arrange mgs -  
Public buildings after the  
mgs are designed 12/7

Resubmit  
14/8/82