

NoM SPEAKING NOTES AT COUNCIL

Thank you, Lord Mayor. And thank you, fellow Councillors and all Staff for the support in bringing this historical and important NoM to council

... calling for the Recognition of, and Support for, Australian South Sea Islanders.

Prior to the Council meeting commencing, Councillor Ellsmore submitted a minor amendment to this motion, which I am happy to accept as a variation. Thank you for that input, Councillor Ellsmore.

Today is a proud moment for me as chair of ASSIPJ. It is also an important day for our founding elders, many who have been City of Sydney residents for well over 40 years of their working lives.

I have been privileged to know and be mentored by these resilient civil rights activists.

People such as Aunty Faith Bandler, Aunty Phyllis and Uncle Robert Corowa, Aunty Marg and Uncle Allan Togo, Aunty Shireen Malamoo, Dr Bonita Mabo, Aunty Carriette Pangas, Uncle Graham Mooney, Pastor Ray Minniecon, Aunty Avis Deguarra and Uncle Victor Corowa. And of course, my mother Nellie Innares.

These Elders and ASSI organisations such as the Tweed Heads Assoc. Pacific communities heads of mission and the broader Sydney community have paved the way for many of us to stand here today, not only as women in politics, but also, as representatives of our distinct cultural groups.

This year on August 25, it is 175 years since NSW entrepreneur Benjamin Boyd trafficked some 200 Melanesian men from the Island states of New Caledonia and Vanuatu to Slave alongside Indigenous and Maori men in Eden NSW.

In the Commonwealth and ASSIPJ Cultural Calendar, this date is referred to as Recognition Day.

The City has the opportunity to lead here. There is a need for greater awareness and understanding of ASSI, and Recognition Day, and the 175th anniversary, is a historical moment in time to start an important dialogue among us all - staff, executive, Councillors and community.

I am grateful for the opportunity to submit a detailed NoM which not only calls for support and recognition, but which also puts on the record, Sydney and NSW's involvement in what is a shameful, shared history. By telling this story, it speaks truth.

I hope that after reading the papers and learning a bit more about this sorry history and the lived experience of the Australian South Sea Islander community, you will be happy to support the Motion before you today.

It is about greater understanding, education and healing.

Councillor Ellsmore amendment 11/04/22:

I propose to move the following amendment to item 11.1: Recognition of Australian South Sea Islanders:

(B) (that) Council (add point) **(iv) Commits to formally acknowledge Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Day on 25 August, from 2022 onwards.**

What is the reason for this amendment?

The current notice of motion doesn't commit to a particular timeframe. The amendment would confirm that Council will acknowledge Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Day from this year onwards.

If anyone has any questions or would like further information please don't hesitate to get in touch

Thanks

Sylvie

Sylvie Ellsmore

Councillor