Item 14.3

Notices of Motion

Aboriginal Naming and Recognition of Culture and History in the Future Wentworth Park

By Councillor Thompson

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) with greyhound racing having ended at Wentworth Park, the NSW Government plans to demolish the track and hand it over to the City of Sydney as a public park

(ii) Wentworth Park is located on the ancestral lands of the Gadigal of the Eora nation, with Blackwattle Bay and creek originally an abundant tidal estuary and watercourse, a source of fresh water for First Nations people and a place for fishing and activity

(iii) by the mid-19th century, the area had become a heavily polluted swamp due to nearby industry. In 1878, the creek and swamp were reclaimed, filled in and 'dedicated in perpetuity' as a park or for public reclamation. Wentworth Park opened in 1885, officially named after politician William Charles Wentworth

(iv) since opening, the site has been a backyard for the communities of Glebe, Ultimo and Pyrmont, for sport and social gatherings

(B) Council further note:

(i) in 2022, the City of Sydney asked the community to help us develop a vision for the future of Wentworth Park, which informed the Vision and Structure Plan endorsed in 2025. The community told us they wanted to see the local heritage recognised including the connections and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This feedback will be reflected in the concept plans

(ii) on 28 October 2026, Greens Balmain MP Kobi Shetty held an event with Councillors Matthew Thompson and Sylvie Ellsmore to discuss the future of Wentworth Park, in which many residents raised and supported the idea of renaming the park to recognise the area's long Indigenous history

(iii) the handing back of the site presents an opportunity to recognise and celebrate its Aboriginal culture and history, and free it from Wentworth's legacy of racism and the cruel practices of greyhound racing

(iv) the City has previously suggested names for new parks, consistent with the City's Naming Policy and supports the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history through art, signage, design and historical research, in line with the Reconciliation Action Plan and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocols

(v) the Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB) is the official body for naming and recording details of places and geographical names in the state. Geographical Names Board approval is required to change the name of geographical places like parks

(C) Council in principle agree to rename or dual name Wentworth Park, if supported by the First Nations community, and otherwise recognise First Nations culture and history

(D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

(i) seek advice from the Geographical Names Board on changing the name, or co-naming, of all or parts of Wentworth Park, and update Council via the CEO Update

(ii) notwithstanding the Geographical Names Board's advice, as part of the development of concept plans for the future of Wentworth Park, consult with the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, and the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community about how First Nations culture and history can be recognised in the future park.

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