

## ITEM B LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - PROFESSOR JUSTIN YERBURY AM - KEYS TO THE CITY

Professor Justin Yerbury AM is a molecular biologist who leads a research team that has challenged prevailing thought about the pathology of Motor Neuron Disease (MND), a degenerative disease with no known cure. His discoveries about the underlying molecular principles of the disease, made since he was diagnosed with MND in 2016, are driving new research into the causes of cell dysfunction. He holds the position of Professor in Neurodegenerative Disease at the University of Wollongong.

Professor Yerbury was awarded Wollongong's Citizen of the Year in the Australia Day Awards in 2019 and was made a member of the Order of Australia in the 2020 Australia Day Honours for "significant service to education and research in the field of biological sciences" He was awarded University of New South Wales Eureka Prize for Scientific Research in 2022.

Council may bestow this honour and recognition by awarding the Keys to the City to individuals who have given a significant high level of long-term service, inspiration and esteem to the community of Wollongong over and above the criteria outlined for the Australia Day Awards.

The research undertaken by Professor Yerbury and his team has implications for the wellbeing and future health outcomes for humanity. Professor Yerbury's scientific achievements, his inspiration and advocacy for those with disabilities and his tenacity of spirit, in spite of his own physical disabilities, make him a worthy recipient of the Keys to the City.

### RECOMMENDATION

I therefore recommend that Wollongong City Council bestow the honour of the Keys to the City on Professor Justin Yerbury AM in recognition of his significant achievements in scientific research of Motor Neuron Disease and cellular dysfunction at the University of Wollongong.

### ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.