

**ITEM 11 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JANICE KERSHAW - MARINERS MEMORIAL**

Councillor Janice Kershaw has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council considers the establishment of a permanent memorial in Wollongong to recognise the role of the Merchant Mariner in the development of the Illawarra and their ongoing role.
- 2 Although there are various historical markers found around the area’s maritime precincts a prominent memorial would be more befitting the role of the Merchant Mariner, such as –
  - a A naval flagpole, flying the Australian Red Ensign, the national flag for the Merchant Navy, with accompanying explanatory “plinth” to act as a focus point for the Illawarra’s relationship with ships, the sea, and Mariners.
  - b A naval style flagpole with yard arms and gaff may be more functional, to allow the flying of the Australian Red Ensign along with other flags.
- 3 This item be added to the list of projects for discussion at the Councillors upcoming planning days, providing the following –
  - a Suggested locations for the installation of the flagpole
  - b Approximate cost of the different options
  - c Timeframe for installation.”

**Background provided by Councillor Janice Kershaw:**

Wollongong and the Illawarra has a rich and diverse maritime heritage. From the days of European first settlement merchant ships of all sizes have traded to and from the Illawarra with Wollongong harbour being the initial hub of maritime trade until the focus shifted to Port Kembla.

The Illawarra has been home to and produced many Australian commercial mariners, and whether they be fishermen in their trawlers, pilots and tugboat crew in our Harbours or deep-sea sailors navigating their large ships through our major port gateways, their work has gone on largely unrecognised. Wollongong with its port of Kembla is one of Australia’s top 10 shipping ports (on a tonnage basis), and a passing parade of merchant ships are seen off Flagstaff Hill on a daily basis

Flagstaff Hill is so named because from here flags were flown to indicate the status of shipping activity to the local populace during the early development of the city and port. Flagstaff Hill with its iconic white lighthouse is central to the Wollongong coastal vista, and overlooks the entrances to both of the ports that have accommodated the regions coastal trade (i.e. Belmore Basin -Wollongong Harbour and Port Kembla.) Flagstaff Hill would therefore be an appropriate location for a prominent but simple memorial to its past and future merchant mariners.