

ITEM 10 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM - NAMING PROPOSAL FOR COUNCILLOR VICKY KING

Councillor Vicky King served as a Wollongong City Councillor for a total of 19 years over two periods from 1987 to 2004 and again from 2017 until her sudden passing in February 2020.

Councillor King is remembered as a strong advocate for Wollongong, particularly in our southern suburbs, and was an active and committed community leader supporting various community organisations.

In accordance with the Community Recognition Program (Council) Policy, it is proposed to recognise Councillor King's contribution to the City with two recognition dedications, firstly a tree dedication planting at Hooka Point in Berkeley to be installed in 2023, and longer term, a formal tree avenue within the future Darkes Town Centre District Sports and Community Hub.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Councillor Vicky King receive community recognition including interpretive signage and a dedication tree planting at Hooka Point, Berkeley in 2023.
- 2 That formal recognition for Councillor Vicky King consisting of an avenue of trees and interpretive signage is listed within the Wollongong City Council Draft Green Network Masterplan for West Dapto, and forms a part of the landscape within the future Darkes Town Centre District Sports Park and Community Hub

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Paul Tracey, Manager Open Space + Environmental Services

Authorised by: Joanne Page, Director Infrastructure + Works

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Vicky King served the community as a Wollongong City Councillor for 19 years, first being elected to Council in 1987 and remaining a Councillor until 2004. She was later re-elected to Council in September 2017.

In February 2020, Councillor King suddenly passed away whilst attending a Neighbourhood Forum 7 meeting and serving the community.

Councillor King also ran an accountancy business in Dapto for more than 40 years and is survived by her husband Charlie, their six children, and seven grandchildren.

Councillor King's contribution as a Councillor in the period 2017-20 included serving on the Aboriginal Reference Group, Illawarra Bushfire Management Committee, Illawarra Regional Information Service, Lake Illawarra Estuary Management Committee, West Dapto Review Committee, Illawarra Sports Stadium Trust and the Illawarra Zone Liaison Committee – Rural Fire Service.

In previous terms (1987-2004) Councillor King served on the Illawarra Community Housing Trust, Lake Illawarra Authority, Illawarra Regional Organisation of Councils, Illawarra County Council, the Planning and Development Committee, and the Australian Local Government Women's Association.

At its meeting of 4 April 2022, Council resolved to consider an appropriate memorial for Councillor Vicky King, including consulting with Councillor King's family as part of this process, and present this report to Council.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to recognise Councillor King's contribution to the City with two recognition dedications, firstly a tree dedication planting at Hooka Point in Berkeley to be installed in 2023, and longer term, a formal tree avenue within the future Darkes Town Centre District Sports and Community Hub.

Proposed recognition at Hooka Point, Berkeley

Hooka Point is currently one of Council's most active and successful natural area restoration sites, with Bushcare volunteers transforming the site from paddock into a natural area during the past 30 years, with the site now supporting Endangered Ecological Plant Communities and significant wildlife, and providing significant passive recreation value to residents, with the site used heavily for cycling, walking, and bird watching.

It is estimated 20,000 plants have been installed and cared for by Bushcare Volunteers, and recognition for Councillor King at this site is deemed appropriate as she resided in Berkeley and is remembered as a passionate advocate for the protection of the environment.



Hooka Point 1993



Hooka Point 2022

The proposed recognition for Councillor King will include the planting of 1000 young native trees and shrubs that will establish to form part of the wider natural revegetation works on the site. The planting will also provide opportunity for family, colleagues and members of the community to participate in this planting.

A lectern style aluminium panel interpretive sign measuring 900mm wide x 600mm high will be installed at Hooka Point to recognise Councillor King's contribution to the City of Wollongong.

If this recommendation is supported, the planting will occur in the Spring period of 2023.



Example of Lectern Style Signage, and proposed location within Hooka Point

Draft West Dapto Green Network Masterplan

Council has been working toward developing a Green Network Masterplan for West Dapto, which will provide a framework for the delivery of a network of green spaces between the Escarpment and Lake Illawarra aimed at contributing towards the walkability, cycling, recreation, and enhance social connections for the growing population. Existing ecological values such as riparian corridors, remnant vegetation communities and existing open space will form the framework for this masterplan.

A key site proposed within the masterplan is the future Darkes Town Centre District Sports Park and Community Hub. The proposed site for this facility runs adjacent to a riparian corridor, and there is an opportunity for listing within the draft Green Network Masterplan for West Dapto to include future recognition for Councillor King at this site inclusive of a formal avenue of trees and interpretive signage.

The Draft Green Network Masterplan for West Dapto is currently being finalised and will come to Council seeking endorsement to go on public exhibition at a future Council meeting in 2023.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Council Officers have explored several potential landscaping options with Ward 3 Councillors to recognise Councillor King including the recognition of Tiny Forests, Natural Area Riparian Plantings and future Parks and Open Space areas planned for West Dapto.

These options have also been presented to Councillor King's husband, and on behalf of the family he has indicated a preference for the two recognition options recommended to Council in this report.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032	Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy	Service
1.2 The community is actively involved in the expansion, improvement and preservation of our waterways, green corridors and other natural areas connecting the escarpment to the sea.	Natural Area Management

This recognition proposal meets the requirements as listed within the Community Recognition Program (Council) Policy, and the Supporting Naming of Community Facilities and Parks (Management) Policy:

- Recognition must be made Posthumously and not prior to three (3) years of the person passing
- The person has had more than 20 years' service to the Wollongong Region
- Must relate to the place of residence or area of service
- The person was of good repute and not likely to be the subject of controversy; and
- The person has made a significant contribution to the Wollongong Region which has been formally recognised.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed Hooka Point planting will be funded operationally, as the works align with Council's existing Natural Areas Management program and following adoption of a Green Network Masterplan for West Dapto, the costs associated with the proposed recognition at the Darkes Town Centre District Sports Parks will be considered as part of the total future project.

CONCLUSION

The recognition proposals are supported by Councillor King's family and reflect her home, her contribution within the City's southern suburbs, as well as her passion for the protection of the local environment.