



17 January 2025

Joan Kingsley

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Joan Kingsley

PUBLIC QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

I am writing in response to your public question taken on notice at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 11 December 2024.

The public question reads as follows:

Dear Mayor & Councillors, as we now have a new team of locals representing us, can I ask:

- 1) Will you be reinstating Australia Day festivities on January 26th.
- 2) Does council believe we are one nation under our current Australian flag.
- 3) Will Council conduct citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day the 26th January

In response to the question, I provide the following advice:

Thank you for your question regarding Australia Day festivities. Council formerly held Citizenship Ceremonies and a Citizen's Award presentation on Australia Day. The Community members who volunteered and helped run the Citizens Awards Event asked Council to consider combining the Volunteer awards and celebration in Volunteers Week later in the year, which is what we have done for the last three years.

If Council receive a request to hold a citizenship ceremony by the Department of Home Affairs and those participating requested that ceremony be held on Australia Day we would hold it then.

Council believes that the flag is a symbol of unity and shared values among all Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Gill', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Martin Gill
Chief Executive Officer