

ITEM 17

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR DORAHY - IMPROVEMENT OF MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS FOR WOLLONGONG PARKS, GARDENS AND RESERVES

Councillor Dorahy has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Wollongong City Council staff consider a review of the current maintenance programs to provide an upgraded strategy for ALL Wollongong’s local parks, gardens and reserves. This review to be presented at a Councillor Briefing on 25 November 2019.”

**Background provided by Councillor Dorahy:**

Though Wollongong City Council staff do a terrific job on most reserve areas, in particular those that are easily visible when walking or driving throughout the City, the lack of maintenance is most noticeable when some reserves are being maintained by residents or not maintained to an acceptable standard by Wollongong City Council staff. The major targets are those parks, gardens and reserves which are enclosed or considered away from regular pedestrian or heavy vehicular traffic, therefore *mostly unseen* by the general public.

It is incumbent on Wollongong City Council to continue the diligent maintenance of ALL parks, gardens and reserves, as part of its Community service and care for the environment and the connectivity of residents to their area. There are quite a number of parks, gardens and reserves that do not meet the level of maintenance to enable children and adults with pets to enjoy these areas.

The importance of this Motion is to ‘prove’ to the community that Wollongong City Council is connected to its residents’ needs and wants for an improved lifestyle, in order that their ability to engage with the outdoor environment is strong and easily available. It is also an important element which demonstrates Wollongong City Council’s ability to improve the service desired by the Community.

At the end of each budget year, Wollongong City Council may well make the beautification of Wollongong a priority, in utilising surplus funds.

I therefore request Councillors’ support of this Motion in requesting a presentation at the Councillor Briefing Session schedules for 25 November 2019.