

## ITEM B LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - ALEX VOLKANOVSKI - KEYS TO THE CITY

Alexander "The Great" Volkanovski is an Australian professional mixed martial artist.

He currently competes in the Featherweight division, and despite progressing to the height of the international stage, he has trained and fought his entire career based in Windang.

On 15 July 2022, it was announced that Alex was ranked the number one pound for pound fighter in the world.

Alex's impressive record includes six UFC Featherweight World Championship victories, having claimed the title in December 2019 and successfully defended it a further five times. All six of these victories have been held overseas making his achievements all the more impressive.

Alex and his family are embedded in the local community and have been strong supporters of local charities and community campaigns for many years. This support ranges from growing autism awareness, assisting KidsWish and the Disability Trust, and donating signed merchandise to many local organisations.

Despite his global recognition, Alex is an active member of our community joining local campaigns such as Vax the Illawarra, working to promote men's health initiatives through Healthier Illawarra Men, supporting national campaigns against domestic violence, and as a national COVID vaccine ambassador to improve vaccination rates.

He is a passionate advocate for his hometown and proudly represents Wollongong and Windang on the world stage, demonstrating loud and proud his hometown pride.

Alex has released a children's book about respect, health and nutrition and provides mentorship to the young men and women at his Windang gym.

He is a passionate supporter of the Illawarra Hawks, the St George Illawarra Dragons and the Wollongong Wolves.

In 2024 he was awarded a NSW Premier's Award for Community Service.

## RECOMMENDATION

The City of Wollongong, in line with our Community Recognition Policy, bestow the Keys to the City on Mr Alex Volkanovski in recognition of his contribution to raising Wollongong's profile on the world stage, his valuable support for local charities and awareness campaigns, and his outstanding sporting achievements including winning six UFC World Championship titles.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.