

**MM-2                    MAYORAL MINUTE - IRON COVE BAY MANAGEMENT**

**Department        Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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**REPORT**

The Councils of Canada Bay, Leichhardt and Ashfield share a boundary with the Iron Cove Bay (which includes the Bay Run) and thereby share a role in its management. While each Council has a unique identity, there are a number of common areas of interest. In addition to the Councils, there is also a role from State Government in the management of Callan Park, the Waterway and Rodd Island.

To effectively manage the Bay, a joint approach establishing common goals and practices between the three Councils is required. A prime example where this is required is the 7km Bay Run path. Currently, the Bay Run highlights four (4) different standards of signage, inconsistent location of the pedestrian walkway and line-marking. A joint approach creating fluid and consistent signage would improve the experience of all residents utilising this foreshore path that circles the Bay.

Also, within the Bay there are some 9,100 square metres of mangroves. Mangroves are important within the ecosystem to provide stability to the banks and foreshores, fish breeding areas and some water quality improvements. The Lower Parramatta River Catchment Trust is investigating a number of options for protection of the waterway and has prepared a management plan. However, this is a large programme and a joint approach will always provide a better outcome.

This is just a small snapshot of the works required to maintain and enhance this valuable waterway. To enable this joint approach, I propose a joint forum of Mayors and Senior Staff from each of the three Councils (with the terms of reference to be established at initial meeting). The formation of this approach will improve the management of the Bay and provide opportunities for joint resourcing of projects. It is proposed that initially the group would meet quarterly to plan and co-ordinate works.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT a joint forum of the Mayors and Senior Staff from Canada Bay, Leichhardt and Ashfield be established to plan and coordinate works and standards for works within the Iron Cove Bay catchment.