

ASHFIELD COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING - 12 OCTOBER 2010

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM

9 SUMMARY OF NOTICES OF MOTION

9.1 BILL TO AMEND THE NEW SOUTH WALES CONSTITUTION. Mark Drury - Councillor. Report submitted with attachments 1 and 2.

(11/10/10)

Multiculturalism>Aboriginal Issues

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NM20/2010 Attached

Accordingly, I move:-

1/2 **Ashfield Council congratulates Premier Kristina Keneally for introducing a Bill to amend the New South Wales Constitution for the long over due recognition of Aboriginal people as the first people of our the state and their ongoing contribution to our state.**

2/2 **Ashfield Council congratulates our local member, Linda Burney MP on the logic, power and passion of her speech in support of the Bill.**

Multiculturalism>Aboriginal Issues

NOTICE OF MOTION OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY

COUNCILLORS MARK DRURY, LUCILLE MCKENNA, ALEX LOFTS AND JEANETTE WANG

BILL TO AMEND THE NEW SOUTH WALES CONSTITUTION

To move Notice of Motion No. NM20/2010

The NSW constitution has for far to long been shamefully silent on the first peoples of this state

A bill to remedy this has passed the NSW Legislative Assembly and is being considered by the Legislative Council.

If passed The Constitution Act 1902 would be amended to read:

- "(a) The people and Parliament of New South Wales acknowledge and honour the Aboriginal people as the first people and nations of the State, and
- (b) The People and Parliament of NSW recognise that Aboriginal people have a spiritual, social and cultural relationship with their traditional lands and waters and have made a unique and lasting contribution to the identity of New South Wales
- (c) Nothing in this section creates in any person any legal right or gives rise to any civil cause of action, or affects the interpretation of this Act or any other law in force in New South Wales."

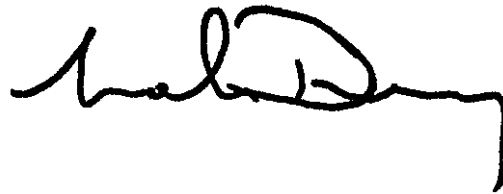
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Media Release NSW Land Council 16 June 2010	1 Page
Attachment 2	ABC News, First posted Wednesday 8 September 2010	1 Page

BILL TO AMEND THE NEW SOUTH WALES CONSTITUTION

Accordingly, I move:-

- 1/2 Ashfield Council congratulates Premier Kristina Keneally for introducing a Bill to amend the New South Wales Constitution for the long over due recognition of Aboriginal people as the first people of our the state and their ongoing contribution to our state.
- 2/2 Ashfield Council congratulates our local member, Linda Burney MP on the logic, power and passion of her speech in support of the Bill.




Mark Drury



Lucille McKenna



Alex Lofts



Jeanette Wang



June 16, 2010

FIRST AUSTRALIANS FINALLY RECOGNISED IN NSW CONSTITUTION

Statement by Bev Manton, Chairwoman of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council

It's been over a century in the making, but the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) has welcomed the Keneally Government's decision to formally recognise this state's first peoples in the preamble to the NSW Constitution.

It comes 108 years after the formation of the NSW State Parliament - the oldest in Australia.

NSWALC has, and continues to work tirelessly in the best interests of NSW Aboriginal residents, and today's announcement assists us greatly in continuing to build a positive, practical partnership with the Keneally government in NSW.

There's a tendency these days to ignore the symbolic over the practical, but there's no good reason of course, why we can't do both.

Health, housing and education are all obviously vital to Aboriginal people, but so too is getting the relationship right between black and white Australians.

This sort of wonderful gesture goes a long way to achieving that.

It's hoped today's announcement in the Koori Mail newspaper will also go a long way to help Aboriginal residents of NSW feel more a part of this great state.

The express recognition of Aboriginal people in the NSW Constitution was a direct outcome of the Local Government Association of NSW 2009 Annual Conference.

It was in this meeting that NSWALC put forward 'Resolution 60A', which called upon the Federal and NSW Governments to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people of this country.

But while NSWALC warmly welcomes the move, it also provides everyone with a timely reminder of the many challenges our mob still face in 2010.

Despite the ongoing best efforts of many peak Aboriginal organisations across NSW, our people still lag far behind non Aboriginal Australians in just about every health and social indicator.

This isn't good enough, and a mountain of work lies before all of us.

Still, today's announcement shows great vision, as well as a good chance to face these issues head on.

I'd like to congratulate and thank the Premier and Minister Lynch for their foresight and leadership in this very important issue.

MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Munro on 0438 760 242

Indigenous Australians recognised in NSW constitution - ABC News (Australian Broa... Page 1 of 2



Indigenous Australians recognised in NSW constitution

Updated Wed Sep 8, 2010 2:36pm AEST

The New South Wales constitution now recognises Aboriginal people as the first people in the state, after the Premier introduced a new bill into parliament today.

Indigenous leaders and politicians packed the courtyard at Parliament House to watch a smoking ceremony and traditional dancing by school students.

It is part of a day of celebration to mark the introduction of a bill that acknowledges the Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the land.

Premier Kristina Keneally says it is an important change.

"Our intention is to provide recognition recognition that is long overdue," she said.

Community Services Minister Linda Burney was the first Aboriginal woman to be elected to the New South Wales Parliament.

She delivered a welcome to country in her native language.

Later at a reception at parliament house, the Premier Kristina Keneally became emotional when remembering how the aboriginal community of Redfern had welcomed her.

The Aboriginal Land Council's Bev Manson says the change is an important first step.

"This is a significant constitutional step in the right direction," she said.

"I can only hope that it will not be the only step. There are very few mechanisms for our people in this state which provide a basis for protecting our rights available as first peoples."

The Federal Government is considering amending the national constitution along the same lines.

The independents say part of the deal they struck with Labor in order to form government was a promise that a referendum will be held on the issue in the next three years.



Uncle Max performed a smoking ceremony in front of Parliament House. (AAP: Tracey Nearmy)

- [Video: NSW recognises Indigenous Australians \(7pm TV News NSW\)](#)
- [Map: Sydney 2000](#)
- [Related Story: NSW Parliament to recognise Indigenous Australians](#)