

Deputation List

Agenda Briefing Forum – 17 February 2026

Deputations will be heard at the Agenda Briefing Forum at **7pm, Tuesday 17 February 2026**.

The items will then be considered by Council at its Ordinary Council Meeting, scheduled for **7pm, Tuesday 24 February 2026**.

The procedure for making a deputation is available on the City's website:

[Petitions and Deputations - City of Bayswater](#)

Deputations may be made in person or in writing.

In-person deputations

The following people have registered to make in-person deputations:

Deputee Name(s)	In Support / Not in Support of the Officer's Recommendation or Councillor Motion
11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards	
Troy Meade	In support
Giorgia Johnson	Not in support
Georgina Ker	Not in support

Written deputations

The following deputations have been received in writing and are attached:

Deputee Name(s)	In Support / Not in Support of the Officer's Recommendation or Councillor Motion
11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards	
Kirsty Wilde	Not in support
Summer Porter	Not in support
Ariane Katscherian	Not in support
Andrew Brown	In support
Laura Briscoe	Not in support
Kayla MacGillivray	Not in support
Meaghan McAllister	Not in support
Alexa Taylor	Not in support

Deputee Name(s)	In Support / Not in Support of the Officer's Recommendation or Councillor Motion
11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards	
Leon McGrath	In support
Aileen O'Rourke	Not in support
Teresa ODonnell*	Not in support

*Please note: Teresa ODonnell and Adam Tatana submitted deputation forms expressing opposition to the motion but did not provide a written rationale.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Kirsty Wilde, Maylands

Australia Day is a national day of mourning for our first nations people. It is my view that holding Citizenship Ceremonies on this date is not appropriate or respectful to first nations people, and holding ceremonies on an alternative date is most appropriate to ensure respect and cultural safety are held at the fore.

The increased costs of holding a ceremony on a public holiday does not appear to be a wise financial decision when these funds can be better allocated elsewhere. With a heightened political landscape, moving a Citizenship ceremony date to Australia Day could increase risk to members of the public and the council, as seen with the recent terrorism incident in Perth CBD this past January 26.

I am proud to live in the City of Bayswater and the progressive steps taken by council to be more inclusive, and holding Citizenship ceremonies on the 26th of January would be a huge backwards step in the progress made thus far. It is not worth the damage to our valued relationships with our Aboriginal communities, it is not worth placing the wider community at risk and it would be a poor use of city funds to change Citizenship ceremony dates back to January 26.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Summer Porter, Maylands

I was really proud when I learnt that Bayswater doesn't hold its citizenship celebrations on the 26 Jan, and I think it would be a really disappointing backwards step to move the ceremony back to this date. It is a day of so much tension and grief, and means that people immigrating to this country end up having a sour start to their journey as a citizen here. By celebrating on a different day, immigrants are able to be robustly proud of their new citizenship status and not have it marred by culture wars and debate.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Ariane Katscherian, Bayswater

26 January marginalises Aboriginal community members of our City. It is not a date to celebrate and it is shameful that new Australian citizens have their celebration tied to historical and contemporary cruelty and racism.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Andrew Brown, Bedford

Australia day is our national day. It celebrates our thriving democracy. Citizenship ceremonies and celebrations should occur on the 26th of January.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Laura Briscoe, Maylands

Changing events to the 26th is being proposed based on outdated data that is over 2.5 years old and is only supported by approximately 47% of participants in community consultations. That is the opinions of only 203 people within the Bayswater council area.

I find it incredibly disappointing if we cannot take such a simple step toward reconciliation by honouring the Reconciliation Advisory Board's (RAB) recommendations to hold events on a different date. If you believe it is in the best interests of the community to change events to Australia Day, then this should be put to public consultation and the RAB should be consulted again.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Kayla MacGillivray, Bayswater

This proposal is extremely concerning and, in my view, shows a lack of empathy and respect for the City's Reconciliation Advisory Committee, given the work the Committee has done to promote understanding and reconciliation.

The "Change the Date" movement has gotten significant momentum in recent years, and it's obvious that the date will change in the future, out of respect for Aboriginal people and the sadness and mourning that's associated with January 26.

Recently, some independent national research was conducted by YouGov that showed that 54% of Australian voters would the date to be changed, and would prefer an Australian Long Weekend. This percentage was even higher amongst younger voters. As a large, progressive city with lots of young people moving here in recent years, I am confident that the majority of City of Bayswater residents would prefer the date to be changed.

In 2023 the Council made the decision to hold the citizenship ceremony and awards and associated community event within three days following 26 January. This was an act of courage, leadership, respect and reconciliation. Going back on this decision would be embarrassing for the Council, and the City of Bayswater broadly.

Further to this, the recent attempted terrorist attack on 26 January in City of Perth should be evidence enough that holding large events on this day is not a safe thing to do. Does this Council value the safety of the staff and community members in attendance at their events? I am concerned that this proposal does not sufficiently consider community safety, particularly in light of recent public incidents that have raised concerns about large events held on 26 January.

Finally, if none of this is enough reasons to vote against this ridiculous motion, perhaps the financial side is. Events always cost more money on public holidays; not just City staff wages but things like equipment hire and catering are more expensive too. Having these events a few days later isn't just the right thing to do morally, but is financially responsible.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Troy Meade, Morley (In person)

Through the Chair, my name is Troy Meade. I am a proud resident of the City of Bayswater and have lived in this community my entire life — since 1972. I have been a ratepayer here since 1999, and I stand before you tonight to voice my support for the return of the citizenship ceremony to Australia Day, the 26th of January.

I am a proud Australian. I am a husband, a father of two, and a business owner. I consider myself a committed and contributing member of this community, and I have supported it in many ways over the years. I played Club level Rugby union for Bayswater for over 15 years representing W.A. on 3 separate occasions in various national tournament's.

My family's connection to this country runs deep. My great-grandfather served Australia in the First World War at Gallipoli. My grandfather served in the Second World War along the Kokoda Track in New Guinea. Like many Australian families, we are proud of that history and the sacrifices made.

There are several reasons why I believe holding citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day is important.

- First — symbolic significance. Australia Day marks the beginning of modern Australia. For many, becoming a citizen on this date connects new Australians to a shared national story.
- Second — celebration of national identity. It is a day where we recognise values such as democracy, freedom, respect and equality. Citizenship sits at the very heart of those values.
- Third — community recognition. As a national public holiday, Australia Day brings communities together. Holding ceremonies on this day allows new citizens to be welcomed in front of their community and properly celebrated.
- Fourth — a sense of belonging. For many, receiving citizenship on such a significant national day creates a lasting emotional connection to this country.
- And finally — tradition. Councils across Australia have long held citizenship ceremonies on this day. Continuing this practice maintains consistency and civic tradition.

I also acknowledge that for some Australians, including many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the 26th of January represents a deeply difficult part of our history. I am not here to debate that. But I will say this — we need to stop being divided. We are one people. We are all Australians.

Let's find ways to acknowledge our history while still coming together as a community and celebrating what unites us. Thank you for your time, and for allowing me to have my voice heard on the importance of holding citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day.

Respectfully, Troy Meade

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Giorgia Johnson, Bayswater (In person)

Please withdraw, postpone or amend this item The council consulted and decided on this in 2023. The item does not refer to the Reconciliation Advisory Panel, an essential voice in this matter. The current RAP has not been formed and this could be a very hurtful first item to be considered.

The aboriginal members of the Reconciliation Advisory Committee's comments on this date for celebration were very clear, the dates after January 26 were the dates to celebrate, as we are permitted to do. We heard that January 26 and the days leading up to it are days of hurt and sorrow but afterward is the time to come together to celebrate.

Our community and formal council positions strongly supports reconciliation and the Uluru Statement from the Heart which calls for Truth, Treaty and a Voice. I request the Council listen to that voice and lead in our community.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Meaghan McAllister, Bayswater

I wish to express significant concern for the motion raised that the Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and the associated Community Event celebrating Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards be held annually on the Australia Day public holiday of 26 January. I wish to express my support for the ceremony and community events to continue to be held on alternate days and within the three days after 26 January.

My rationale for this include:

1. The City of Bayswater was a leader in acting on advice from the Reconciliation Advisory Committee and with strong support in the community to recognise the harms in holding celebratory events on a day that causes anguish to so many. Changing the date of the events back to the 26 Jan goes against the counsel of the RAC and further, appears to be a hurtful and inflammatory move in the current national climate where racism and anti-Indigenous racism especially is on the rise, as evidenced by the terrorist attack at the rally held in Perth on 26/1/26.
2. The rationale for the change back to holding events on the 26 January is unclear in the motion. Further information is required about the origins and motivations for the motion so that these can be discussed and debated by Council and community members.
3. Personally, my partner became a citizen in recent years and we were so pleased to see the celebration at the CoB held on a date that was not the 26/1. It was important to us as a family to be able to celebrate the life event of becoming a citizen of another country but do so with respect for the First people of this country. This meant celebrating the citizenship event on a date that was NOT associated with one that causes suffering to many First Nations people.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Alexa Taylor, Bayswater

As a Bayswater resident I was very pleased with Council's decision to hold the annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards to be within the three days following Australia Day, based on the respect that it shows to our wider community including Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members. I do not see any reason for the proposed change that the date be changed to the public holiday of 26th January – it seems to me like that would be a step backwards in terms of community respect.

The advice from the Reconciliation Action Committee in 2024 was very clear, and there is no indication that this has changed in the past two years. The Officer's Comments in this Agenda item demonstrate this: "The City's Reconciliation Advisory Committee (RAC) and broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have expressed sensitivities regarding Australia Day, with previous consultation with the RAC recommending events are not held on 26 January. Hosting public events on 26 January could strain or damage these relationships, impacting future engagement, community trust, and collaborative initiatives. Misalignment with cultural expectations may result in diminished participation from key community stakeholders and undermine the organisation's commitment to reconciliation and inclusivity objectives."

If the City of Bayswater is committed to Reconciliation, this needs to be coupled with action – which means listening to the advice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and representatives, and the Reconciliation Action Committee.

The need for demonstrating respect and cultural sensitivity is even stronger now, in the wake of a broader cultural moment which has seen a rise in extremism and racist ideas. The recent security incident at the rally on Jan 26th in City of Perth was deeply disturbing, and is the first time such an incident has taken place in Perth – as a resident who has attended numerous Survival Day events and events in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Perth over the years, I have never before been placed in danger for attending events in solidarity, or had to fear for my safety or the safety of the community members around me. I am still feeling deeply unsettled by the incident – and I'm sure this is nothing in comparison to the effect on folks who were more clearly the intended targets of the attack, and who face racism in the community every day.

This moment demonstrates a need for strong leadership from our community representatives in supporting First Nations communities in our local areas. To change the date of the Citizenship Day ceremonies to the public holiday of Jan 26th would do the opposite of this. I would ask Council to please consider this very seriously.

11.1 Cr Michelle Sutherland - Proposed Change of Day for Annual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony and Awards

Aileen O'Rourke, Bayswater

Each gathering of the Council begins with an Acknowledgement of Country where the Council pays respect to past, present and emerging Noongar people. It seems to me that these words are very hollow unless the Council also takes practical step to honour these words.

Less than two years ago the Bayswater Council put into practice a recommendation from the Reconciliation Advisory Committee that holding Citizenship ceremonies on 26 January, a day of mourning for many Indigenous Australians. This was a practical and significant acknowledgement of the respect we hear spoken at each meeting and recognition of the local historical context Others, will tonight, express the reasons why this is a day of mourning.

I also assume that the Councillor proposing this motion and those who have already indicated support will have thoroughly researched the perspective of Indigenous people before coming to their, before making up their minds to propose that Citizenship ceremonies return to 26 January.

I wish to make some other points. In my discussions online with a Councillor who is supporting the proposal, he argues that if the Federal Government changes the date when Australia day is celebrated, he will (obviously) support the change in Citizen ship ceremonies I believe not only do Councils have the operational discretion to hold Citizenship ceremonies at a less contentious date, but that they are in a unique position to reflect the community attitudes (both Indigenous and others) and this helps to inform decisions by the Federal Government. This is true community leadership. Uniform national consistency is not always the highest value. Responsiveness and inclusivity seem far more important.

It was clear that both the Indigenous Community and the wider community supported a change from January 26, two years ago. I believe the Council therefore has a democratic obligation to listen and a moral obligation to respond. I also believe that having the Citizenship ceremonies on an alternative date also provides the Council with the possibility of explaining to new citizens the full history of Australia. Many migrants will not have had the opportunity to have access to this information. Such knowledge is important for the whole community to understand the process of reconciliation. It also demonstrates that Australia is willing to acknowledge past mistakes and move towards fairness and equality.