



Report to General Manager

Attachments:
Nil

SUBJECT: HMAS Waterhen 'Freedom of Entry' Parade to North Sydney 2018

AUTHOR: Justin Sheining, Acting Manager Communications and Events

ENDORSED BY: Sandra Moore, Acting Director Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

North Sydney Council is conferring 'Freedom of Entry' to the City to HMAS Waterhen, the Royal Australian Naval Base located at Waverton. With roots that date back to Medieval times, this traditional ceremony signifies mutual trust between a city and the military units that defend it. On Friday 26 October 2018 at 11am, 300 personnel of HMAS Waterhen will form up on Church Street, move off at 12.30pm to publically meet with the Mayor of North Sydney outside Council Chambers on McLaren Street, and then march down Miller Street towards the Pacific Highway with their 'swords drawn, drums beating and colours flying'. After the conclusion of the parade at approximately 1pm, there will be a community BBQ and Navy displays at North Sydney Oval.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding has been allocated within existing events budgets.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report be received.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

- Direction: 4. Our Social Vitality
- Outcome: 4.2 North Sydney is creative and home to popular events
4.4 North Sydney's history is preserved and recognised

BACKGROUND

In late 2017, HMAS Waterhen requested a Freedom of Entry to North Sydney. Freedom of Entry is a time-honored tradition dating back to medieval times signifying bonds of friendship between a city and a defence force. In Australia, Freedom of Entry to the City is usually conferred by a Council as a mark of honour and support.

The last Freedom of Entry ceremony and parade in North Sydney was held in 2012.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

Notification letters to all affected residents and business will be delivered at least 2 weeks prior.

Special Event Clearway signage will be installed along the parade route.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The sustainability implications are of a minor nature and did not warrant a detailed assessment.

DETAIL

North Sydney Council is conferring Freedom of Entry to the City to HMAS Waterhen in acknowledgement of the area's long association with the Royal Australian Navy and the HMAS Waterhen Naval Base located at Waverton. The Freedom of Entry ceremonial event will occur on Friday 26 October 2018, commencing at 12.30pm and concluding at approximately 1pm.

At 11am, 300 Navy personnel of HMAS Waterhen will form up on Church Street. At 12.30pm, they will be given orders to move off, march into McLaren Street towards Miller Street, then halt outside Council Chambers. Here, a short public ceremony will be held so that the Mayor can grant the Freedom of Entry to North Sydney following a brief 'challenge' with NSW Police. Once this ceremony has concluded, the sailors will then parade into and down Miller Street with their 'swords drawn, drums beating and colours flying' to the sound of cheering audiences lining the streets.

The parade will then reach its finishing point at the bottom of Miller Street, roughly 30 metres from the intersection of Pacific Highway, at approximately 1pm. Navy personnel will shortly thereafter board buses waiting for them and be transported back up Miller Street to North Sydney Oval.

The festivities will continue at the Oval, with a free community BBQ hosted by North Sydney Council and a collection of Royal Australian Navy displays and attractions. This component of the event provides an opportunity for the sailors of HMAS Waterhen and local school students from years 10, 11 and 12 and cadets to meet.

NSW Police will manage the rolling road closures throughout the event. This will involve closing Church Street, Church Lane, McLaren Street, Miller Street and Berry Street at various points between 11am and 1.30pm. A comprehensive Transport Management Plan has been developed between Council and NSW Police to ensure minimal interruption to the public during the course of the parade.

The event will cost approximately \$15,000 for implementation of special event clearways, catering and hire of equipment.

North Sydney Freedom of Entry 2018 honours a historic relationship between North Sydney Council, the community and the sailors of HMAS Waterhen, and this parade will be an exciting opportunity for all to enjoy.
