

MOTION OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Pursuant to Division 2 Regulation 16(5) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, please arrange for the following motion to be included on the next Council agenda.

ICAN Cities Appeal

Purpose:

Strategic Plan Reference

Key Priority Area	1	Encourage and support a safe, healthy and connected community
Strategic Outcome	1.2 and 1.3	An inclusive community that has a strong sense of pride and local identity and a resilient community with the capacity to flourish.

Background:

Nuclear weapons pose an unacceptable threat to people everywhere. This is why, on 7 July 2017, 122 nations voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

All national governments are now invited to sign and ratify this crucial global agreement, which prohibits the use, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and lays the foundations for their total elimination. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Australia does not currently support the "ban treaty".

To date, 80 nations have signed and 35 have ratified the Treaty. After 15 further ratifications it will enter into force and become binding international law, which is expected to occur in 2020 or 2021.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, hosted an event with Peace Boat in Hobart on the 24th of February at which Kingborough Council was represented.

ICAN is encouraging cities and towns to endorse the ICAN Cities Appeal, sending a message to governments around the world that, for the good of humanity, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons should be signed and ratified by all nations.

Discussion:

- Local governments can help build support for the treaty by endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal.
- The City of Hobart has already endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal.

- Twenty-five other cities, towns and councils around Australia have endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal.
- Hundreds of cities, local and regional bodies in thirteen countries have endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal.
- Local government has a responsibility to act to keep citizens safe, including doing whatever we can to reduce the threat of nuclear conflict.
- Endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal would demonstrate that, in addition to *acting locally* to encourage and support a safe, healthy and connected community, Kingborough Council also *thinks globally*.
- Mayors for Peace and nuclear-free zone initiatives demonstrate that local government can play an important role engaging in matters of international importance.
- As the second southernmost municipality in Australia, and with an interest in Antarctic and Southern Ocean matters, Kingborough can take a leadership position in defending Article V of the Antarctic Treaty that bans nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear waste from Antarctica. The most effective way to prevent nuclear weapons being deployed, tested or stored in Antarctica or in our region would be the outright banning of nuclear weapons as outlined in the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Finance:

There are no financial issues to be considered with this matter.

Environment:

There are no environmental issues to be considered with this matter.

Conclusion:

The Australian Government has not acted to ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, leaving a leadership gap in which local and state authorities play an important advocacy role.

By endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal, Kingborough Council has the opportunity to advocate for the prohibition of nuclear weapons and demonstrate a leadership position in line with our Council's values of accountability, respect, excellence and inclusiveness.

As a Council, our number 1 Key Priority Area in the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is to *encourage and support a safe, healthy and connected community*. The ongoing possession of nuclear weapons by any nation poses an existential threat to all communities, including our own. Council's public recognition of this fact, and public advocacy to do something about it, will help engender a more connected community that engages with issues of global importance. Taking responsibility to advocate for matters that resonate beyond our municipal borders speaks to our Council's values of accountability and excellence.

Recommended Motion:

That Kingborough Council endorses the ICAN Cities Appeal which reads:

Our municipality is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we warmly welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017, and we call on our national government to sign and ratify it without delay.