

6.3. Vale Queen Elizabeth II

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II reigned as Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms, including Australia, from 6 February 1952 until her death on 8 September 2022.

She reigned for 70 years and 214 days and is the longest recorded female head of state in history and the longest serving of any British monarch.

The Queen visited Australia 16 times and has visited every State and Territory - she had a particular regard for Australia and the Australian people, having first visited in 1954.

In 2002, The Queen said:

“For myself, I thank all Australians... I declare again... that my admiration, affection and regard for the people of Australia will remain, as it has been... constant, sure and true.”

The Queen has, of course, visited the North Sydney local government area on many occasions – not least because Admiralty House, Kirribilli is the official residence of the Governor-General in Sydney.

However, in 1954 The Queen visited North Sydney as part of the official royal tour of Australia. Below is a photograph from Council's Historical Collection: Crowds line Military Road, Neutral Bay Junction, to view the motorcade of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, February 1954 (Photograph by Robin Cale).



Council’s Historian, Dr Ian Hoskins, advised that there was great interest in the visit of the Queen to North Sydney. Aldermen lobbied the Premier to alter the route so that it would

head up the Pacific Highway. The Rector of St Thomas Church was particularly keen that she should see that building, but he was ultimately disappointed. However, 48,000 school children saw her as she drove slowly through St Leonards Park.

Council is facilitating and encouraging community members who wish to leave their condolences via Council's website. As a mark of respect, flags on Council buildings will be flown at half-mast during the formal mourning period.

In 2015 the Queen's Canopy was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta. The Queen's Canopy is a network of forest conservation projects involving all Commonwealth member countries. Australia committed to planting 20 million native trees by 2020 under the scheme.

In 2021, the Queen launched the Queen's Green Canopy scheme in the United Kingdom to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. People were encouraged to plant trees until the end of 2022 to mark her 70 year reign.

Accordingly, it would be appropriate to mark The Queen's passing and acknowledge her reign by planting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy commitment.

The Queen's long reign has been admired and respected by many. She will be mourned and sadly missed.

Vale Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I therefore recommend:

1.THAT Council send condolences to His Majesty King Charles III, the King's Consort and the people of the United Kingdom acknowledging The Queen's long and stable reign and the affection in which she was held by the Australian people.

2.THAT Council identify an appropriate tree planting project to plant trees as part of the Queen's Canopy scheme.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR**