

## **18.2 METHODOLOGY FOR REQUESTING RINGING OF BELLS AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH NAREMBURN**

<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>1. DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR S96 2011/493/B</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>IAN ARNOTT - PLANNING MANAGER</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>ANA VISSARION – DEVELOPMENT PLANNER</b>
<b>CITY STRATEGY LINK:</b>	<b>1.1.3 CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS RESPECTED, SUPPORTED AND CELEBRATED</b>
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<b>27 FEBRUARY 2017</b>

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### **Purpose of Report**

To set out a methodology through which Council can request bell ringing for Special Civic Occasions at St Leonard's Church located at 43 Donnelly Road, Naremburn.

### **Background**

Council last considered this matter at its meeting on 22 June 2015. On that occasion Council assessed a Section 96 Modification Application to modify DA 2011/493/B to alter maximum allowable volume, ringing times of church bells and ringing on Special Civic Occasions. In response Council amended the existing approval in a number of ways, including an amendment to Condition 20 to provide Council with the option of requesting the bells to be rung up to four times per year for special Civic Occasions.

### **Discussion**

The original Development Consent (DA 2011/493) for the Installation of six bells into existing bell tower at St Leonard's Church Naremburn was issued on 19 September 2012.

On 14 March 2014 a Section 96 Modification Application was approved to allow for additional Bell Ringing:

- after weddings – an additional 5 minutes
- on Special Religious Occasions (when not occurring on a Sunday, including Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Christmas).

At the time Council also considered a further motion to allow for Bell Ringing in Special Civic Occasions, but this was defeated.

On 22 June 2015 Council approved a further Section 96 Modification Application to provide Council with the option of requesting the bells to be rung up to four times per year for special Civic Occasions.

On 25 January 2017 a memo was circulated to All Councillors advising that:

- Council had received a written request on behalf of the “bell ringers of St Leonard’s Naremburn”:
  - Acknowledging the recent appointment of the Member for Willoughby to the position of the Premier of NSW
  - Requesting Council approval to celebrate this significant event by ringing the bells of St Leonard’s, Naremburn – the only Church within the Willoughby Electorate with a peal of bells.
- Council staff had reviewed the relevant DA Conditions and confirmed that Condition 20 permits the ringing of the bells for a maximum of 20 minutes between 10am and 6pm at the request of the Council, up to a maximum of 4 occasions per year
- Whilst Council staff have no issue with agreeing to the request, the delegations in relation to this matter are unclear.

Endorsement was subsequently received from Councillors and approval was granted to the bell ringers of St Leonard’s to ring the Bells for 20 minutes in recognition of the recent appointment of the Member for Willoughby to the position of the Premier of NSW.

The current arrangements are problematic on two counts.

1. Uncertainty as to who from Council has authority to request that the bells be rung for a Special Civic Occasion.

In this regard it is proposed that Council delegate Authority to the General Manager to request that the Bells be rung for a Special Civic Occasion.

2. Uncertainty as to what constitutes a Special Civic Occasion.

A widely available definition of this term is not currently available. The original application referred to Specific Civic Occasions such as ANZAC Day, whilst the recent event related to the appointment of the Member for Willoughby to the position of the Premier of NSW.

Staff will have to form a view, based on the above examples, as to what may constitute a Special Civic Occasion. Over time, as this opportunity is utilised up to four times per year, a Special Civic Occasion will be defined by way of past custom and practice.

A review of recent history indicates that this may have been the first time since 2015 that this provision was utilised by Council.

## **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council delegate to the General Manager the approval for the bell ringing at St Leonard’s Church, Naremburn, in accordance with Condition 20 in DA 2011/493 for Special Civic Occasions, being up to a maximum of 4 occasions per year.**