

**Submission
No 19**

**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT (RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND
EQUALITY) BILL 2020**

Organisation: Woollahra Municipal Council

Date Received: 17 August 2020

Council Ref: 20/146329
Your Ref:

Office
of the
Mayor

Woollahra
Municipal
Council



17 August 2020

Ms Gabrielle Upton
Chairperson
Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment
(Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020
Email: ReligiousFreedomBill@parliament.nsw.gov.au

*Thanks
Gabrielle*

Dear Gabrielle

**Submission to Joint Select Committee
Anti-Discrimination Amendment Act**

Council at its meeting of 27 July 2020 considered a Notice of Motion on Anti-Discrimination Amendment – Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 and resolved as follows:

THAT Council:

A. Notes:

- i. Its values of respect and integrity and its vision for Woollahra as a 'harmonious, engaged and connected community.';*
- ii. its Code of Conduct which prohibits harassment and discrimination;*
- iii. that the New South Wales One Nation Leader, Mark Latham MLC has introduced the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 (the Bill) to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW);*
- iv. that the Bill has been co-sponsored by the Hon. Reverend Fred Nile and the Hon. Rod Roberts;*
- v. that a Joint Select Committee, known as the Joint Select Committee on the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 (the Committee) has been appointed to inquire and report into the Bill; and*
- vi. that the Chair of the Committee is the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP.*

B. Requests that the Mayor writes to the Chair of the Committee to inform her that:

- i Woollahra Council is a Council that supports fair and equal anti-discrimination laws that unite, rather than divide the community; and*
- ii unbalanced provisions in the Bill that threaten safe and inclusive workplaces, clubs, schools, universities, and services be removed from the Bill.*

Woollahra Council is an inclusive organisation that values and respects diversity and equality. Council prides itself on its vision for its community as harmonious, engaged and connected.

Council is concerned that that the Bill (as currently drafted) is not aligned to its values or vision and may impact the rights of its residents and its role as an employer.

Moreover, Woollahra Council is a Council that supports fair and equal anti-discrimination laws that unite rather than divide the community.

Council urges the Committee in its deliberations to carefully consider the unbalanced provisions in the Bill to ensure that current protections, already enshrined within existing anti - discrimination laws, are maintained and not undermined by the proposed provisions of the Bill.

Yours sincerely



Cr Susan Wynne
Mayor