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Condolence Motion: Mr Keith PENNELL**Ordinary Council Meeting | Thursday, 28 July 2022**

I move that Council express its condolences, on behalf of the City of Ipswich, to the family of the late Mr Keith Arthur PENNELL, who passed away in Ipswich on Sunday 24 July 2022.

Keith was born in Ipswich on the 18th of March 1926 to parents who lived on Whitehill Road.

As a young man in 1944, and with World War Two raging on the country's doorstep, Keith volunteered to serve in the Australian Armed Forces.

He turned 18 that year, the minimum age for enlistment.

His birthday fell on a Saturday and Keith enlisted the following Monday.

In uniform, initially with the 63rd Australian Infantry Battalion, Keith would serve our nation in active service at home and abroad for almost five years.

He spent over three of these years -- some twelve hundred and twenty-eight days -- in active service in the Pacific Theatre.

He served in the Dutch East Indies, now part of Indonesia, and when the war ended in 1945, he immediately volunteered for the Australian contingent of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force deployed to Japan.

As part of these forces, Keith was stationed in the Japanese port city of Kure.

Kure, which itself had been devastated by wartime bombing raids, was just 25 kilometres from Hiroshima, the site of the world's first atomic bombing.

Keith was a direct witness to the effects of that bombing on the city and its residents.

It's difficult to imagine what he would have seen and experienced.

Demobilised in 1949, he returned home to Australia and Ipswich.

For forty years, he worked on RAAF Base Amberley until his retirement in 1990.

Over those years, and for the remainder of his life, Keith was an unwavering champion for the health and wellbeing of his fellow service personnel and veterans.

He was an executive member of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces Association, the Nuclear Veterans' Association, and the Incapacitated Servicemen and Women's Association of Australia -- on which he also served as president.

As a long-term volunteer Pensions and Welfare Officer at the Incapacitated Servicemen and Women's Association, Keith worked tirelessly on behalf of former service men and women.

Keith was keenly involved with the local RSL community and was made a life member of the Ipswich RSL Sub-Branch two days before his 95th birthday.

For many of us, Keith was a beloved mainstay at local Anzac Day Services – including at the Bundamba Honour Stone where he recited the Anzac Ode for 40 years.

In recent years, his arrival at the Bundamba Dawn Service by Jeep was greatly anticipated by the enormous crowd who greeted him with applause before he took his place beside fellow World War Two veteran, Major Jean Bird.

Of Anzac Day, he once said –

“I think of my old mates.

It's a bit of an emotional day for me but it means a lot”

By word and action, he helped others – particularly young people – better understand and appreciate this solemn day and the importance of honouring and remembering those who have suffered and sacrificed for our country and its people during times of conflict.

Keith was the adored patron of the Bundamba Anzac Observance Committee and served on the Eastern Suburbs Anzac Day Commemoration Committee.

I know past and present members of these committees are deeply saddened by his passing.

Keith's service and contribution to the community was also recognised by council.

In 2008, he was made Ipswich Citizen of the Year.

In 2015, council named a North Booval Park in his honour and I acknowledge the advocacy of former Councillor Bruce Casas – a good friend of Keith's and fellow Bundamba Anzac Observance Committee member – who helped make this happen.

Speaking personally, over the last years, I had the privilege to get to know Keith through time spent with him at Bundamba Anzac Observance Committee meetings, at Anzac Day Services, and at Bundamba Salvation Army events and services.

I found him to be incredibly kind, humble, welcoming, and so generous with his time.

He was a remarkable man and so thoroughly honourable and decent.

On behalf of the city, I pass on our sincere condolences to Keith's daughter Estelle and the rest of his family.

Keith made a mark on this city and its people that will not be forgotten.

Vale Keith Pennell.



Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
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C-ECTF-22/8872

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Mayor of Ipswich City Council
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30 JUN 2022

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Dear Cr Harding

Thank you for your letter dated 24 May 2022, in relation to the odour issues being experienced by the local community arising from the Cleanaway, New Chum site.

I share your concerns and appreciate the significant impact this odour is having on residents.

I understand that the West Moreton Public Health Unit, in conjunction with the Department of Health, has been working with the lead agency, namely the Department of Environment and Science, to review monitoring data relating to potential health concerns.

I have also been advised that the results of chemical air quality monitoring are below health-based guideline values. This information has been made publicly available at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/monitoring/air/air-programs/cleanaway-new-chum-odour-issues>.

In relation to your request, it may be difficult to justify the establishment of a panel of inquiry under s. 294 of the *Public Health Act 2005*, as the health-based guideline values have not been exceeded at this stage. If such an inquiry was established it would be focused on the actions of the operator allowing the emissions to occur, as well as other aspects such as approvals granted under the legislation, compliance/enforcement options available to relevant departments/agencies, as well as the approval of residential communities in proximity to the site. Further, the length of the inquiry is not determined in the *Public Health Act 2005*, consequently it could be some time before a report is provided, all while the site may still operate and odour/exposure may continue.


I do understand that the odour levels from this site are regularly above established nuisance thresholds and remain a source of significant concern to residents. The Department of Environment and Science has advised that the Cleanaway company has implemented several on-site controls to address the source of this odour which has been exacerbated by the more recent weather events.

My department will continue to review the air monitoring data and has requested to be included in the review of the Department of Environment and Science's air monitoring plans for this location and the broader Swanbank area.

I have also been advised that the West Moreton Public Health Unit has alerted local General Practitioners to report any concerns to them where they believe a patient's clinical symptoms may be attributable to exposures arising from the Cleanaway site. Public Health Physicians from the West Moreton Public Health Unit will continue to follow up on any such referrals.

Thank you again for writing to me. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Mr John Piispanen, Executive Director, Health Protection Branch, Department of Health, on telephone 3328 9266, to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely



YVETTE D'ATH MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Leader of the House

