



**City of
Ipswich**

- **5 Condolence - Reginald Thomas O'Dea**
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CONDOLENCE MOTION

REGINALD THOMAS O'DEA

“That Council convey condolences on behalf of the citizens of the City of Ipswich, to the family of the late Reginald Thomas O’Dea, who passed away on 28 June 2024.”

Reginald Thomas O’Dea lived at Brisbane Terrace Goodna with his wife Anne who passed away late last year.

He was born on 8 August 1935 and passed away on 28 June 2024 at the age of 88.

Reg lived in Goodna all of his life and was highly regarded and respected in the Greater Goodna area.

He was an electrician by trade working in later years at the Swanbank Power Station.

Reg enthusiastically involved himself in the wider Goodna community with many local causes and community groups.

In the 1950s, he played football for the Goodna and Districts Rugby League Football Club.

He became a powerhouse of information about the 1955, 1974, 2011 and 2022 floods and knew every detail of the local topography, understanding rising flood levels and which streets and which homes would be flooded and in what order.

His local knowledge of downstream Brisbane River flows, the effects of high tides at Goodna and water levels in Woogaroo Creek meant that his predictions could never be faulted.

Reg was a key witness at the Floods Commission of Inquiry in 2011-12 following the devastating flood of January 2011.

Reg O'Dea took on endless community causes ranging from fire ants, noisy boats on the Brisbane River, illegal B-doubles past his home on Brisbane Terrace, the flood class action and most importantly, regularly promoted the need for better superannuation arrangements for the ageing Australian population.

He was officially recognised for his tireless efforts in the International Year of Volunteers in 2001. He was awarded a Centenary Medal by the Governor-General in the same year to commemorate the Centenary of Federation.

In 2003, he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Queensland Sciencentre for his dedicated service and commitment to the Centre.

In 2005, a street - O'Dea Crescent in Goodna - was named in his and his wife's honour for their life-long commitment to the Goodna area.

In 2010, Reg was appointed an Ambassador for Ipswich by the Council for his "support and promotion of Ipswich's proud past and exciting future".

After his official retirement, he remained active in community affairs.

He was very community-minded, even taking out over a dozen rubbish bins every week for his nearby neighbours, on the evening before pickup – a task most-appreciated by many forgetful neighbours.

I had the privilege of attending a memorial in his honour with family and friends on 4 July 2024 to say a final farewell to our much-loved friend and mentor.

Reg O'Dea is survived by his son Gavin from Springfield and daughter Lisa from Sydney.

Vale Reg. May you Rest in Peace.