



**City of
Ipswich**

- **5 Condolence Motion - Colleen Margaret Freeman (Former Mayoress of Ipswich)**
Attachment 1 Condolence Motion 3
- **12.2. Confirmation of Minutes - Council Special Meeting - 5 September 2024**
Attachment 1 Transcript - Timecode 47.12 - 50.56 of livestream 5

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COLLEEN MARGARET FREEMAN

CONDOLENCE MOTION

“That Council convey condolences on behalf of the citizens of the City of Ipswich to the family of the late Colleen Margaret Freeman who passed away on 16 August 2024.”

Colleen Margaret Freeman (nee Bourke) lived at Villa Maria, Eastern Heights in Ipswich. She formerly lived at East Ipswich.

She was born on 12 November 1933 and passed away on 16 August 2024 at the age of 90.

Colleen lived in North Queensland for many years before coming to Ipswich.

She joined the Australian Labor Party on 1 January 1961 and became the first woman in Queensland to be elected to the ALP Administrative Committee.

She was President of Labor Women in Queensland from 1973 to 1979.

The now disbanded Queensland Police Special Branch kept tabs on her during the regime of the former Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen when she came under surveillance for supporting a multiplicity of causes including the right of people to march in Queensland, family planning issues and women’s shelters.

She said: “They were issues we were agitating for in the 1970s and they were issues the Bjelke-Petersen government was not interested in”.

She became the Mayoress of Ipswich when her husband Des Freeman was elected the 46th Mayor of Ipswich in 1979 until his retirement in March 1991 after 12 years in the role.

Colleen Freeman provided unwavering support to Mayor Freeman and was active in numerous community organisations and affairs across the entire City of Ipswich including the Mayoress' Committee which provided key fundraising initiatives for many people in need in our community.

In May 2016, eleven "True ALP Believers", each with at least 50 years' party membership, met at the Ipswich Trades Hall. Colleen Freeman was the only female in the group.

At the time she said: "My father was a very strong unionist and ALP member and I was encouraged by him to always be prepared to stand up and speak out when I saw an injustice, particularly on behalf of somebody less fortunate than myself".

Colleen's beloved husband Des passed away in December 2020. They had been married for 65 years.

Colleen was much loved and highly respected.

Ipswich is poorer for her passing. She will be sadly missed.

Colleen is survived by her close family as the mother and mother-in-law of Phil and Teresa, Paula, and Rachel and Peter. She was a grandmother of nine and great grandmother of one.

Vale Colleen Freeman. May you Rest in Peace.

EXCERPT FROM SPECIAL MEETING OF IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

Held: 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

Cr Paul Tully

Point of order, Mayor. The standing orders are quite clear that a person, Councillor, can only speak once to a particular matter. And I think because this is a meeting of an issue of major statutory importance, we need to stick quite strictly with those procedures.

Mayor Teresa Harding

Thank you, Councillor Tully. It is correct that our meeting procedures policy states everyone speaks to the matter once. But I think anyone who's been here will note that I take a more open approach, that I do believe that we should be having this free-flowing dialogue and discussion and I would like to continue to allow that to happen. It is a really big decision ...

Cr Andrew Antonioli

Point of order, Mayor. I don't think I've seen that in any previous meeting before where you've allowed free-flowing discussion. You've always adhered to the meeting procedures.

Mayor Teresa Harding

Excuse me, that is not correct. I've allowed all but one meeting in the last four and a bit terms to allow people to have multiple, and the evidence is there in our live stream, to have multiple discussions, make the point more than once. So I note that what you've said, but I'm going to allow - I think it's a big decision. I would like people to continue to put their views forward.

Cr Paul Tully

Well, I'll continue with my point of order and quote section 10.7.6 which says explicitly *each Councillor shall speak no more than once to the same motion or same amendment except as a right of reply*. Well that of course is for the mover of the motion. I think, as I said, because this is a meeting to consider, and we haven't had this for many years, a very strict requirement under two pieces of legislation, I believe that it's extremely important. If people want to open it up to continued debate, well there's a procedure by the way in which Councillor Doyle or any other Councillor can do that, and that is for a suspension of the relevant procedure.

Mayor Teresa Harding

Okay, thank you. In that case, Councillor Tully, like I said, we're trying to practice democracy here. I will move for a suspension of standing orders for Councillors to be able to speak freely and democratically on this particular motion. So I ask that people can speak more than once to the matter because I think it's a really important matter. Do I have a seconder for that? Thank you, Councillor Augustine. I'll put that to the vote.

Cr Paul Tully

I propose an amendment that it should be, they be permitted to speak twice. Otherwise, there could be multiple interruptions on this issue.

SPECIAL MEETING OF IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL
Held: 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

Cr Marnie Doyle

Point of order, Chair, I'll abs—I will withdraw further commentary. It's pretty clear it's a fait accompli and my colleagues don't really care what I've got to say so I just won't speak anymore. So I'll ...

Cr Andrew Antonioli

I'm happy to ...

Mayor Teresa Harding

Excuse me, the Councillor ...

Cr Marnie Doyle

...withdraw. I'll withdraw.

Mayor Teresa Harding

... has the floor. Councillor Antonioli, do not interrupt.

Cr Marnie Doyle.

Yeah. Not interested in providing any further commentary. Thanks, Chair.

Mayor Teresa Harding

Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic.

With your indulgence, Chair, can I please speak for the first time?

Mayor Teresa Harding

Well, we're actually debating a motion on the - whether we're going to suspend standing orders.

Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic

Oh apologies.

Mayor Teresa Harding

But yes. So I have moved to suspend standing orders for Councillors to speak multiple times on this matter, as we have for every other Council meeting, and Councillor Augustine has seconded that. I note you've suggested amendment, I will say no. I'll put that matter to the vote. Those in favour, please raise your hand. It's just myself and Council Augustine. So that motion didn't get carried, so the suspending orders are not, so the standing orders are not suspended. So we're going to, and I guess in that case, I've already spoken to the matter. I am disappointed I can't speak further. We're debating democracy and our Councillors have been gagged.

Deputy Mayor, you wish to speak?