

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I wish to draw Council's attention to the passing of Nigel Bertus who was the Manager Health, Building and environment at City of Canada Bay for 11 years, from July 2002 until August 2013.

Nigel was a Trainee Health and Building Inspector at Holroyd in the late 80's, he went to Hawkesbury Council for around 2 years before returning to Holroyd Council for a short time in the Environmental team.

Nigel came to Canada Bay just after the merger and built a high achieving team leading waste, environment, building compliance, enforcement and environmental health. He was friendly, compassionate, approachable man. His personal values endeared him to colleagues across the organisation and in fact the whole of local government in Sydney.

A highly-respected manager in the organisation Nigel was known for the care of his staff. He mentored a young team who are now leaders in local government around Sydney. Nigel managed the transition of Council's waste contract to a three bin system and implemented the 10 year contract with Cleanaway. His contract management and dispute resolution skills were excellent and the contract was a success and saw minimal disruption.

He implemented one of the first food waste collection and processing trials; this trial won an Excellence in Environment award and its methodology has been shared worldwide.

Nigel transformed Environmental Health in the City establishing our first team which won awards, including the Choice award for our Scores on Doors Program which has now been delivered across the state through the NSW Food Authority.

He moved environmental health from simple food inspections to a comprehensive education and engagement program for food business.

He transformed the building compliance department from simple enforcement to a successful building certification team which competes with the private sector and adds value for our local residents.

Nigel brought gracious management of our Law Enforcement team and grew the program supporting staff who have a particularly difficult job ensuring we have a safe city.

Nigel established the first sustainability team charged with delivering Local Agenda 21 – this team has lead our council to win the most sustainable Council in NS, the world international LIVCOM Award and many other accolades establishing Council's leadership in this field.

The tragedy of Nigel being diagnosed with the degenerative condition Parkinson's disease is that it cut short a brilliant career and ultimately his life. He will be missed by so many people here at Canada Bay and our deepest sympathies are with his wife Merryn and four children Peter, Nick, Luke and Hayley.

THAT Council note the report as moved by the Mayor.