

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I would like to bring to Council's attention the recent passing of Gerry Gleeson on 23 December 2017. Known as Premier Neville Wran's 'Mr Fixit', Gerry headed up the Premier's Department from 1976 through to 1988 where he led the NSW government through huge projects like Darling Harbour and the Bicentenary.

A Canada Bay local, Gerry grew up at Five Dock and was educated at St Patrick's college Strathfield and played fullback for Drummoyne in the Sydney Rugby competition.

As the Sydney Morning Herald reported in 1986, Gerry was: "For a long time... considered the most mysterious and powerful public servant in NSW... respected on both sides of politics for his efficiency and, in some quarters, feared for his ruthlessness."

During his long career, he was associated with the Royal Institute of Public Administration, the Powerhouse Museum, the NSW Art Gallery, the Sydney College of the Arts, the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Entertainment Centre.

Following his retirement in 1988, Gerry continued and expanded his representation on numerous boards and organisations including the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal, the Commonwealth Bank, Amalgamated Holdings, the St George Foundation, the Australian Catholic University, the Darling Harbour Authority, the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, the National Catholic Education Commission, Transfield Construction Management Committee, and the Lord Howe Island Board.

Gerry was an outstanding public servant and spirited individual whose contribution has made an incredible difference to many of the facilities and institutions that add to the quality of life for citizens of NSW and Australia. His contributions were unique and he will be sorely missed by the leading institutes and organisations to which he contributed so much.

I ask Council to join me in passing on our condolences to his children Gerald, Catherine, Fabian, Justin and Damian, his 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives and notes the report.