

---

## NOTICE OF MOTION

---

### ROOFTOP COMMUNITY GARDENS

#### Notice of Motion from Councillor Ngai dated 9 February 2018

While some of our residents enjoy the conveniences of a high density residential lifestyle, it is not without its disadvantages.

When I grew up in Roseville, I played with neighbouring kids each afternoon in their backyards. Our parents and grandparents would share gardening tips. The community was close, everyone knew each other, and if any of us needed help we knew who to turn to.

This is not always the case with people living in high density residential. Their homes are small, many have no “backyard”, and their nearest local park may be 15 minutes’ walk away.

To compound these problems, although we are increasingly digitally connected, we are also increasingly physically disconnected from our neighbours and local community. Many residents that I have spoken to do not know their neighbours, and this may have a detrimental impact on community and mental health. It is difficult for people to look out for each other. I believe that as councillors, we need to create an environment that is favourable for our communities to thrive.

While the council does have a program of acquiring land for creating new local parks, it would be good if this can be complemented with better utilisation of high residential rooftop space. It would be good if the council can offer a range of incentives for developers to create rooftop community gardens. Somewhere for adults to relax, grow their vegetables or plants, compost their waste, and discreetly hang up their laundry while the children safely run around and play. Somewhere for neighbours to meet and to support each other.

These buildings will need to be designed to support the additional weight of gardens and/or solar panels. As such, incentives will more likely target new buildings than the retrofit of existing ones.

Perhaps there can be planning related guidelines and incentives for these developers. Or perhaps Ku-ring-gai Council can offer annual awards with categories such as best rooftop garden implementation.

I move that:

- A. Council staff investigate various options to incentivise the building of rooftop community gardens.
- B. These options be reported back to the councillors in six months’ time (or earlier) for further consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the above Notice of Motion as printed be adopted.

Councillor Sam Ngai  
Councillor for Roseville Ward

## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 27/02/2018

---

**Subject:** OMC41 - Rooftop Community Gardens  
**Minute Number:** 41  
**Notes:**  
**File Reference:** CY00538/2 2018/039425

---

### Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ngai/Spencer)

That the above Notice of Motion as printed be adopted.

*For the Resolution:*                      *The Mayor, Councillor Anderson, Councillors Ngai, Clarke, Spencer, Citer and Kelly*

*Against the Resolution:*              *Councillors Pettett, Greenfield, Smith and Szatow*

---