

Ordinary Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 24 February, 2026
Location: The Studio, Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 5.30pm

Addendum Agenda

Mayoral Minute

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MM26.3 Mayoral Minute - Acknowledgement of 12-Month Anniversary of the passing of Airlie Montgomery 1

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HPERM Ref: D26/75861

Recommendation

That Shoalhaven City Council formally acknowledges the 12-month anniversary of the passing of Airlie Montgomery at the Grotto in North Nowra by:

1. Holding a moment of quiet reflection following deliberations regarding this mayoral minute;
2. Reiterating its support for the development of concept designs by Council staff, in collaboration with the Montgomery family, for a new playground at Drexel Park in Airlie's name focused on providing opportunities for children living with neurodiversity and their carers.

Details

Airlie Montgomery was 6-years old when she died in tragic circumstances at the Grotto in North Nowra on 16 March 2025. The North Nowra community rallied around the Montgomery family to assist with search efforts and in the aftermath of her death.

The Montgomery family has since established a charity in her memory, called 'The Airlie Fairy Foundation'.

Airlie regularly visited Drexel Park in North Nowra with her family, which was a favourite place for her to play and interact with the natural world.

Council staff (City Services) have met with the Montgomery family to understand more about the needs of children living with neurodiversity, and will continue to work with the family as concept plans are developed for a new playground at Drexel Park. Concept plans can be used as supporting evidence for future grant funding applications to ensure this new playground can be delivered in Airlie's name for the North Nowra community to enjoy. Concept plans for this playground can be developed generally in accordance with Council's *Community Infrastructure Strategic Plan*.

MM26.3