



**Brighton
Council**

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

25 JANUARY 2022

Brighton Council and Celebration of Australia Day

On the eve of 26 January, I feel it is important for me to explain what Brighton Council will be doing with regards citizenship ceremonies and our Citizen of the Year Awards on a day that is considered 'Invasion Day' by many in our community. Previously councils were banned from holding citizenship ceremonies at this time of year, should they not be on 26 January. This was thankfully reversed by the Federal Government just last month, allowing councils to make a choice as to when the citizenship ceremonies are held. The decision has resulted in councils across lutruwita and Australia reconsidering their position on this.

Brighton Council will not be holding a citizenship ceremony on 26 January in 2024.

In addition, Brighton Council has scheduled our Citizen of the Year Awards in February, out of respect for our community members who do not celebrate Australia Day. Brighton Council's Citizen of the Year Awards will be held on 22 February 2023 at the Brighton Civic Centre, Bridgewater.

We feel it is the right thing to do so that we can all celebrate together rather than exclude those who are the rightful custodians of this land.

Cr Leigh Gray
Mayor Brighton Council

