

**Notice of Motion, Cr Dr Olivia Ball: Funding support request, *Night Falls in the Evening Lands, The Assange Epic* conference**

**Motion**

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 1.1. Approves the allocation of a one-off grant of \$1,000 via the discretionary fund to the Assange Campaign Inc for the purpose of supporting the conference: *Night Falls in the Evening Lands, The Assange Epic*.
  - 1.2. Notes the one-day conference will be held at RMIT University on 9 March 2024.
  - 1.3. Requests Council management to promote the conference through appropriate City of Melbourne channels.
  - 1.4. Reaffirms the position expressed in previous Council and Future Melbourne Committee resolutions in support of Mr Julian Assange and calls again for his immediate release without charge.

**Background**

At a public hearing on 20-21 February, 2 judges of the UK High Court will review an earlier decision by a single judge of the High Court who refused permission for Julian Assange to appeal his extradition to the United States, where he faces up to 175 years imprisonment for exposing war crimes committed by the US in the Afghan and Iraq wars.

Assange's brother, Gabriel Shipton says,

"[Julian] has gone through years of uncertainty, his mental and physical health getting worse and worse. He should be able to come home to Australia with his children and get the support he needs. I urge the Prime Minister to pull out all stops in his efforts to end Julian's suffering. Bring Julian home."

More than 70 Australian federal politicians, from all sides of politics, have publicly called for the US to drop all charges against Assange.<sup>1</sup> Melbourne City Council has previously passed 3 motions in support of Assange ([23 June 2020](#), [28 June 2022](#) and [28 Feb 2023](#)), calling for the Prime Minister's and Attorney-General's strenuous diplomatic efforts to secure Mr Assange's "immediate release without charge".

This conference at RMIT University explores the human rights implications of the legal persecution of Julian Assange, and is sponsored by the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, PEN International, the Wheeler Centre, Pax Christi and the Medical Association for the Prevention of War, among others.

**Moved: Cr Dr Olivia Ball**

**Seconded: Cr Jamal Hakim**

---

<sup>1</sup> Macmillan, J Ryan, B 2023, 'Julian Assange unites cross-party delegation in Washington to push for WikiLeaks founder's freedom', *ABC News*, 21 September.