

**12.3 Notice of Motion No. 9/2009
Photograph of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II,
in the Council Chamber**

Submitted by: Cllr Jason Falinski

That Council hang an appropriate photograph of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom, in the Council Chamber.

Background

The refurbishments to the Council Chamber have rightly received considerable praise for the way that the new format encourages a better kind of governance in Warringah. Thus far, the hopes of its designers appear to be realised.

Another part of this project was to promote the history of Australia, especially the role of its indigenous people in our area. This goal, for too long neglected, is to be truly praised. However, there should also be room for some unpleasant truths about Australia's present – namely that our head of state does not reside in our country, rarely visits, and promotes other companies, cheers for other sporting teams, and does so often at our expense.

When Australians were asked, in 1999, to consider changing our current constitutional arrangements, there appeared to be immense confusion as to who our head of state was. Those trying to retain the current system said it was in fact the Governor General, those in favour of change claimed it to be Queen Elizabeth II, and there were some who were sure it was Dame Edna Everage.

As much as some of us around the table may not like it, the answer, of course, is the Queen of the United Kingdom, and I humbly believe that it would be very wrong of us to in any way add to the confusion. We are, after all, not citizens of this great Federation, but rather subjects of her Majesty, and we should, no matter how reluctantly, do our duty and put Her portrait back in its rightful place.