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9 May 2016

**Most Venerable Chow Khun Sudhammo**

President, Buddhist Federation of Australia  
Spiritual Director, Board of Spiritual Directors  
The 2016 Australian Observance of the UN Day of Vesak.

**THE 2016 AUSTRALIAN OBSERVANCE OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS DAY OF VESAK**

Dear Most Venerable Chow Khun Sudhammo,

Vesak Day, or the Buddha's birthday, is a celebration for Buddhists worldwide to honour the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Buddha. It also celebrates the cultivation of wisdom and compassion in our lives.

Buddha's teaching reminds us that harmony we hope for between nations is based on the harmony we create between people in our own society. The City of Sydney takes great pride in the diversity and harmony of our population and events like this help promote that harmony.

This extraordinary Vesak Day celebration is a festival not just for the Buddhists living in Sydney, but for everyone who supports for tolerance, peace and harmony in the world.

City of Sydney works on the Sustainable Sydney 2030 Plan to build a more green, global and connected city. We would do better to heed the Buddhist teaching that life and the environment are fundamentally one. Our city and many companies and people living and working here are making strong efforts to make Sydney more sustainable.

I offer my best wishes to people celebrating Vesak Day, and my sincerest hopes that we may all draw on spiritual ideals to find ways that we can make our city more harmonious and sustainable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Kok', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Robert Kok**  
Councillor