

ITEM 7. NAMING PROPOSAL - SYDNEY PARK WETLANDS - POST EXHIBITION

FILE NO: S125682

SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council approve the naming of the wetlands within Sydney Park. The recommended names are from the language of the traditional custodians of Sydney, the Gadigal, recognising Aboriginal culture and the local ecology.

The recommended names are:

- Wirrambi Wetland - meaning bat and relating to microbats which feed in the park;
- Guwali Wetland - meaning cormorant and relating to birds visiting the wetlands;
- Bunmarra Wetland - meaning lizard relating to blue tongue lizards living in the park; and
- Gilbanung Wetland - meaning grasshopper, an insect prevalent in the park.

The naming proposal was exhibited from 6 October to 10 November 2015 and attracted 17 submissions. Twelve submissions expressed support for one or more of the proposed names and five submissions did not support the proposed names and contained alternative naming suggestions.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the following names for the four wetlands located within Sydney Park:
- (i) Wirrambi Wetland;
 - (ii) Guwali Wetland;
 - (iii) Bunmarra Wetland; and
 - (iv) Gilbanung Wetland; and
- (B) an application be made to the Geographical Names Board for the naming of the wetlands as shown in clause (A), in accordance with the Geographical Names Act 1996.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Schematic Showing Location of Wetlands within Sydney Park

Attachment B: Summary of Submissions

BACKGROUND

1. The network of wetlands within Sydney Park provides significant habitat for a range of resident and visiting wildlife, and has recently been redeveloped to provide a water harvesting and reuse facility providing recycled water suitable for park irrigation, street cleaning and other non-potable uses. The location of the wetlands within Sydney Park is shown in Attachment A.
2. On 10 August 2015, Council provided in-principle approval to name four wetlands in Sydney Park and to exhibit the naming proposal for community comment.
3. Assigning formal names for the wetlands, (informally known as Wetlands 1, 2, 4 & 5), will assist in way-finding and navigation through the park and provides opportunity to educate park visitors about the wetlands, their associated ecology and cultural history.
4. The proposed names approved for exhibition are from the language of the Gadigal and are the words for fauna that were endemic to Sydney but are now disappearing from the urban environment. These are:
 - (a) Wetland 1: Wirrambi Wetland – *wirrambi* is a Gadigal language word meaning 'bat'. This name recognises the current recreation of habitat for microbats at Sydney Park. Microbats are of local conservation significance for the City of Sydney;
 - (b) Wetland 2: Guwali Wetland – *guwali* is a Gadigal language word meaning 'shag or cormorant'. This name recognises that waterbirds were an integral part of the pre-industrial landscape. This name also recognises the 'habitat island' in this wetland which is attracting cormorants and other wetland birds to Sydney Park;
 - (c) Wetland 4: Bunmarra Wetland – *bunmarra* is a Gadigal language word meaning 'lizard'. This name recognises that reptiles are a priority fauna group. Sydney Park is one of very few sites in the LGA with a blue tongue lizard population. Blue tongue lizards have been observed in this wetland; and
 - (d) Wetland 5: Gilbanung Wetland – *gilbanung* is a Gadigal language word meaning 'grasshopper'. They are often seen jumping when disturbed and heard 'singing' at night around the Sydney Park wetlands.
5. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel has discussed naming to recognise Aboriginal culture and heritage in public spaces and requested that Council consider giving Aboriginal names to places. The Advisory Panel has been consulted and supports the proposed names.
6. Names of Aboriginal origin are sourced from Jakelin Troy's *The Sydney Language* (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, 1993), the most comprehensive word list of the Sydney language published and accepted by the Aboriginal community. The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council has advised the City to use this resource. The Land Council has been consulted and supports the proposed names.
7. The naming proposal was exhibited from 6 October to 10 November 2015. Public Notices were installed on site at each wetland, advertised in the local press and on the Sydney Your Say website.

8. The naming proposal generated 17 submissions. Twelve submissions expressed support for one or more of the proposed names and five submissions did not support the proposed names and contained alternative naming suggestions. A summary of submissions is contained in Attachment B.
9. Submissions in support expressed general satisfaction with one or more of the proposed names, while those not in support, suggested names that reflect multiculturalism and/or the industrial (brick making) heritage of the site.
10. The recommended names are preferred because they promote and raise awareness of relevant local Aboriginal culture and the ecology of the wetlands and surrounding area. The industrial heritage of Sydney Park is already featured and promoted on the park signage around the conserved brick work structures located in the north-west section of the park.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

11. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following SS2030 strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 2 provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer – the recommended names raise awareness of Aboriginal culture and will educate park visitors about the local ecology of the wetlands and surrounding parkland.
 - (b) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling – formally naming the wetlands will assist park visitors in wayfinding and navigation through the park.

Organisational Impact

12. The park signage at Sydney Park will need to be updated to include the new names of the wetlands and to provide interpretative information about the new names.

Social / Cultural / Community

13. The recommended names commemorate and recognise the original owners and stewards of the land which Sydney Park now occupies.

Environmental

14. The recommended names promote and raise awareness of the local ecology of Sydney Park.

Economic

15. Naming the wetlands will raise awareness of the culture of the original owners of Sydney Park and has the potential to increase tourism and visitation to the park and surrounding areas.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

16. Updated park signage will be funded from the current capital works budgets under the Park Signage program.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

17. The Geographical Names Act 1966 - the recommended names, if supported by Council, will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board NSW for consideration and assessment in accordance with their process for the naming of public places.
18. The recommended names meet the Geographical Names Board guidelines.

Naming Procedure

19. The process for naming public spaces generally proceeds as follows:
- (a) in-principle approval by Council of the proposed name (completed);
 - (b) public notification of the naming proposal with a minimum 14-day response time (completed);
 - (c) Council approval following community consultation (current stage);
 - (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales through its formal application process; and
 - (e) approval by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

20. The outcome of the Geographical Names Board assessment process is expected by mid-2016.

OPTIONS

21. Council may opt not to name the wetlands. This is not the preferred option.
22. Council may opt to choose alternative names for the wetlands. These alternative names would then need to be placed on public notification.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

23. The Geographical Names Board will also notify the public through the local press as part of their routine procedure for the naming of public places. If objections are raised, the proposal is returned to Council for further comment or amendment, if considered necessary.

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