

ATTACHMENT C

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

Attachment C – Summary of submissions

Comments submitted in Support of Napoleon Plaza (Total number of submissions in support =3)	
Comments	Response
Good ring to the name; sounds bold	Noted, however many submissions consider the proposed name to be inappropriate
Name has international flavour befitting of Sydney	Noted, however some submissions have noted the lack of direction connection to people directly associated with Sydney or the site.
Name is logical given proximity to Napoleon St	Noted. This was one of the reasons that Napoleon Plaza was considered appropriate – to assist in wayfinding.
Name has already been in use in public communications during the planning and construction of the site.	Noted. Napoleon Plaza was the project name and used by TfNSW and other government agencies in their public communications during the planning and construction phase. TfNSW and other governmental stakeholders are happy for either “Napoleon Plaza” or alternatively “Girard Plaza” to be the official name for this public open space.
Comments submitted not in Support of Napoleon Plaza (Total number of submissions not in support = 9)	
Napoleon already has many things named after him – for example Napoleon Street.	The proposed name “Napoleon Plaza” was chosen due to the proximity and connection of the plaza with the adjacent Napoleon Street, and to assist in wayfinding.
The proximity of Napoleon St does not justify naming the plaza after Napoleon because the majority of people would be unfamiliar with Napoleon Street.	Napoleon Street is increasingly used by pedestrians including, workers, tourists and other visitors to access the Barangaroo precinct and to connect with the recently opened Wynyard Walk link to public transport. Some visitors may be unfamiliar with the area and would benefit from wayfinding cues such as naming the plaza after established streets already featured on street directories and other maps.

<p>Commuters are already aware of their destination (so the proposed name will not assist in wayfinding)</p> <p>The plaza does not share features with the adjacent Napoleon Street.</p>	<p>Direct pedestrian access to the plaza is available from Napoleon Street.</p> <p>In light of public sentiment expressed in many of the submissions, it is no longer recommended to name the site Napolelon Plaza.</p> <p>If approved by Council, the recommended name "Girard Plaza" would be submitted to the Geographical Names Board and subsequently added to street directories, maps and wayfinding signage.</p>
<p>Napoleon has not direct connection to Sydney as a person.</p> <p>The name should reflect the people who directly shaped the City rather than historical figures with no connection.</p> <p>Shocked that Napoleon Plaza has been proposed, we are not French.</p>	<p>Noted. The reference to Napoleon was based on the proximity of the site to Napoleon Street, named by Francois Girard, an early colonist and business figure after his experience in the Napoleonic wars.</p> <p>Some submissions (5) noted the lack of direct connections of the site or Sydney to Napoleon.</p>
<p>Napoleon remains a highly controversial figure in light of his European exploits.</p> <p>There is no need to name a public place in Sydney after a dictator from the other side of the world.</p> <p>Why would Australians want a site to be named after a French dictator who waged wars of aggression in Europe which cost many people their lives? It would be better to commemorate the figures that rid the world of his influence.</p>	<p>Some submissions (5) regarded the association with Napoleon Bonaparte to be inappropriate or in poor taste.</p> <p>In light of the community sentiment expressed in submissions, the name Napoleon Plaza is no longer recommended for this site.</p> <p>Girard Plaza is considered more appropriate whilst retaining the social and developmental history of the site so reflecting the original intent naming proposal.</p>

<p>Adding the name Napoleon Plaza, named after a despot to maps will add credibility to the perception of Australians as cultural jobs.</p> <p>Would it be tasteful to name a public place after other (controversial) historical figures associated with war and aggression?</p>	
<p>Napoleon Plaza would add another post-settlement / colonial name to the map of Sydney.</p> <p>Napoleon Plaza paints another Sydney landmark with the colonial brush.</p> <p>There are enough places/things named to commemorate British (colonial) history.</p> <p>There are too many things named after white Anglo people and things.</p> <p>The name only reflects recent history and is colonially themed</p> <p>The name romanticises the destruction of Indigenous society</p>	<p>Some submissions (4) expressed dissatisfaction with the colonial theme. The City has a strategy and draft naming policy which notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names can also reflect the history of the community, have local or cultural relevance, reflecting the heritage and history of local people, events, the community or landscape acknowledging the multicultural nature of our society. Names that perpetuate the names of eminent persons, particularly those of local residents, historical figures or community identities are encouraged.
<p>Napoleon Plaza does not reflect multiculturalism</p> <p>It would be better to reflect community diversity</p>	<p>Sydney is a multicultural global city populated and visited by people from diverse cultural backgrounds. The City's draft Naming Policy for the naming of public places and buildings addresses this multiculturalism and its naming principles recognise that it is appropriate to adopt names from a range of cultures and which commemorate and tell the stories of a variety of diverse people, things, or events from all periods of history and development.</p> <p>The new recommendation "Girard Plaza" meets the principles of the draft Naming Policy and aptly tells the story of the site's more recent social/industrial development.</p>

<p>Were Aboriginal names considered?</p> <p>A name that acknowledges elders past and present would better reflect community diversity.</p> <p>The plaza should be named after an Indigenous person.</p>	<p>The City of Sydney is committed to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and history in the public domain. The City has a naming strategy for Aboriginal recognition which is identified in the draft Naming Policy.</p> <p>Staff continually look at opportunities for applying Aboriginal recognition naming. Many names of Aboriginal language origin have been applied to parks, streets and buildings in recent years, particularly around the southern urban renewal area.</p> <p>The Barangaroo Development Authority has applied Aboriginal recognition naming to many of the pathways in nearby Barangaroo Reserve. In the northern Barangaroo precinct, place names reflecting more recent social history have been employed. The Barangaroo Development Authority support the recommendation to name the site "Girard Plaza".</p> <p>Staff do not consider the current site under discussion an appropriate site for Aboriginal recognition naming. It is a hard, urban open place underneath a freeway, which will function primarily as a thoroughfare. The site is disconnected from the harbour, a source of inspiration for many Aboriginal naming proposals that recognise country and culture.</p>
<p>The story behind the name Napoleon Plaza will not be remembered / understood well. Naming the Plaza after Francois Girard himself would better facilitate remembrance of the site history.</p>	<p>Noted. Following consideration of public submissions, it is recommended that the site is named "Girard Plaza". The City will install interpretive signage to facilitate remembrance and understanding of the story behind this name.</p>
<p>Alternative Names Suggested for the Site</p>	
<p>Girard Plaza – 3 submissions</p>	<p>Following consideration of public submissions, it is recommended to name the site "Girard Plaza". This proposed name is supported by other stakeholders of the site including Transport for New South Wales and the Barangaroo Development Authority.</p> <p>The rationale for this name is outlined in the main report.</p>

Napoleon Place	In light of community sentiment evidenced in many of the submissions, this variation of the original proposed name ('place' being considered more fitting than plaza to reflect the French connection) would gain wide support in the community.
NKS Plaza (Napoleon, Kent, Sussex)	This abbreviated name reflects the physical location of the site positioned between Napoleon, Kent and Sussex Street. This proposed name is not considered appropriate because it retains the references to Napoleon which generated community concern and the abbreviation may not be widely apparent to visitors.
Paul Keating Plaza	This name was suggested to reflect the involvement of former Prime Minister Paul Keating in the development of the area. The Geographical Names Board guidelines (and the City's draft Naming Policy) do not recommend the naming of public places after living persons.
Nelson Plaza	This name was suggested as an alternative to Napoleon (referencing Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson (1758-1805)). The suggested name has no direct connection to the history or use of the site.
Wellington Plaza	This name was suggested as an alternative to Napoleon (referencing Field Marshall Arthur Wellesley, 1 st Duke of Wellington (1769 – 1852)). The suggested name has no direct connection to the history or use of the site. The Napoleonic wars and the Battle of Waterloo are already commemorated through street names and public hotels around the Waterloo area.
Patyegarang (Place/Plaza)	Patygerang is a strong and curious Aboriginal woman, who has left a lasting legacy sharing the Gadigal language with William Dawes. The site, which is disconnected from the water, is a minor open space which will function primarily as a thoroughfare, and so is not considered by staff to be an appropriate site historically or culturally for applying the name of such a significant Aboriginal figure in Sydney's history.