

**ITEM 6. NAMING PROPOSAL - FRANCES NEWTON RESERVE**

**FILE NO: X007323**

**SUMMARY**

This report recommends that a new pocket park to be constructed in late 2017 at 222 Palmer Street, Darlinghurst is named Frances Newton Reserve.

On 12 December 2016, Council resolved to provide in-principle approval to the name "Frances Newton Reserve" and to exhibit the proposal for a period of at least 28 days. The name pays tribute to Frances Newton, an American teacher who influenced the development of kindergartens in Australia. Ms Newton was the principal of the Sydney Kindergarten Training College, located in Darlinghurst.

The naming proposal was exhibited for public comment from 19 April to 19 May 2017. Six submissions were received; five were in support.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the name "Frances Newton Reserve" for the pocket park under construction at 222 Palmer Street, Darlinghurst; and
- (B) an application be made to the Geographical Names Board for the naming of the pocket park as approved in clause (A) in accordance with the *Geographical Names Act 1996*.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Resolution of Council 12 December 2016

**Attachment B:** Concept image of the new park

## **BACKGROUND**

1. On 12 December 2016, Council resolved to provide in-principle approval to the name “Frances Newton Reserve” for a pocket park located at 222 Palmer Street, Darlinghurst, and to exhibit the proposal for a period of at least 28 days.
2. The name pays tribute to Frances Newton, an influential female leader in the NSW kindergarten movement. An American teacher, Frances Newton was the principal of the Sydney Kindergarten Training College from 1902-1905. Under her leadership the number of free kindergartens expanded and dozens of women were trained as kindergarten teachers, providing education and care for young children in the inner city.
3. The Kindergarten Union named their free kindergarten in Darlinghurst the Frances Newton Memorial Kindergarten in 1922. This name was transferred to the new kindergarten building at 222 Palmer Street, designed and built by the City Architect Robert Brodrick in 1926-29. The old kindergarten building is to be demolished to create the new park.
4. Construction of the park will begin in late 2017 and is expected to be complete and open to the public by late 2018. The park will provide much needed open space for the local community. The design aims to interpret the historical use of the site as a childcare facility with an outdoor nature play area, open grass areas, gardens, paths and hardscaping. Provision will also be made for a community garden.
5. The naming proposal was exhibited for public comment from 19 April to 19 May 2017. The proposal was letterbox dropped to surrounding properties, advertised in the local press, and information was available on the Sydney Your Say website.
6. Six submissions were received, five of which were in support.
7. The submissions in favour of the proposed name included general messages of support and messages of support from local people who had family members that attended the kindergarten and supported the commemoration of Frances Newton.
8. One submission expressed a preference for an Indigenous name (unspecified).
9. Many City of Sydney parks and streets have Indigenous names and the City is progressively including formal acknowledgement of country messages on its park signs. The 222 Palmer Street site has no significant connection to Indigenous culture. The commemoration of Frances Newton recognizes the local social history, previous land use and conforms to the interpretation strategy developed for the site.
10. The City’s standard park signage featuring the traditional acknowledgement of country messaging “Bujari Gamarruwa” will be installed at the main park entrances.

## **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 strategic directions and objectives:

- (a) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling – Formally naming the site will facilitate wayfinding and recognition of the site.
- (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies – Formally naming the site commemorates local history and the significant influence and contribution of Frances Newton to the local and wider social economy.

### **Organisational Impact**

- 12. Naming the park will provide a reference point for people using and servicing the park. There will be no significant impacts from the naming proposal.

### **Social / Cultural / Community**

- 13. The proposed name commemorates and preserves local social history.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

- 14. Park signage will be funded from the 2017/18 capital works budget.

### **RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

- 15. The *Geographical Names Act 1966* - the recommended name meets the Geographical Names Board guidelines for the naming of urban places.
- 16. The recommended name, if supported by Council, will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board NSW for their consideration and assessment in accordance with their process for the naming of urban places.

### **CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES**

- 17. There are no critical dates.

### **OPTIONS**

- 18. Council may opt not to approve the recommended name. This option is not preferred because the park will require a formal name and the proposed name is in line with naming protocols and has been subject to community consultation.

### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 19. The process for naming public places generally proceeds as follows:
  - (a) in-principle approval by Council of the proposed name;
  - (b) public notification of the naming proposal with a minimum 28 day response time;
  - (c) Council approval following community consultation;
  - (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board NSW through its formal application process;
  - (e) approval by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette.

20. 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 may be returned to Council for further comment or amendment.

**DAVID RIORDAN**

Director City Operations

Joel Johnson, Manager City Greening and Leisure  
Mark Driver, Parks and Recreation Planner