

**ITEM 5. NAMING PROPOSAL - NAPOLEON PLAZA**

**FILE NO: X005053**

**SUMMARY**

This report recommends that, subject to community consultation, Council provide in-principle approval to naming the new open space located to the south of Napoleon Street, between Kent Street and Sussex Street, "Napoleon Plaza".

The plaza, currently under construction and expected to be open to the public mid-2016, will link Wynyard Station, via Wynyard Walk and a pedestrian bridge over Sussex Street, with Barangaroo.

The naming proposal originated from a request from Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW). The name "Napoleon Plaza" has been in use by TfNSW in their media releases, official communications and on the construction hoarding currently surrounding the site.

The proposed name reflects the close proximity of the site with the adjacent Napoleon Street. Research indicates that Napoleon Street was probably named by Francis (Francois) Girard (1793 – 1859), a convict, dance master, baker and flour miller. The road connected Margaret Place to Girard's flour mill and wharf and other adjacent properties located on Darling Harbour.

Under the Geographic Names Board guidelines, the relevant Roads Authority is responsible for naming a public plaza of this type – the City of Sydney is the Roads Authority in this case.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name the public open space located at the south-west corner of Kent Street and Napoleon Street, Sydney "Napoleon Plaza";
- (B) Council approve the public exhibition of the naming proposal for community comment for a period of 28 days; and
- (C) a further report be submitted to Council at the end of the exhibition period.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Location of Napoleon Plaza

**Attachment B:** Images of Napoleon Plaza

## **BACKGROUND**

1. A new public plaza linking Wynyard Station, via Wynyard Walk and a pedestrian bridge over Sussex Street, to Barangaroo, is under construction and expected to be open to the public in mid-2016 (refer Attachment A).
2. The site, bounded by Napoleon Street (to the north), Kent Street (to the east), Sussex Street (to the west) and a pre-existing public open space (Westpac Plaza, to the south), will primarily comprise of a hard-paved area linking Wynyard Walk with the Sussex Street pedestrian bridge (refer Attachment B).
3. Under the guidelines of the Geographical Names Board, the relevant roads authority is responsible for naming the site – in this case, the City of Sydney is the roads authority.
4. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has requested the City to progress a naming proposal for the site under its responsibility as Roads Authority for this site.
5. The site is currently comprised of a number of land lots under various ownership, including TfNSW, Roads and Maritime Service, Barangaroo Development Authority and the City of Sydney. A process to transfer ownership of the various land lots (with the exception of some small lots containing civil engineering infrastructure such as bridge pylons and ventilation stacks) to the City is currently underway.

## **Naming Proposal**

6. The name “Napoleon Plaza” has been in use by TfNSW for some time in their media releases, official communications and on the construction hoarding currently surrounding the site.
7. “Napoleon Plaza” is the proposed name, reflecting the proximity of the site to the adjacent Napoleon Street.
8. Napoleon Street has historical associations dating back to the 1830s. The name first appears in newspaper advertisements in 1839. The street name first appears in the City Council’s rate assessment books in 1848.
9. Research indicates that Napoleon Street was probably named by Francis (Francois) Girard (1793 – 1859), a convict, dance master, baker and flour miller. The road, an access road, connected Margaret Place to Girard’s flour mill and wharf and other adjacent properties located on Darling Harbour. Girard’s flour mill was operative between 1832– 1841. The street’s alignment today is on a slightly different alignment to the original access road to the flour mill.
10. Girard was an army officer during the Napoleonic Wars and left France after Napoleon’s defeat. He migrated to England, but was convicted for stealing two watches and transported to Sydney for seven years. He was not assigned on arrival, but allowed to earn his keep, which he did as a dance master. Girard was granted a conditional pardon in 1825.
11. The proposed name is supported by the City’s Historian.
12. The Barangaroo Development Authority, current owners of part of the site, have proposed an alternative name “Girard Plaza” after Francois Girard.

13. "Napoleon Plaza" is the City's preference linking the plaza with the adjacent Napoleon Street, which will facilitate greater public awareness of the site's location.

### **Naming Procedure**

14. The City of Sydney is the roads authority and, under section 162 of the Roads Act 1993, may name all public roads for which it is the roads authority. Road naming is conducted in accordance with Part 2, Division 2 (Naming of Roads) of the Roads Regulation 2008.
15. The naming process is as follows:
- (a) The City's naming proposal is submitted to the Geographical Names Board through their online portal.
  - (b) The Geographical Names Board then gives notice of the proposed name, published in a local newspaper and served on Australia Post, the Registrar General, the Surveyor General, the Chief Executive of the Ambulance Service of NSW, NSW Fire Brigade, the NSW Rural Fire Service, the NSW Police Service, the State Emergency Service and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. The notice must state that written submissions on the name must be made to the roads authority and must specify to whom and the date by which any submissions should be made.
  - (c) Any person may make a submission regarding a proposed name. If, after considering any submission made to it, the roads authority decides to proceed with the naming or renaming, the roads authority must publish a notice in the NSW Government Gazette and in a local newspaper and must inform Australia Post, the Registrar General and the Surveyor General, giving sufficient details to enable the road to be clearly identified.
  - (d) The Geographical Names Board must be given at least one month's notice of the proposed name.

### **KEY IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision**

16. *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 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling – formally naming the public open space will assist in pedestrian wayfinding and will facilitate recognition and visitation of the plaza.
  - (b) Direction 5 - A Lively and Engaging City Centre – the plaza is located on a busy pedestrian route that will link the public transport hub at Wynyard with the Barangaroo business precinct. Naming the plaza will engage and educate visitors about the site's history.
  - (c) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - Naming the plaza will raise awareness and promote visitation to the precinct and to nearby businesses such as cafes and restaurants.

**Organisational Impact**

17. Naming of the open space will have negligible organisational impact. The City will install signage once construction is complete and the site handed over to the City.
18. The organisational impact of the handover to the City of the various parcels of land which comprise the plaza will be the subject of a future report to Council.

**Risks**

19. There are no identified risks associated with the naming proposal.

**Social / Cultural / Community**

20. The community will have opportunity to comment on the naming proposal during the exhibition period.

**Economic**

21. Naming of the plaza may generate a positive effect by facilitating increased visitation to the site and surrounding businesses.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

22. Installation of signage will be funded through operational budgets.

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

23. The Roads Act and Roads Regulation – the City is the relevant roads authority with jurisdiction over the site.
24. The Geographical Names Act and Guidelines – the recommended name meets the Geographical Names Board guidelines.

**CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES**

25. TfNSW has requested that the City progress a naming report prior to the opening of the site in mid-2016.

**OPTIONS**

26. Council may choose not to name the public open space. This is not the preferred option.
27. Council may choose to consult the community about alternative names.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

28. Key stakeholders, TfNSW, Barangaroo Development Authority and Lend Lease, have advised of their support for the proposed name “Napoleon Plaza”.
29. The proposed name will be exhibited for public comment for a minimum period of 28 days, in accordance with Part 2, Division 2 (Naming of Roads), Roads Regulation 2008.

30. The community will be notified of the naming proposal through the local press, a letter box drop to properties within a 250 metre radius of the site, through public notices on site and on the Sydney Your Say website.
31. The outcome of the community consultation will be reported back to Council for final approval.

**GEORGE ANGELIS**

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