

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X091474 **DATE:** 27 October 2022

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.7 – Public Exhibition - Naming Policy

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Background

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 17 October 2022, Councillors requested that consideration be given to including a purpose or principle around proactively making naming more inclusive and a means of rebalancing / revealing what has been hidden in history (in terms of multiculturalism / gender diversity / dual naming).

Further information was also sought on the process and mechanisms (consultation and other) for ensuring that no names are put forward that are offensive/derogatory to any group.

Addressing the imbalance in naming

Inclusiveness and addressing imbalance are important values underpinning the Naming Policy (Policy).

The matter is addressed in the Policy proposed for public exhibition within the 'Policy Statement' and four key naming principles: Aboriginal Language, Dual Naming, Diversity, and Local or Cultural Relevance.

The policy review has added the following sentence in the 'Policy Statement':

"Names for new Assets provide the opportunity to reflect the communities' values and aspirations, as well as rebalancing previous approaches and priorities for naming."

The commitment to addressing the imbalance could be highlighted higher up in the 'Policy Statement'.

There is also an opportunity to strengthen the commitment to inclusiveness in the principle on Diversity and move this up higher in the list of principles.

These opportunities will be addressed as part of the public exhibition of the draft Policy.

Retrospective naming

The Policy has also been updated to make it clear in the section *When will a name be allocated or changed* that naming proposals will be considered:

- "When a name is perceived, at a given point in time, to be offensive, demeaning, or harmful to the reputation of individuals, or to social, ethnic, religious or other groups"
- "When there is significant community support in assigning or changing a name to a place, space or object."

Persistence is another of the Policy's 14 principles. Names should be enduring and changing names is discouraged unless there is a compelling reason to do so. This policy position is consistent with the NSW Geographical Names Board and similar bodies nationally.

Retrospective name issues are only dealt with if the issue is problematic and impacting on service delivery, or there is significant support in changing a name.

The renaming of roads in particular is discouraged by the Geographical Names Board "unless there are compelling reasons for a change". (Addressing User Manual 6.7.9). "Issues that can prompt renaming include the redesign of a road, changed traffic flow, mail or service delivery problems, duplication issues and addressing problems."

Similarly, the changing of long-established place names (including suburbs and parks) is to be avoided "except where necessary to avoid ambiguity or duplication. ... Changing well established names can lead to address or location confusion, especially to electronic navigation services". (Place Name Policy pp.6-7)

It is very important to emphasise that from an emergency services perspective the changing of names is not encouraged. While the renaming of reserves may be less disruptive, it still has the potential to cause confusion.

For these reasons, the Policy is not retrospective as a whole and neither are the Geographical Names Board policies.

Despite these constraints, staff have been actively pursuing Aboriginal language words and diversity for names since 2010. Attachment A provides more details about Aboriginal place and street names in our Local Government Area.

Staff prioritise parks for Aboriginal language names, as the name can be made more meaningful, respond to the design and landscape and have signage to amplify both the design and the name.

Naming Process

The Naming Policy is implemented by a cross-divisional group of City staff - the Naming Proposal Working Group. The working group is made up of representatives from: City Engagement, City Communications, Indigenous Leadership, City Greening and Leisure, Creative City, City Design, Spatial Information Services and Correspondence. The group meets monthly.

Implementing the Policy is reliant upon the input of the diverse Naming Proposal Working Group, internal and external stakeholder consultation and support from Council to progress a naming proposal to community consultation and then on to the Geographical Names Board.

Naming proposals are carefully considered by City staff prior to presenting to Council. Stakeholder consultation undertaken by the Naming Proposal Working Group prior to going to Council can include the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, and in the case of commemorative naming, family members. The City also seeks advice from other experts and community stakeholders.

The process of naming is highly constrained by policy requirements and legislation. The process of the Naming Proposal Working Group is important as it enables naming proposals to pass through a series of checks to ensure proposals align with the policy's framework and relevant legislation. Community consultation through public exhibition is the final check and balance for the City, however naming is not a popularity contest as highlighted in the Naming Policy.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Director City Life

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Attachments

Attachment A. Aboriginal Place and Street Names in the Local Government Area

Approved



MONICA BARONE
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A

**Aboriginal Place and Street Names in the
Local Government Area**

The City undertook a large sequence of naming new streets and parks in 2011/12 as part of the strategic planning of the Green Square town centre and surrounding areas. At that time seven parks and five streets were named with Aboriginal language words in Alexandria, Waterloo and Rosebery.

The Aboriginal language words for street and park names in the Green Square precinct were selected to reflect the original landscape and environment of the district once enjoyed by the Gadigal people. Some of these parks and streets are still in the process of being built.

Facilities at Joynton Avenue have also been named using Aboriginal language words: the Banga Shed and the Waranara Childcare Centre.

Other recent examples include the wetlands at Sydney Park which are named after animals that live there, and new streets such as Dalgai Way leading to the Tramsheds in Forest Lodge ('mussel' which grow along the foreshore).

Suburbs

There are two suburb names that are specifically associated with Aboriginal names or people.

Name	Located	comment
Woolloomooloo		Variant spellings Walla-mool, Wallamoula, Woolloomooloo
Barangaroo		Barangaroo was one of the powerful figures in Sydney's early history. She had knowledge of laws, teaching and women's rituals and held the respect of Governor Phillip and his officers who were fascinated by the Eora women and their formidable fishing skills. The second wife of Bennelong, Barangaroo was member of the Cammeray clan and maintained her connection with the clan despite her exposure to the white settlers.

Parks and Facilities

There are 34 parks and elements within parks that have names of Aboriginal origin.

Name	Located	Comment
Bennelong Point / Dubbagullee	Sydney	The European name commemorates Bennelong, an Eora man captured by Governor Phillip, who travelled to England and back, and taught the settlers much about Aboriginal language and culture. He built a hut on this point. NB: this point is officially dual named

Name	Located	Comment
Yellomundee Park	Corner Caroline and Hugo Streets, Redfern	Commemorates Yellomundee, an elder of the Boorooberongal clan of the Darug people, who was known as 'Chief of the Richmond tribes'. Yellomundee or Yarramundi was the son of Gomebeeree, and was born in about 1750 and died after 1818. His daughter Maria Lock has thousands of descendants.
Reconciliation Park	George, James and William Streets, Redfern	The movement for Aboriginal reconciliation in the 1990s led to the naming of the park.
Turruwul Park	Primrose and Hayes Roads, Rosebery	Named by Waterloo Council in the 1920s. The aldermen were given three names to choose from: Lang Park after Premier Jack Lang, Lynch Park after Alderman Lynch, and Turruwul Park which was the name they voted for. Turruwul is probably an alternative spelling of Dharawal, the Aboriginal people whose area spread from Botany Bay south to the Shoalhaven River and inland to Camden.
Bamal Way	Alexandria linking Coulson Street and Sydney Park Road, Alexandria	Bamal is the Sydney language word for "earth, clay or the ground" (recorded by a number of First Fleet diarists including David Collins and Daniel Southwell)
Cadi Park	Refinery Drive, Pyrmont	Acknowledges the Gadigal clan.
Gadigal Avenue Park	Gadigal Avenue, Zetland	Acknowledges the Gadigal clan.
Giba Park	Point Street, Pyrmont	Giba is an Aboriginal word for stone, reflecting the importance of the stone quarried from Pyrmont which built many of Sydney's fine sandstone buildings.
Pirrama Park	Pirrama Road, Pyrmont	Aboriginal name for the point.
Tumbulong Park	Darling Harbour	Aboriginal name for Cockle Bay / Darling Harbour
Walla Mulla Reserve	Woolloomooloo	A variant of Woolloomooloo
Waratah Street Reserve and Playground	Rushcutters Bay	Street named in 1889. Located within the Barcom Estate and named after Waratah House. The Barcom Estate ran all the way down to Rushcutters Bay. This area was a known camping place for Aboriginal people.

Name	Located	Comment
Womerah Gardens	Corner Womerah Avenue and Craigend Street, Darlinghurst	A womerah is a throwing stick which increases the range of a spear. Derives from street name. Located on the Barcom Estate, which ran all the way down to Rushcutters Bay. This area was a known camping place for Aboriginal people.
Wulaba Park	Waterloo – Lachlan Precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “rock wallaby”. Wallabies were a regular sight around Waterloo before closer development destroyed their habitat.
Dyuralya Park/Square	Waterloo – Lachlan Precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “brolga”. The Waterloo wetlands supported diverse birdlife and particularly water birds such as the brolga.
Gunyama Park	Green Square town centre / Zetland – Epsom Park and south Victoria Park precinct To be built Park beside new aquatic centre	Sydney language word meaning “wind from the south-west”. Strong southerlies regularly blew through the district. With the development of noxious trades such as boiling down works and fellmongeries, the south-west wind was a distinctive and unavoidable olfactory presence. An associated word with “gunyama” is “gunyamara” meaning “stink” – a historically appropriate and evocative description of Waterloo in the 1850s.
Mulgu Park	Green Square town centre / Zetland – Epsom Park and south Victoria Park precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “black swan”. This park is located on the southern part of the Waterloo Swamp and almost directly on the former site of the Upper Dam where the Rose Valley wool wash operated. Black swans were once common in the Waterloo wetlands
Buming Park	Green Square town centre / Zetland – Epsom Park and south Victoria Park precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “red bill”. The Waterloo wetlands were once home to many water fowl, including the red bill (oyster catcher).
Biyانبing Park	Green Square town centre / Zetland – Epsom Park and south Victoria Park precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “quail”. The Waterloo wetlands supported diverse birdlife, including quail.
Garraway Park	Rosebery – Overland Gardens & Dolina Precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “sulphur crested cockatoo”.

Name	Located	Comment
Waranara Early Education Centre	Joynton Avenue, Zetland SSHS – new childcare centre	Sydney language work “to seek”
Banga Community Shed	Joynton Avenue Zetland SSHS – former pathology building	Sydney language word “to make or do”.
Wirrambi Wetland	Sydney Park	Sydney language word meaning “bat” and relating to microbats which live in the park.
Guwali Wetland	Sydney Park	Sydney language word meaning “cormorant” which relates to birds visiting the wetlands.
Bunmarra Wetland	Sydney Park	Sydney language word meaning “lizard” relating to blue tongue lizards living in the park.
Gilbanung Wetland	Sydney Park	Sydney language word meaning “grasshopper”, an insect prevalent in the park.
Barangaroo Reserve	Barangaroo	The headland park in Barangaroo. Derives from the suburb name that commemorates Barangaroo, one of the powerful figures in Sydney's early history.
Nawi Cove	Barangaroo For the largest cove and is situated between Barangaroo Reserve and Central Barangaroo.	Nawi is a Sydney language word for the bark canoes used by local Aboriginal people in the late 18th Century; it is believed that Barangaroo, the woman after whom the site is named, would have used a nawi.
Marrinawi Cove	Barangaroo For the small cove adjacent to Moores Wharf.	Marrinawi was an Aboriginal Sydney language word created to describe the vessels of the First Fleet and meant “big canoe”.
Barangaroo Avenue	Barangaroo For the main north-south road at Barangaroo.	Derives from the suburb name that commemorates Barangaroo, one of the powerful figures in Sydney's early history.
Girra Girra Steps	Barangaroo For a set of steps within Barangaroo Reserve.	The Sydney language word for seagulls was recorded by early settlers and referred to “fishing gulls”.
Burrawang Steps	Barangaroo For a set of steps within Barangaroo Reserve.	Burrawang is the Sydney language word for a local cycad, the seeds of which were an important source of starch for the Gadigal people and early settlers. They are very long-lived plants, typically surviving for more than a century, and symbolise the park's future longevity.

Name	Located	Comment
Baludarri Steps	Barangaroo For a set of steps within Barangaroo Reserve.	Baludarri is the Sydney language word for leatherjacket, a fish commonly found in Sydney Harbour.
Wulugul Walk	Barangaroo For the foreshore walk along Barangaroo.	Wulugul is the Sydney language word for kingfish, commonly found in Sydney Harbour. Kingfish have a golden band along their blue-green skin, similar to the foreshore walk's golden sandstone lining the blue of the harbour.

Streets

There are currently 19 streets that are of Aboriginal language origin. This includes some duplicates with street and lane names.

Name	Located	Comment
Pirrama Road	Pyrmont	Aboriginal name for the point
Bulwarra Street	Ultimo and Pyrmont	In the Sydney Aboriginal language, the word 'guwara' means 'high wind' while 'gurara' means 'tall'; 'bulwara' is probably a variant of the same word. Bulwara Street was originally called Crown Street, and later Crown Road, because it was one of the highest streets in the area. It was renamed Bulwara in 1905. The name 'Bulwara' was used by John Harris (1838-1911) for the name of his home in Ultimo.
Cadigal Avenue	Pyrmont	Acknowledges the Gadigal clan.
Cadigal Lane	University of Sydney	Acknowledges the Gadigal clan.
Gadigal Avenue	Zetland	Acknowledges the Gadigal clan.
Yurong Street	Darlinghurst	Stream that ran to Woolloomooloo Bay. Mrs Macquarie's Chair is dual named Yurong.
Yurong Lane	Darlinghurst	Also incorporates street closure forming a reserve called Yurong Street Reserve.
Yurong Parkway	Sydney	See above.
Waratah Street	Rushcutters Bay	Named in 1889 after Waratah House. Located on the Barcom Estate, which ran all the way down to Rushcutters Bay. This area was a known camping place for Aboriginal people.

Name	Located	Comment
Boomerang Place	Darlinghurst	Remnant of Boomerang Street. The street originally started on the corner of Cathedral and College Sts and continued to William St. It was bent like a boomerang, but its early naming and the naming of Womerah St. Darlinghurst suggests that this may have been in recognition of the local Aboriginals whom Macquarie encouraged to remain in this area by creating a reserve at Elizabeth Bay. Now subsumed in Cook and Phillip Park.
Womerah Avenue	Darlinghurst	A womerah is a throwing stick which increases the range of a spear. Located on the Barcom Estate, which ran all the way down to Rushcutters Bay. This area was a known camping place for Aboriginal people.
Womerah Lane	Darlinghurst	As above.
Dave Sands Lane	Glebe at rear of 17-31 Phillip Street	Dave Sands was a famous Aboriginal boxer who lived and trained in Glebe. He was the first Australian boxer to achieve success overseas, returning from the United Kingdom with the Middleweight Championship of the British Empire. In his short career, he simultaneously held the Australian Middleweight, Light Heavyweight and Heavyweight titles.
Magari Street	Rosebery – Overland Gardens and Dolina Precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “to fish”.
Banilung Street	Rosebery – Overland Gardens and Dolina Precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “a large fish”.
Galara Street	Rosebery – Overland Gardens and Dolina Precinct To be built	Sydney language word that describes a “four pronged fishing harpoon”.
Bunmarra Street	Rosebery – Overland Gardens and Dolina Precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “lizard”.
Gilbanung Street	Rosebery – Overland Gardens and Dolina Precinct To be built	Sydney language word meaning “grasshopper”.

Name	Located	Comment
Dalgal Way	Road leading to Harold Park Tramsheds over canal, Annandale	Sydney language word meaning "mussel". This name recognises that mussels, a common marine species along the foreshore, were a source of food for the Gadigal and Wangal peoples around Rozelle Bay.
Yaranurala	Harbour walk	

Dual names

There are 12 officially assigned dual named places in the City of Sydney Local Government Area. These are all located on the foreshore and bays of Sydney Harbour.

These names have been officially assigned by the Geographical Names Board. Dual Naming applies to geographical features and restores the original place names used by Aboriginal people. Dual naming cannot be applied to suburbs, streets, parks or buildings.

1. Potts Point / Derrawunn
2. Darling Harbour / Tumbalong
3. Elizabeth Bay / Gurrajin
4. Elizabeth Point / Jerrowan
5. Bennelong Point / Dubbagullee
6. Fort Denison / Muddawahnyuh
7. Campbells Cove / Meeliahwool
8. Dawes Point / Tar-Ra
9. Sydney Cove / Warrane
10. Farm Cove / Wahganmuggalee
11. Macleay Point / Yurrandubbee
12. Mrs Macquarie's Chair / Yurong