

Attachment A

Naming justification: Mirvac QC

Mirvac Queens Court Renaming

Overview

Mirvac and Balarinji are partnering on 55 Pitt Street Sydney's design. Building on their "Aboriginal Core Narrative Report," the project integrates Aboriginal language and art to express spiritual connection to Country. The community has shown enthusiasm for connecting with traditional waterways, Country, and both historic and contemporary Aboriginal culture. The Queens Court renaming supports the core-narrative of Country for a contemporary reading of the new building on Country.

The following naming option has been prepared in consultation with Gadigal Elder Allen Madden. It outlines a proposed Sydney Language name for the renaming of Queens Court, Sydney, as part of the 55 Pitt Street development project.

Jakelin Troy's The Sydney Language (1994) has been used as a key resource in selecting appropriate terms from the Sydney Language for the proposed new name of Queens Court.

As well as building on Balarinji's Core Narrative report, a review of the 55 Pitt Street vision and its associated public art strategy, particularly Danie Mellor's work, has also guided the development of the two proposed naming options for Queens Court.

Consultation with Gadigal Elder

On Thursday, 6 March 2025, the Balarinji team met with Gadigal Elder Allen Madden to discuss naming options for the renaming of Queens Court at the 55 Pitt Street project site. Allen has been a guiding voice throughout the development of 55 Pitt Street, contributing to early narrative development and partnering with Danie Mellor to help shape the public artwork at the Queen's Court through-site link artwork.

Allen was presented with a range of naming options and strongly emphasised that selected words should be easy to pronounce—especially given their prominence as street names that the public will encounter regularly, often without context for pronunciation. He highlighted that mispronunciation can undermine the goals of language revival, as it may distort or completely change the intended meaning of a word.

To ensure accessibility, Allen also stressed that spelling should reflect pronunciation, and that the meaning or interpretation should be clear and concise. He also noted that words from the Sydney Language might have different meanings in other Aboriginal languages, making it even more important for the chosen interpretation to be transparent and easy to understand.

Endorsed Name

1. **Guru Nura** gūru nura deep water country

The waterway known as the Tank Stream flowed close to the location of the laneway that is proposed to be renamed. The stream was a significant life force for Country and the Gadigal. European settlement disrupted the stream, eventually burying it beneath what is now Pitt Street. This naming option gūru nura - "deep water country" serves to recall the presence of the stream and reminds us that we are on Country even if it is not recognisable in its original condition. The proposed name reinstates and brings to mind the presence of The Tank Stream and the many traditional networks that lie beneath the concrete landscape of Sydney.

The name and its association with natural systems aligns with Danie Mellor's Country-centred artistic concept. Mellor's concept explores a deep connection of Place.

Allen Madden endorsed this name, noting that he found it simple, easy to remember, and strongly connected to the significance of the Tank Stream, a former freshwater source. While the stream was not literally "deep water," he felt the term was still appropriate, as it evokes the sense of water buried deep beneath the present-day city, now flowing through tunnels and hidden channels. He also highlighted that the name is easy to pronounce. Allen emphasised the importance of simplicity in naming, recognising that people often bring their own interpretations to language.

The original name proposed, "Guru", was taken to Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and the City of Sydney Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel who recommended the addition of the word "Nura" (which translates as Country) to enhance the meaning and significance of the name to the local area.

Suffix

The Mirvac team felt the suffix path is the strongest fit for this naming. It aligns with the project's intention to curate a journey through the architecture, public art and mission of the 55 Pitt Street development. Path carries deep connotations of movement, connection to ground, and spiritual journey. It speaks to a respectful progression: a walk-through memory, culture, and reconciliation. It also intrinsically invites all who pass through to reflect on where they stand and the historical essence that is deeply embedded within Country.

Balarinji discussed the suffix options with Allen Madden and he also agreed path was the best option. Allen commented "That's Aboriginal Culture for you. When great minds come together."

Artist Danie Mellor was consulted by Balarinji and has endorsed this name, and the suffix path.