

Item 3.

Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Dr Margaret Harper Avenue

File No: X082506

Summary

This report recommends that, subject to community consultation, Council provides in-principle support to the new road connecting Bowden Street in Alexandria to Geddes Avenue in Zetland, being named Dr Margaret Harper Avenue.

The City of Sydney is building a new road and cycleway that will connect Geddes Avenue in the Green Square town centre with Bowden Street in Alexandria. It will also link to Botany Road, O’Riordan Street and Bourke Road.

The new road and cycleway will prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and also be accessible by emergency vehicles and local vehicles. It will provide an important green, walking and cycling east-west connection for the communities of Alexandria and Green Square.

Dr Margaret Hilda Harper (1879-1964) was a trailblazing Australian paediatrician. Through her work, practice and care she helped establish the position of women in the field of medicine. She was a founding doctor of both the Alexandria Baby Health Clinic and the Rachel Forster Hospital for Women and Children. Dr Harper became known internationally for her contributions to paediatrics and the care of newborn and premature babies.

Dr Margaret Harper had a direct connection to the local communities of Alexandria, Waterloo, Surry Hills and Redfern.

Acknowledging her contribution through the naming of this new road, recognises women and leadership in twentieth century Australia. It addresses a gap or silence in our history: the recognition of women’s achievements in the public domain and in popular memory.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) provide in-principle approval to name the new road connecting Bowden Street in Alexandria to Geddes Avenue in Zetland, "Dr Margaret Harper Avenue", and that the name be placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days; and
- (B) note that a further report will be submitted to Council on the results of the public consultation process.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Map Showing the Location of the New Road Connecting Bowden Street and Geddes Avenue
- Attachment B.** Historical Justification for Dr Margaret Harper Avenue

Background

1. The City of Sydney is building a new road and cycleway that will connect Geddes Avenue in the Green Square town centre with Bowden Street in Alexandria. It will also link to Botany Road, O’Riordan Street and Bourke Road.
2. It is identified as a local road in the Sydney Development Control Plan 2012.
3. The new road and cycleway will prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and also be accessible to emergency vehicles and local vehicles.
4. It will provide an important green, walking and cycling east-west connection for the communities of Alexandria and Green Square.
5. Works are underway. The first section is planned to open in late September 2022.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

6. 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 3 - Integrated Transport for a Connected City - The connection is a significant new piece of infrastructure that will be used for public transport to better connect communities in the south of the City.
 - (b) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling - The new connection prioritises walking and cycling.
 - (c) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - The proposed name recognises the significant contribution Dr Margaret Harper made to the local community and nationally and helps tell the remarkable stories of the area.
 - (d) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - The new road is an important component of the development of the Green Square redevelopment area.

Organisational Impact

7. The City will ensure signage is installed once construction is complete. It will have minimal organisational impact.

Risks

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

Social / Cultural / Community

9. The City Historian recommends the name Dr Margaret Harper, reflecting her internationally regarded contribution to paediatrics and the care of newborn and premature babies, and her contribution to the health care for the local communities of Alexandria, Waterloo, Redfern and Surry Hills.

10. Dr Margaret Harper began her career at the Royal Hospital for Women, Paddington, and the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Camperdown. She was one of a group of female doctors, nurses and philanthropists who established the Rachel Forster Hospital for Women and Children in 1922 which had premises in Surry Hills and Redfern.
11. Dr Margaret Harper was the first honorary physician at the Alexandria Baby Health Clinic. This was the state's first government baby health clinic, which opened in August 1914 and operated from Henderson Road Alexandria.
12. Naming the road after Dr Margaret Harper helps recognise women and leadership in twentieth century Australia and address a gap in our history: the recognition of women's achievements in the public domain and in popular memory.
13. The community will have an opportunity to comment on the naming proposal during the exhibition period.

Economic

14. The new road is an important connection to the Green Square town centre. Giving it a powerful and relevant name will strengthen the identity of the area.

Financial Implications

15. There are funds available in the City's 2021/22 operational budget and future year forward estimates for the installation of signage as the road is completed.

Relevant Legislation

16. The Geographic Names Act 1966 (NSW) and Geographical Names Board Guidelines – the recommended names comply with this legislation and meet the Geographical Names Board Guidelines.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

17. A name will be needed when the first section of the road is open in late 2022. Should Council approve the name following community consultation, a formal naming application will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board for consideration.

Options

18. The City is required to undertake the naming process in line with the City's Naming Policy. Naming of the new road is critical for wayfinding and numbering of properties on the road.

Public Consultation

19. The process for naming of public spaces generally proceeds as follows:
 - (a) in-principle approval by Council of the proposed name;
 - (b) public notification of the naming proposals with a minimum 28-day response time;
 - (c) Council approval following community consultation;
 - (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales through its formal application process; and
 - (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 is returned to Council for further comment or amendment if required.
21. The naming proposal will be advertised in the local press and on the Sydney Your Say website, notices will be letterboxed to surrounding properties (approximately 450 metres radius) and there will be a public notice on site.

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