

Yananurala - Harbour Walk - Naming

File No: S110607.005

Summary

In December 2019, Council endorsed the Harbour Walk Storytelling Report by Wiradjuri curator, Emily McDaniel. Council resolved a series of projects including the first project in the report, the Harbour Walk Naming and Icon. Over the last 18 months, the City has coordinated culturally appropriate consultation to develop a name and icon for the Harbour Walk in line with the report's adopted recommendations.

Consultation has involved the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, Aboriginal community representatives, linguist Professor Jakelin Troy, Aboriginal curators Emily McDaniel and Hetti Perkins, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and Place Management NSW. The City Historian and the internal staff Naming Proposal Working Group have been consulted. Government agencies along the Harbour Walk have also been consulted including the Sydney Opera House, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Infrastructure NSW/Barangaroo, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA), the Art Gallery of NSW (AGNSW), and Placemaking NSW. Key to this consultation has been the leadership and involvement of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in these organisations.

The name "Yananurala" has been selected. The name has been supported and approved by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel. It aligns with the City of Sydney's Naming Policy although there is no specific provisions in the City's policy or those of the NSW Geographical Names Board in relation to the naming of a cultural walk.

"Yananurala" is a compound of two Gadigal words, yana (walk) and nura (Country). The addition of the suffix la adds an imperative, or instruction. ie you go walk Country! This name has been translated as "Walking on Country".

The following additional phrase and its translation will be added to signage and other relevant material to provide additional information about the walk -

"Yanala ngarala gadinurada. Yururala, yana yuramirung / Walk, think, listen, hear on Gadi Country. Feel it strongly, walk with us."

The bara (shell hook) has been selected as the icon for the walk to be used on wayfinding and other communications materials. The proposed name is now referred to Council for endorsement.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse "Yananurala" as the new name for the Harbour Walk, acknowledging the significance of naming the walk identified as the first project in the Harbour Walk Storytelling Report endorsed by Council in December 2019;
- (B) note that the name has been identified and approved through consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and linguist experts as required by the previous resolution of Council; and
- (C) endorse the implementation of this name across wayfinding, in coordination with land-owners, and relevant communications materials.

Attachments

Attachment A. Letter from the City of Sydney to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

Attachment B. Letter of Support and Approval for the Name Yananurala from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

Attachment C. Map Showing the Current Extent of Yananurala (Walking on Country) and Proposed Locations of Interpretive Signage

Background

1. The idea of creating a Gadigal name for the Harbour Walk was supported by the City of Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel in early 2019.
2. In December 2019, Council endorsed the Harbour Walk Storytelling Report by Wiradjuri curator Emily McDaniel.
3. The Harbour Walk Storytelling Report noted that, "(c)reating an Aboriginal name for this walk from the Sydney language..., will give Aboriginal people a greater sense of being recognised in Sydney where to date it has been hard to see this recognition, particularly along the harbour foreshore, despite the significant history of the place." (page 32)
4. The Harbour Walk Storytelling Report recommended that "a culturally appropriate process be undertaken to create an evocative and inspiring name for the Harbour Walk that involves the engagement of a group of local Aboriginal Elders and leaders, and a qualified linguist to respond to the themes and stories identified in the report.
5. It was also recommended that this process "be undertaken in consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and that a recommended name be presented to the City of Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel for their endorsement on behalf of Council."

Community Consultation

6. Over the last 18 months, the City has coordinated culturally appropriate consultation to develop a name for the Harbour Walk. Consultation has involved, at different times, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel, linguist Professor Jakelin Troy, Aboriginal curators Emily McDaniel and Hetti Perkins, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, and Place Management NSW. Senior Indigenous staff for these agencies and organisation have collaborated with the City throughout this process.
7. A shortlist of names was presented to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council on 1 June 2020. Following this cultural advice, further research was undertaken and a preferred name selected, along with the development of an additional phrase in language.
8. In March 2021, the City of Sydney Chief Executive Officer wrote to and met with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to seek their support given their involvement in the process to date and the significance of the project for Sydney and First Nations people.
9. On 11 March 2021, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) Chief Executive Officer Nathan Moran wrote to the City of Sydney noting that the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council supports and approves the City of Sydney Council's request to use "Yananurala" for the Eora Journey Harbour Walk project.
10. This letter also affirmed Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council support and approval for the use of the additional phrase and translation for signage and relevant material to provide additional information about the walk. The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council commended the City for consulting with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council on the Eora Journey Harbour Walk project. They committed to continued involvement in the project.

11. In April 2021, the City of Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel were briefed on the final naming proposal including the consultation process and support from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council for the name.
12. The Chief Executive Officer and City staff have subsequently engaged with key State Government stakeholders on the harbour foreshore, including Chief Executive Officers and Indigenous staff from the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain, Sydney Opera House, Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Contemporary Art, Barangaroo (INSW), and Placemaking NSW who have indicated their support for the proposed name.

City of Sydney Naming Policy

13. The proposed name and approach have been reviewed in relation to the City of Sydney's Naming Policy. The policy provides clear direction for the naming of suburbs, roads, parks, open spaces, places and buildings that are owned, operated or managed by the City of Sydney.
14. There is no naming category in the policy for a cultural walk within the policy.
15. There is no requirement or provision under legislation to register the name with the Geographical Names Board. The naming proposal is not required to go on public exhibition.
16. While the category of a culture walk is not covered by existing policies and legislation, the naming of the Harbour Walk has taken into account key principles in the City of Sydney Naming Policy.
 - (a) Principle 1 – Names must be meaningful, clear and concise

The name Yaranurala is meaningful, clear and concise and reflects the location and purpose for which it is to be applied.
 - (b) Principle 2 – Names must have local or cultural relevance

The name has local Aboriginal cultural relevance and reflects the heritage and history of the community and the landscape.
 - (c) Principle 3 – Aboriginal names are encouraged

The name and the naming process aligns with the policy for using Aboriginal words for naming. The name has been created from records of the Gadigal language and has been chosen in consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel.
17. The City's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, Action 10.1 aims to "Implement the City's Naming Policy to better acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories." The proposed name for the Harbour Walk supports this action.
18. Many of the place names along the walk have dual names already endorsed by the Geographical Names Board. The Harbour Walk will celebrate these dual names.

Application of the name

19. While the pathway of the walk crosses different jurisdictions, the signage and artworks forming part of the Harbour Walk will become assets of the City of Sydney. Naming, signage and wayfinding should conform with the City of Sydney's policies. Further development on the use of the name for the purposes of communications will need to be undertaken. A working group across government agencies to coordinate the Harbour Walk project is being established.
20. The name Yananurala is the principal name for the walk and will be used in all signage, collateral and promotional materials.
21. The translation "Walking on Country" will be applied to interpretive signage at key locations on the walk and may be applied by the City and other landowners on other forms of signage, collateral and digital platforms to be developed.
22. The following additional phrase and its translation is proposed to be added to interpretive signage and other relevant material to provide additional information about the walk -
23. "Yanala ngarala gadinurada. Yururala, yana yuramirung / Walk, think, listen, hear on Gadi Country. Feel it strongly, walk with us."
24. An icon has also been selected to assist with the identity and branding of the walk. The icon is a bara (shell hook). It will be applied to signage and potentially other collateral.
25. The selection of the bara icon for use on wayfinding is reinforced by the creation of bara, Monument for the Eora by Waanyi artist Judy Watson, soon to be launched at Dubbagullee (Bennelong Point) overlooking Warrane (Circular Quay).

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

26. 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 Harbour Walk with a Sydney Aboriginal name will assist in wayfinding and will facilitate recognition and visitation. The inclusion of the icon will enhance this recognition and can be deployed separately inground and on existing wayfinding pylons to facilitate wayfinding further.
 - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - naming the Harbour Walk with a Sydney Aboriginal name will raise awareness and promote visitation to the harbour precinct and to nearby cultural organisations and businesses such as cafes and restaurants.
 - (c) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City - naming the Harbour Walk with a Sydney Aboriginal name recognises the significance of Aboriginal culture and heritage on the harbour foreshore where it has largely been unrecognised.

Organisational Impact

27. Naming the Harbour Walk with a Sydney Aboriginal name will have minimal organisational impact. Resourcing for implementation is in development.

Social / Cultural / Community

28. Naming the Harbour Walk with a Sydney Aboriginal name, "Yananurala", will bring visibility to the continuing living culture of the Gadigal people. It is a name that invites all people who visit there to connect with country and will increase understanding of the place and respect of First Nations peoples and cultures.

Economic

29. Naming of the Harbour Walk with a Sydney Aboriginal name will generate a positive effect by facilitating increased visitation to the harbour foreshore and surrounding businesses.
30. Since 2017, the City has been working in partnership with Place Management NSW to realise aspects of the Harbour Walk. The endorsement of "Yananurala" as the Harbour Walk name will enable Placemaking NSW to develop other aspects of the walk and marketing to promote the walk, in addition to the City's channels.

Financial Implications

31. There are no additional financial implications associated with this naming proposal.
32. Funding is available in the current Wayfinding budget to produce interpretive signage at 12 locations along the harbour foreshore.

Relevant Legislation

33. The recommended name, if supported by Council, will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board NSW for consideration and assessment in accordance with their process for the naming of public places.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

34. Installation of prototype interpretive signage late 2021.
35. Launch of "bara" late 2021 (subject to public health restrictions).
36. Naming the Harbour Walk will complement the launch of bara.

Options

37. Council could request further consultation and advice on the name and alternatives.
38. This is not the preferred option as the process has already involved significant input, and received support, from the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, Sydney Elders and the City's Advisory Panel and is founded in rigorous cultural research.

Public Consultation

39. If endorsed by Council, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders including Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory panel and Sydney Elders as well as Place Management NSW and cultural institutions on the walk will be notified.
40. The City will continue to work with these stakeholders to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the development of the project, including ways to publicly share the name and its meaning.
41. A working group across government agencies to coordinate the Harbour Walk project will be established. This group will include senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in these agencies.

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