

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X039568 **DATE:** 19 August 2022

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Kate Deacon, Director Strategic Development and Engagement

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.5 - Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Two New Lanes at 180 George Street, Sydney

Alternative Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) ~~provide in-principle approval to name the east-west aligned lane "Crane Place" and that the name be placed on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum period of 28 days;~~
- (B) ~~provide in-principle approval to name the northeast-southwest aligned lane "Cabinetmaker Place" and that the name be placed on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum period of 28 days;~~
- (A) ***endorse the public exhibition of the proposal to name the east-west aligned lane "Crane Place" for a minimum period of 28 days for the purposes of receiving community comment;***
- (B) ***endorse the public exhibition of the proposal to name the southwest-northeast aligned lane "Cabinetmaker Place" for a minimum period of 28 days for the purposes of receiving community comment;***
- (C) note that a further report will be submitted to Council, detailing the results of the public consultation process;
- (D) note the stakeholder consultation process to be undertaken for the naming of the new public plaza; and
- (E) note that a further report be submitted to Council to seek in-principle support for the name of the plaza to go on public exhibition for 28-days.

Additions in ***bold italics***, deletions in ~~strike through~~.

Purpose

To provide further information on the naming of roads in the City and an alternative recommendation for consideration following discussion at the Committee meeting.

Background

The naming of roads is governed by the NSW Geographical Names Board's Address Policy and Users Manual and the Roads Regulation 2018.

The most important function of road naming is the addressing function. It is critical that mail and delivery services, people and most importantly emergency services can find an address quickly. It is why duplication is a concern for the Geographical Names Board as well as names made up of multiple words. They also look at whether the name will be effective in terms of people communicating and searching for the address. It is important that names are recognisable as street names and do not create confusion or misinterpretation.

The NSW Geographical Names Board, in general, disallows street names that include a first and second name. The City has raised the fact with the Geographical Names Board that this can preclude names from non-Western languages and have asked for greater flexibility to allow names from other languages to be considered.

When using historical business names, research is undertaken by the City Historian to establish historical details about the businesses and their significance - presence, reputation, longevity, and connections to community. Multiple sources are used.

Chinese business names for Cabinetmaker Place

The Chinese businesses historically located on Lower George Street in the 1880s that were considered were:

Loon Cheong & Co – a prominent cabinetmaking business that exhibited in the Sydney International Exhibition. Unfortunately, historical research found that one of the owners was convicted of fraud and this means the name may fail the good character test.

Way Hap – cabinetmaker. Cannot be used because Way is a street naming suffix.

Way Kee & Coy – long-established importer, merchant and community leader, whose funeral in 1892 stopped Sydney traffic. Cannot be used because Way is a street name suffix.

Gee Ick & Co – long-established importers and merchants originally based on the site (next the Loon Cheong) on Lower George Street and later moved to Hay Street. May fail the Geographical Names Board's test for pronunciation and could be misheard or misinterpreted.

Ah Toy – Ah Toy was a large and successful furniture business located slightly further south but not on the actual site. There is interpretation celebrating the history of the Ah Toy business in the EY building at 200 George Street where the business was located.

Many Chinese businesses were partnerships, with multiple names used as business name. Under the Geographical Names Board criteria we are limited to using up to two words. It is not accurate or respectful to split a business name and use half of it to name the lane.

Given the difficulties in meeting the Geographical Names Board's criteria, and a desire to recognise a significant Chinese presence and industry in the area, it was felt that the most respectful way to communicate the relationship the Chinese community had with the area was to name the lane after the business activities on the site, not an individual business.

Crane Place

Crane Place is an historical name and this presents a strong argument to the Geographical Names Board for reinstating the name. In addition, the business was on the site for 80 years and during this time contributed to the fabric of buildings in Sydney including places of public significance such as St Mary's Cathedral and the Central Station indicator board.

A variety of other names with historical links to the site were considered including Rugby Place, Ironworkers Place and Blue Anchor Place. However, all had issues with overcoming the Geographical Names Board rules (they have similar sounding names within 10kms). It was also felt that these names didn't have the same historical links to the lane.

Notifying the Community

Once endorsed by Council to go on public exhibition, the proposed names will be available for community feedback on sydneyyoursay.com.au. We will notify property and business owners and operators around the lanes. A City of Sydney news story, Sydney Your Say email, information to the media and via social media will be used to invite feedback from the community. The public exhibition will be open for 28 days for feedback.

Memo from Kate Deacon, Director Strategic Development and Engagement

Prepared by: Yvette Andrews, Manager City Engagement

Approved



MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer