

Post Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Mount Carmel Place, Waterloo

File No: X084997

Summary

In August 2021, Sydney City South Parish Priest Fr Paul Smithers wrote to the City of Sydney to request formal recognition of a small lane in Waterloo as "Mount Carmel Way". The City's internal Naming Proposals Working Group considered the request to ensure it aligned with naming standards and the City's Naming Policy.

To formally register the name with the NSW Geographical Names Board and meet its current standards, the City will not be able to use the road suffix type "Way"; the road will need to be named "Mount Carmel Place". This name has been tested on the NSW Place and Road Naming Portal and has been given pre-approval status acknowledging it meets their standards.

The City undertook community consultation on the proposed name "Mount Carmel Place" from 3 May to 9 June 2023.

The majority of feedback from the community supported the proposed name on the grounds that it was an appropriate name for this location, that this name reflected the history of the area and that its formal registration would make it easier for emergency services/tradespeople /road assistance to more easily locate it.

It is recommended that Council support the naming of the road "Mount Carmel Place" for the road that runs along the rear boundary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School from Kellick Street through Waterloo Park, Waterloo.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the name "Mount Carmel Place"; and
- (B) an application be made to the Geographical Names Board for the naming of the place as approved in (A), in accordance with the Geographical Names Act 1996.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Map Showing the Location of the Road
- Attachment B.** Historical Justification
- Attachment C.** 3 April 2023 Resolution of Council
- Attachment D.** Engagement Report

Background

1. As part of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School sesquicentenary celebrations in 2008, Council resolved on 2 June 2008 to approach the Crown Lands office to seek their endorsement and ratification of the naming of the service lane in Waterloo Park to "Mount Carmel Way".
2. The NSW Geographical Names Board was approached about naming the service roadway, however, as it is a private road, it was not formally gazetted at the time.
3. A sign identifying the road as Mount Carmel Way was installed by City staff.
4. In August 2021, Sydney City South Parish Priest Fr Paul Smithers wrote to the City of Sydney to request formal recognition of the small lane that runs along the boundary of the school with Waterloo Park, Waterloo, as "Mount Carmel Way". The road leads to the Priest's residence and a back entrance to the school. Fr Smithers proposed that formally registering the name will ensure it is in databases used by emergency services and would improve safety for those using the road.
5. After investigation into the background, current naming standards and policies, and the 2008 Resolution of Council to name the road, the City's internal Naming Proposal Working Group agreed to respond to the request from the school community to commence the process to formalise "Mount Carmel Place" at its September 2021 meeting.
6. The proposed name aligns with Principle 1 of the Naming Policy: names must be meaningful, clear and concise, and can reflect the location and purpose; and principle 2: names must have local or cultural relevance, reflecting the heritage and history of local people, events, the community or landscape. The name is also in common usage.
7. The road is technically a private access road on Crown Land (Waterloo Park). It is only used to access the rear of the school property and the Priest's residence.
8. Under the new NSW Place and Road Naming Proposal System, private roads can be registered and (if they comply with standards) can be endorsed by the NSW Geographical Names Board and included in the official list of road names (Gazetteer of Road Names).
9. The City of Sydney is the responsible authority for managing Waterloo Park and may legally name the private road.
10. To formally register the name with the NSW Geographical Names Board and meet its current standards, the City will not be able to use the road suffix type "Way"; because the road is not a thoroughfare to another street. The road will need to be named "Mount Carmel Place".
11. The name "Mount Carmel Place" has been tested on the NSW Place and Road Naming Portal and has been given pre-approval status acknowledging it meets their standards.
12. Mount Carmel Place recognises the long historical association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and School in the district of Waterloo. Further details on the history of the site are provided in Attachment B.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

13. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. 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 1 - Responsible governance and stewardship - formally naming the lane will ensure its gazettal and recognition with the NSW Geographical Names Board.
 - (b) Direction 4 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - formally naming the lane will assist in wayfinding.

Organisational Impact

14. Naming of the road will have minimal organisational impact. Signage will be installed once the name is gazetted.

Social / Cultural / Community

15. The community had an opportunity to comment on the naming proposal for the road during the exhibition period. The name acknowledges the social and cultural history of the site.

Financial Implications

16. There are funds available in the 2023/24 operational budget for the installation of signage for the road.

Relevant Legislation

17. 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.

Public Consultation

18. As the authority responsible for Road Naming, the City has sought feedback from the community on the proposed names.
19. The naming proposal was placed on public exhibition from 3 May to 9 June 2023. It was placed on the Sydney Your Say website with a survey feedback form, a letter was sent to 867 properties surrounding the site, a public notice was placed on site and it was included in two editions of the Sydney Your Say email newsletter.

20. A total of 22 submissions were received.
21. The majority of people supported the proposed name 'Mount Carmel Place'. Overall, 18 people (82 per cent) supported the proposed name and four people (18 per cent) did not support it.
22. People were given the option to comment on why they supported or did not support the proposed name. Reasons given in support of the proposal included:
 - (a) Important to officially name road so emergency services/tradespeople/road assistance can more easily locate it.
 - (b) Appropriate name for this location.
 - (c) This name reflects the history of the area.
23. Reasons given in objection to the proposal included:
 - (a) Disagree with a name that is associated with a Catholic institution or religion.
 - (b) Prefer the road be given an Indigenous name.

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