

Item 7.

Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Heckle Lane

File No: X102587.002

Summary

This report recommends that Council supports the name "Heckle Lane" for this unnamed lane off Waterloo Street in Surry Hills.

This lane was created through a subdivision in the mid-1870s and has never been named.

The name "Heckle Lane" recognises the historical activity of political candidates in local and state elections holding public meetings on the balcony of the Clarendon Hotel, with members of the public heckling them from below. The Clarendon Hotel (since renamed Dove and Olive Hotel) is on the southern corner of Waterloo and Devonshire streets, which borders this unnamed lane.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name this unnamed lane off Waterloo Street in Surry Hills "Heckle Lane", 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 Location of Road

Attachment B. Heckle Lane - Historical Justification

Background

1. This lane was created through a subdivision in the mid-1870s and has never been named.
2. It is a public road that Council is responsible for maintaining and naming.
3. The recent approval of a development proposal means that a street address will need to be assigned to this thoroughfare. This unnamed laneway needs to be officially named to assign this street address.
4. After historical research conducted by the City of Sydney's History team the Naming Proposals Working Group have recommended the name "Heckle Lane". To read the full historical justification please refer to Attachment B: "Heckle Lane" - Historical Justification."
5. The proposed name complies with the City of Sydney Naming Policy. Specifically: Principle 1: Meaningful - it is meaningful, clear and concise, and reflects its location; Principle 2: Uniqueness - duplication is avoided within a 10-kilometre radius; Principle 6: Local or Cultural Relevance - the name has local relevance, reflecting the heritage and history of people, events, and the community, and Principle 9: Syntax - the name is easy to pronounce and recall.
6. The Naming Proposal Working Group did explore the use of local Aboriginal Language for this lane, as per Principle 4, which states: "New names using local Aboriginal language are encouraged, especially for parks and open spaces, and shall be in the local Gadigal language. Such names must be applied meaningfully and respond to Country or culture."
7. The City Historian investigated if local Aboriginal communities had any significant historical connections to the political activities undertaken in the Clarendon Hotel. Research confirmed that there were no mentions of the makeup of the audiences of the political rallies at the Clarendon Hotel or specific references to Aboriginal matters or rights in the speeches given.
8. "Heckle Lane" has received pre-approval status with the Geographical Names Board. This means that the proposed name complies with the Geographical Names Board's requirements for language use for road names and that there are no duplication issues with this name. It has been thereby reserved for City of Sydney use as a road name for a period of two years.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

9. 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 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - formally naming the lane will assist in wayfinding and community addressing.

Organisational Impact

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

Risks

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

Social / Cultural / Community

12. The community have an opportunity to comment on the naming proposal during the exhibition period.

Financial Implications

13. There are funds available in the 2024/25 operational budget, for the installation of street signage.

Relevant Legislation

14. The Geographic Names Act 1966 (NSW) and Geographical Names Board Guidelines - the recommended name complies with this legislation and meets the Geographical Names Board Guidelines.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

15. Should Council approve the name, a formal naming application will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board for consideration.

Public Consultation

16. The current 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.
17. The naming proposal will be advertised on the Sydney Your Say website, notices will be letterboxed to surrounding properties and there will be a public notice on site.
18. If Council approves the name, an application will be made to the Geographical Names Board for gazettal.

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