

Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Frog Lane

File No: X102587.002

Summary

This report recommends that Council supports the name "Frog Lane" for this unnamed lane that borders 811 Elizabeth Street, Zetland.

This new lane was created as the result of a development in 2018 and borders 811 Elizabeth Street, Zetland.

The name "Frog Lane" recognises the Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) that was once widespread in the wetlands that covered the southern suburbs of Sydney.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name this unnamed lane that borders 811 Elizabeth Street, Zetland as "Frog 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. Frog Lane - Historical Justification

Background

1. This new lane was created as the result of a development in 2018 and borders 811 Elizabeth Street, Zetland.
2. The lane was dedicated to the City of Sydney as a public road in 2021.
3. The name "Frog Lane" has been in unofficial use since 2021 for this pedestrian and bicycle thoroughfare.
4. The name "Frog Lane" recognises the Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*) that was once widespread in the wetlands that covered the southern suburbs of Sydney.
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 the animals within the local landscape 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, specifically investigating if there is a Gadigal word for "Frog", 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 primary reference for local Sydney Aboriginal language is Jakelin Troy's *The Sydney Language*. This is a compilation of local Aboriginal word lists from Sydney that have been recorded from the time of the First Fleet onwards. The translation for "frog" in this book, "gung-gung", is derived from R.H. Mathews' (1903) word list. This word list was published over 100 years after invasion and for this reason it is not known or guaranteed that this translation of "frog" is a Gadigal word. There are no other translations for frogs or specific species of frogs at this time in Gadigal language that we know of.
8. The City of Sydney's History team has provided this information on the Green and Golden Bell Frog and supports the naming of the laneway as Frog Lane. To read the full historical justification please refer to Attachment B: "Frog Lane" - Historical Justification.
9. "Frog 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

10. 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

11. The City will ensure signage is installed once the name is gazetted. It will have minimal organisational impact.

Risks

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

Social / Cultural / Community

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

Financial Implications

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

Relevant Legislation

15. 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

16. If Council approves the name, an application will be made to the Geographical Names Board for gazettal.

Public Consultation

17. The current process for naming of roads 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.
18. 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.
19. If Council approves the name, an application will be made to the Geographical Names Board for gazettal.

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