

Post Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Heckle Lane

File No: X101378

Summary

This report recommends that Council supports the name "Heckle Lane" for this unnamed lane off Waterloo Street in Surry Hills in accordance with the City of Sydney Naming Policy.

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.

Community consultation was held between 10 March and the 7 April 2025 on the proposed name. Submissions were received from 7 people and 6 submitters supported the proposed name.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the adoption of the name "Heckle Lane" for the road identified in Attachment A to the subject report; 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 Location of Road
- Attachment B.** Heckle Lane - Historical Justification
- Attachment C.** Community Engagement Report

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.
9. Community consultation was held between 10 March and the 7 April on the proposed name. Submissions were received from 7 people and 6 submitters supported the proposed name.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

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. The proposed naming is consistent with the City of Sydney Naming Policy and has undergone community consultation. Pre-approval status for the name "Heckle Lane" has also been given by the Geographical Names Board.
- 12. This naming proposal is consistent with the City of Sydney's risk appetite, specifically that:
 - we make decisions that align with our corporate objectives, policies and strategies.
 - we are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.

Social / Cultural / Community

- 13. The name has local relevance, reflecting the heritage and history of people, events, and the community.

Financial Implications

- 14. There are sufficient funds available in the 2025/26 operational budget, for the installation of street signage.

Relevant Legislation

- 15. The NSW Local Government Act 1993, 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. Should Council approve the name, a formal naming application will be submitted to the Geographical Names Board for consideration.

Public Consultation

17. Community consultation was run between 10 March to the 7 April 2025 regarding the proposed name.
18. 1,941 letters notifying local residents and businesses about the proposed name and consultation were delivered. Signage was also installed locally to inform the community.
19. The Sydney Your Say web page provided information on the location and historical justification of the proposed name as downloadable documents.
20. The Sydney Your Say page received 150 views during the consultation period and documents were downloaded from the web page 24 times.
21. 7 submissions were received in relation to the proposed name.
22. 6 of the respondents supported the proposed name.
23. The most common reasons given in support of the proposed name were:
 - Name is of local historical significance and fosters storytelling (4 comments)
 - Name reflects the character of the area (3 comments)
 - Name will improve wayfinding (1 comment)
24. The reason given in opposition to the name was:
 - opposes a name that is about heckling people (1 comment)
24. More information about the community engagement can be found in: Attachment C. Community Engagement Report.
25. If Council approves the name, an application will be made to the Geographical Names Board for gazettal. As part of this process the Geographical Names Board will also notify the public through their website as part of their routine procedure for the naming of roads. If objections are raised, the proposal is returned to Council for further comment or amendment if required.

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