

Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Guru Nura Path

File No: X108806

Summary

Queens Court is currently a small cul-de-sac in the Sydney CBD near Circular Quay. As part of the redevelopment of 55 Pitt Street by Mirvac, this cul-de-sac will be transformed into a pedestrian thoroughfare extending from Dalley Street to Underwood Street.

This new thoroughfare requires naming. Naming this space is important for wayfinding and access for emergency vehicles.

The City of Sydney have worked with Mirvac and their Indigenous consultancy, Balarinji, the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to develop the name "Guru Nura Path". Guru Nura are local Gadigal language words which translate as 'deep water country', referencing the nearby Tank Stream waterway.

The City of Sydney is committed to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and history in the public domain. Principle 4 of the City of Sydney naming policy states that new names using local Aboriginal language are encouraged, and shall be in the local Gadigal language.

This report recommends that, subject to community consultation, Council provide in-principle approval to name this thoroughfare: "Guru Nura Path".

The proposed name complies with the City of Sydney naming policy.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) provide in-principle approval to name the thoroughfare "Guru Nura Path" and that the name be placed on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum period of 28 days
- (B) note that a further report will be submitted to Council, detailing the results of the public consultation process.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Naming justification - Mirvac QC
- Attachment B.** Map showing current location of Queens Court
- Attachment C.** Map showing location of pedestrian throughway
- Attachment D.** Map showing development outline for new pedestrian thoroughfare

Background

1. Queens Court is currently a small cul-de-sac in the Sydney CBD near Circular Quay. As part of the redevelopment of 55 Pitt Street by Mirvac, this cul-de-sac will be transformed into a pedestrian thoroughfare extending from Dalley Street to Underwood Street. It will have a major wall-based floral artwork by Indigenous artist Danie Mellor on one side and retail premises on the other.
2. This new thoroughfare requires naming. Naming this space is important for wayfinding and access for emergency vehicles. For information about the location and development footprint of pedestrian thoroughfare see Attachments B, C and D.
3. The City of Sydney have worked with Mirvac and their Indigenous consultancy, Balarinji, the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council to develop the name "Guru Nura Path".
4. 'Guru' is the word for 'deep water' and 'Nura' is the word for 'Country', both from the local Gadigal Language. This name, translated as 'Deep Water Country' Path references the Tank Stream waterway which flowed nearby. These words were sourced from Jakelin Troy's *The Sydney Language*. See Attachment A for further details.
5. "Guru Nura Path" is supported by the City of Sydney's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and has been approved by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
6. The proposed name complies with the City of Sydney naming policy. Specifically:
 - (a) Principle 2: Uniqueness - duplication is avoided with other existing names in a 10km radius.
 - (b) Principle 3: Diversity - This name acknowledges the multicultural nature of our society. Inclusiveness and addressing the imbalance of previous approaches are significant priorities for new names.
 - (c) Principle 4: Aboriginal Language - New names using local Aboriginal language are encouraged and shall be in the local Gadigal language.
 - (d) Principle 6: Local or Cultural Relevance - the name has local relevance, reflecting the proximity of the new pathway to the Tank Stream waterway.
7. The name has been pre-approved by the NSW Geographical Names Board.

Key implications

Strategic alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

8. 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 plaza 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 path will assist in wayfinding.
 - (c) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural and creative life - supports recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage and history in public spaces and streets.

Organisational impact

9. Naming the path will have minimal organisational impact. Signage will be installed once the name is gazetted.

Risks

10. This naming proposal is within the City's risk appetite:
 - It helps to ensure public safety and meet community expectations by assisting with wayfinding.
 - It ensures we comply with our legal and regulatory requirements.
 - It supports the achievement of our strategic objectives.

Social / Cultural / Community

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

Financial implications

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

Relevant legislation

13. 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.

Critical dates / Time frames

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

Public consultation

15. The 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 proposal/s with a minimum 28-day response time
 - (c) Council approval following community consultation
 - (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board of NSW through its formal application process
 - (e) final approval by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette.
16. 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.
17. If Council approves the name, an application will be made to the Geographical Names Board for gazettal.

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