

Public Exhibition – Naming Proposal – Ngana Gili Plaza, Sydney

File No: X086317.001

Summary

The plaza in front of the new Salesforce tower at 180 George Street is defined by the public artwork of Indigenous artist Daniel Boyd. The artwork is a canopy suspended above the plaza. This new plaza requires naming.

Daniel Boyd has suggested the Gadigal language words – “ngana” “gili” to name this plaza. “Ngana gili” (pronounced nga-nah-gilly - note: ‘ng’ is pronounced as in the word sing) translates as “black light”. This name references astronomy and the movement of light and moonlight seen through the circles cut out of the artwork’s black canopy.

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, especially for parks and open spaces like this plaza, and shall be in the local Gadigal language.

This report recommends that, subject to community consultation, Council provide in-principle approval to name this plaza: “Ngana gili Plaza”.

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

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council provide in-principle approval to name the name “Ngana gili Plaza” and that the name be placed on public exhibition for community comment for a minimum period of 28 days; and
- (B) note that a further report will be submitted to Council, detailing the results of the public consultation process.

Attachments

Attachment A. Map Showing Location of the Plaza

Background

1. The plaza in front of the new Salesforce tower at 180 George Street is defined by the public artwork of Indigenous artist Daniel Boyd. The artwork is a canopy suspended above the plaza. This new plaza requires naming.
2. Daniel Boyd has suggested the local Aboriginal language words – “ngana” “gili” to name this plaza. “Ngana gili” translates as “black light”. “Ngana” and “gili” are Gadigal words, documented in Jakelin Troy’s book *The Sydney Language*.
3. This name references astronomy and the movement of light and moonlight seen through the circles cut out of the artwork’s black canopy.
4. The proposed name complies with the City of Sydney naming policy. Specifically:
 - Principle 2: Uniqueness - duplication is avoided with other existing names in a 10-kilometre radius.
 - Principle 3: This name acknowledges the multicultural nature of our society. Inclusiveness and addressing the imbalance of previous approaches are significant priorities for new names.
 - Principle 4: New names using local Aboriginal language are encouraged, especially for parks and open spaces like this plaza, and shall be in the local Gadigal language.
 - Principle 6: Local or Cultural Relevance - the name has local relevance, reflecting the meaning behind a significant new Aboriginal artwork and the astronomical ideas that inspired it.
5. On 13 November 2024 the name was presented to the City’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel and they were supportive of the name.
6. On 15 November 2024 the name was approved by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
7. Naming this plaza is important for wayfinding and access for emergency vehicles.

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 plaza 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 plaza will have minimal organisational impact. Signage will be installed once the name is gazetted.

Risks

10. There are no identified risks associated with the naming proposal.
11. 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; and
 - it supports the achievement of our strategic objectives.

Social / Cultural / Community

12. The community will 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 names comply with this legislation and meet 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 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) 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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