

Public Exhibition - Naming Proposal - Wiriyagan Place, Alexandria

File No: X092423

Summary

As part of the development of the Alexandria Canal Depot, a new private road was built and requires naming.

This report recommends that, subject to community consultation, Council provide in-principle approval to name a private road on this site "Wiriyagan Place".

Wiriyagan (pronounced wirr-ie-yay-gan) is a Gadigal word, documented in Jakelin Troy's book *The Sydney Language*, describing a low-growing fruit-bearing tree, either a prostrate banksia or a melaleuca.

The use of Gadigal language and the choice of a resilient local endemic plant shows respect to the men and women including Aboriginal staff who work at the depot and who care for the trees throughout our city.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Sydney naming policy.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) provide in-principle approval to name the road "Wiriyagan Place" 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 Road

Background

1. As part of the development of the Alexandra Canal Depot, a new private road was built to connect the depot with Bourke Road, Alexandria.
2. This is a private road that Council is responsible for maintaining and naming.
3. Staff at the depot strongly supported recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture at the facility through the naming of rooms and through artworks.
4. "Wiriyagan" is a Gadigal word, documented in Jakelin Troy's book *The Sydney Language*. It describes a low-growing fruit-bearing tree, a prostrate banksia or a melaleuca.
5. The use of Gadigal language, and the choice of a resilient local endemic plant species, shows respect to the men and women, including Aboriginal staff, who work at Alexandra Canal Depot. These staff members are directly involved in Caring for Country, including maintaining the trees and streets throughout our city.
6. 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, and shall be in the local Gadigal language.
 - Principle 6: Local or Cultural Relevance - the name has local relevance, reflecting the heritage and history of the local landscape and its plants.
 - Principle 13: This name conforms to the Geographical Names Board policies on addressing and place names as evidenced by the fact that "Wiriyagan Place" has received in-principle approval from the Geographical Names Board.
7. 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.
8. On 15 November 2024, the name was approved by the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council.
9. "Wiriyagan Place" 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 2 years.
10. Naming this private road is important for wayfinding and access for emergency vehicles.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

11. 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 road will assist in wayfinding.

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

12. Naming this road will have minimal organisational impact. Signage will be installed once the name is gazetted.

Risks

13. There are no identified risks associated with the naming proposal.
14. 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

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

Financial Implications

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

Relevant Legislation

17. 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

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

Public Consultation

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. If Council approves the name, an application will be made to the Geographical Names Board for gazettal.

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