

Attachment C

Community Engagement Report

Engagement report – Heckle Lane



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Overview

Project background



A lane off Waterloo Street in Surry Hills (highlighted above) was created through a subdivision in the mid-1870s and has never been named.

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.

The proposed 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.

This report outlines the outcomes of the community consultation into the proposed name from the 10 March to the 7 April 2025.

Purpose of engagement

To notify the community of the proposal to name this lane Heckle Lane and to gather feedback to determine community sentiment towards this proposal through multiple channels: online, onsite notices and physical letters.

Engagement findings summary

Overall sentiment

A large majority of respondents (86%), supported the proposed name.

The Dove and Olive Hotel which adjoins the lane was one of the supportive submitters.

Outcomes of engagement

We received a total of **7 submissions** during the consultation.

The Sydney Your Say page was visited 151 times during the public exhibition period.

Quantity	Description of activity
7	Total submissions received
4	Survey submissions
3	Written submissions received via emailed
151	Sydney Your Say webpage visits
23	Document downloads

Demographic data

Demographic data was captured from 4 of the consultation respondents.

Age

1 respondent was in the age range of 35 to 44, 1 was between the ages 45 and 54 and 2 were aged 65 or older.

Gender

1 woman and 3 men participated in the consultation.

Relationship to the area

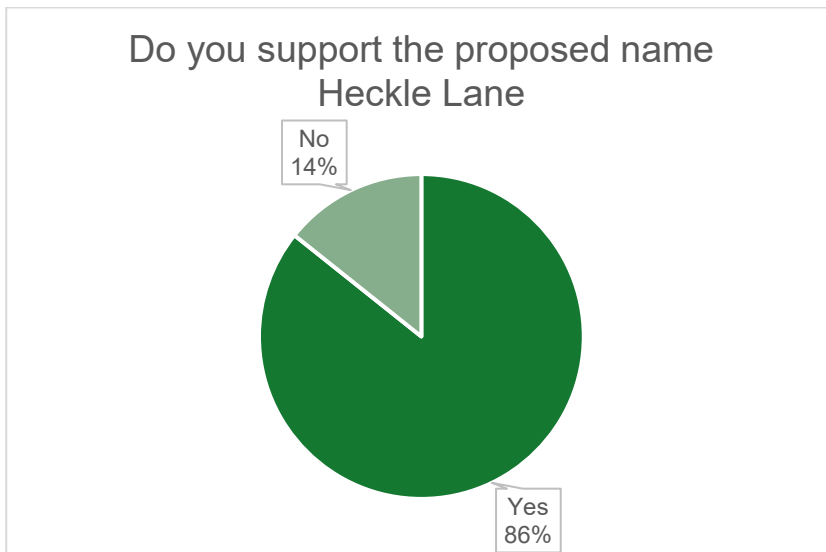
All 4 of these respondents live in the area. 3 also own property in the area and 2 also work in the area.

Key findings

Overall sentiment

A strong majority of people supported the proposed name.

Overall, 6 people (86%) supported the proposed name and 1 person (14%) did not support it.



Why people support or did not support the proposed name

People were given the option to comment on why they supported or did not support the proposed name. People often mentioned more than one reason.

The most common reasons given in support of the proposed name were:

- Name is of local historical significance and fosters storytelling (3 comments)
- Name reflects the character of the area (3 comments)
- Name will improve wayfinding (1 comment)
- Name is interesting (1 comment)

There was one reason given in opposition to the name:

- opposes a name that is about heckling people (1 comment)

Appendices

Appendix A: Communications overview

The following is a snapshot of outcomes of communications activities undertaken to support the consultation. Activities reached a range of audience segments via City of Sydney channels.

Activity	Outcome
Sydney Your Say webpage	151 views
City of Sydney letter (75m radius from grandstand)	To 1941 local residents and businesses on 10 March.
On-street signage	On-street signage was erected in three locations adjacent to the lane.
Sydney Your Say e-news	Consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say e-newsletter on 13 March sent to 5079 subscribers.

Appendix B: Communications activities

Sydney Your Say web page:

Public notices

Your say on the proposed name Heckle Lane

 **Under review**

Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD
10 March 2025 to 7 April 2025

Why we're doing this

This lane was created through subdivision in the mid-1870s and has never been named. It is a public road the City of Sydney is responsible for maintaining and naming.

The recent approval of a development proposal nearby means a street address will need to be assigned. This unnamed lane needs to be officially named to assign this street address.

Gareth Jenkins
SENIOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR - CITY ENGAGEMENT
[Show details](#) ▾

Laila Ellmoos
CITY HISTORIAN
[Show details](#) ▾

What we're doing

The name Heckle Lane recognises the historical activity of political candidates in local and state elections who held public meetings on the balcony of the Clarendon Hotel. Some members of the public heckled them from below.

The Clarendon Hotel, since renamed Dove and Olive Hotel, is on the southern corner of Waterloo and Devonshire streets, which is next to this unnamed lane.

Heckle Lane has received pre-approval status with the Geographical Names Board. This means the proposed name complies with the Geographical Names Board's requirements for language use for road names and there are no duplication issues with this name.

This consultation is the first step in officially naming the lane.

 **Lane location** 

PDF • 173.51 KB • Last modified 10 March 2025

Web page continued:

Next steps

We'll report the results of this consultation to Council for consideration.

How you can give feedback

Consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 7 April 2025.

1 Complete our survey

You'll need to log in with a City of Sydney account to complete the survey. If you don't have an account, it's easy to create one.

2 Email or post your feedback

You can give your feedback by email to sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or post to:

Gareth Jenkins
Senior Community Engagement Coordinator
City of Sydney
456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Other ways you can give feedback

Talk to us in person	✓
If you are Deaf or have complex communication needs	✓
If you need an interpreter	✓

Web page continued:



③ This elevation plan shows the Devonshire Street façade of the Clarendon Hotel with an outline of the original balcony to be demolished and a new awning. The 'Proposed alterations to Clarendon Hotel...for M Halpin Esq.' by architect Francis P Ryan, were approved October 1924. (City of Sydney Archives, A-00556071)

Heckle Lane – historical justification

Heckle Lane is named for 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.

Surry Hills was one of Sydney's most densely populated suburbs at the turn of the 19th century. Its population doubled in the 20 years after 1870, with a peak of 30,000 people living there by 1890. In this year, there were 91 Public houses, or pubs, in Surry Hills.¹ Pubs were a focus for social gatherings for the local community, given that many of the houses were small, damp and mean.

Pubs played an important role in political campaigning in central Sydney in the decades from mid-1880 through until the end of World War 1 when 6 o'clock closing was introduced. Political candidates in municipal elections, and sometimes in state elections, visited pubs in their wards or electorates to speak at public meetings where they spruiked their credentials and canvased for votes. Novelist Kylie Tenant observed that municipal elections captured the exclusive interest of Surry Hills locals at the turn of the century, and that a 'rowdy carnival atmosphere surrounded the street meetings.'²

The Clarendon Hotel, on the corner of Devonshire and Waterloo streets in Surry Hills, was the scene of many boisterous political meetings in the lead up to council elections between 1885 and 1915. Candidates used the hotel to broadcast their candidacy for local and state elections. Newspaper reports document that large crowds gathered outside the pub to watch and listen to potential candidates spruik their credentials. The speakers typically stood on the hotel balcony to address the crowds below.

Web page continued:

During the late 1880s and 1890s, the messaging at these gatherings focussed on municipal matters like lighting and street formation, as well as trade tariffs.³ In 1886 Alderman William Kippax addressed ratepayers from the Clarendon Hotel balcony, stating that it had been 25 years since he first sought election and that he'd played a role in transforming the ward 'from the wilderness it then was into what it was now'.⁴

Throughout Cornelius 'Con' Ryan's tenure as licensee from 1899 to 1909, the gatherings tended to be addressed by candidates aligned to the labour movement. There were also independent candidates, such as Richard Watkins Richards in June 1904, who although 'not a labor nominee ... was pretty well known as the friend of the workers'.⁵

In July 1904, a 'huge, orderly, enthusiastic meeting' took place at the hotel in support of controversial journalist, newspaper proprietor, state politician and local alderman, John Norton. Norton had been a trade union delegate and leading propagandist for the emergent labour movement of the 1880s, and he was later aligned with the conservative Protectionist movement. (In the 19th and early 20th century, there were 2 political parties in NSW that ran with policies based on trade, taxes and tariffs: the Protectionists and the Free Traders). Norton's newspaper, *Truth*, became increasingly popular among the working classes. At a meeting at the Clarendon Hotel on 31 July 1904, Norton condemned the "diabolical tactics" of the supporters of rival alderman, John 'Jack' Waine.⁶

In 1906 the Clarendon Hotel hosted a meeting of a reported 3,000 people who again gathered to see and listen to Norton.⁷ In November 1915, Lord Mayor R W Richards met with 'considerable opposition' when he addressed a meeting from the hotel's balcony, where he was heckled and assailed with questions from aggrieved returned servicemen.⁸

Pub balconies provided an elevated platform for political candidates of all stripes to demonstrate their oratory skills to address the crowds on the streets below, with meetings often held late at night. The popularity of public political meetings arose because much of the population was illiterate in the 19th century, which meant that many people were unable to read broadsheets or tabloids to get their news first-hand. Aside from the printed and spoken word, there were no other ways to receive information.

Factors that contributed to the decline of public political meetings in pubs including early closing in 1916, a rising literacy rate, increasing motor vehicles on the roads, and the replacement of balconies with suspended awnings.

Prepared by the City of Sydney History Team

1. Christopher Keating, *Surry Hills: the city's backyard*, Hale & Ironmonger, 1991, p. 61.
2. Christopher Keating, *Surry Hills: The city's backyard*, Hale & Ironmonger, 1991, p 68.
3. 'South Sydney Election', *Daily Telegraph*, 13 February 1893, 4, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article235947379>.
4. 'Alderman Kippax's Candidature', *The Daily Telegraph*, 25 November 1886, p. 6. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/23931879>.
5. 'Surry-Hills', *Daily Telegraph*, 11 June 1904, 13, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article236880152>.
6. 'Wednesday Night', *Truth*, 31 July 1904, 9, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167893721>; 'John Charles Waine', Sydney's Aldermen, accessed 15 March 2024, <https://www.sydneyaldermen.com.au/alderman/john-waine/>; 'John Norton', Sydney's Aldermen, accessed 15 March 2024, <https://www.sydneyaldermen.com.au/alderman/john-norton/>.
7. 'Mr. Norton's Candidature', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 July 1906, p. 12, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article14787653>.
8. 'Lord Mayor Heckled', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 November 1915, p. 8, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/15622802>.

Sydney Your Say E-newsletter

The proposal was featured in the Sydney Your Say e-newsletter in March 2025

Your say on naming proposals in Zetland and Surry Hills

We invite your feedback on the naming of 2 lanes.

A new lane was created in 2018 after development at 811 Elizabeth Street, Zetland. We propose to call this pedestrian and bicycle thoroughfare Frog Lane.

We also propose to name a lane in Surry Hills as Heckle Lane. It was created through subdivision in the mid-1870s and was never given a name.

Consultations close Monday 7 April.

[Read more](#)

On-site signage



Consultation Letter

A letter from the Executive Director, Strategic Development and Engagement was delivered to 1941 local residents and businesses on 10 March.



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10 March 2025
Our Ref: X116933.007
File No: 2025/135934

Your say on naming Heckle Lane, Surry Hills

We invite your feedback on our proposal to name a lane in Surry Hills, Heckle Lane.

This lane off Waterloo Street, was created through subdivision in the mid-1870s and has never been named. It is a public road the City of Sydney is responsible for maintaining and naming.

The recent approval of a development proposal nearby means a street address will need to be assigned. This unnamed lane needs to be officially named to assign this street address.

The name Heckle Lane recognises the historical activity of political candidates in local and state elections who held public meetings on the balcony of the Clarendon Hotel. Members of the public heckled them from below.

The Clarendon Hotel, since renamed Dove and Olive Hotel, is on the southern corner of Waterloo and Devonshire streets, which is next to this unnamed lane.

Heckle Lane has received pre-approval status with the Geographical Names Board.

Next steps

We will report the results of this consultation to Council for consideration.

You can provide your feedback and find more information about the proposal at sydneyyoursay.com.au

Submissions close at 5pm on Monday 31 March 2025.

You can also email submissions to our senior community engagement coordinator Gareth Jenkins at sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or call 02 9265 9333.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kate Deacon", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Deacon
Executive Director, Strategic Development & Engagement

The City of Sydney acknowledges
the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the
Traditional Custodians of our local area.