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COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE

Our Place, Our Vision – Marrickville Community Strategic Plan 2023	
2.4	Increased awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal Art, Culture and History in Marrickville
2.4.1	Protect Aboriginal Culture and History in Marrickville
2.4.2	Increase public connection and respect for Aboriginal culture and history in Marrickville

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

At the Services Committee on 21 October 2008 (Item NM 29), Council resolved:

THAT relevant Council staff work in conjunction with the Marrickville Aboriginal Consultative Committee (MACC) to:

1. *find appropriate Aboriginal names for the four wards of Marrickville;*
2. *undertake a process to give names of Aboriginal origin to unnamed streets, roads, and lanes;*

The Aboriginal Naming Project had two components: phase one included the co naming of Council wards and phase two includes the Aboriginal naming of unnamed streets, road and lanes in the LGA.

Phase one of the project (co naming of Council wards) was completed in 2012. Phase two included identification of unnamed streets, lanes or roads within LGA and a process for naming them.

At the Infrastructure, Planning and Environmental Services Committee Meeting (April, 2015) Council resolved to:

1. *reconfirm its commitment to naming, renaming or dual naming Council streets and roads to recognise the Traditional Aboriginal Owners of the Marrickville Local Government Area and the contribution of Aboriginal Australians to the Marrickville Local Government Area. This includes through the potential use of Aboriginal language names or the recognition of significant Aboriginal historical figures or events;*
2. *also confirms its ongoing commitment to recognise important historical figures who lived in or contributed to the Marrickville Local Government Area through the naming of local streets and roads, noting that this should not be limited to historical landowners but where possible include others who have made significant contributions to Marrickville’s social and political history;*
3. *seeks the advice of the Marrickville Aboriginal Consultation Committee (the MACC) and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Council in relation to relevant Council naming policies, including but not limited to streets and roads; and*
4. *urgently review the ‘(draft) Naming of Unnamed Roads / Lanes and Renaming of Roads / Lanes’ policy (c2007) in order to reflect these decisions, or develop a replacement policy, to be presented to Council for consideration as soon as possible.*

The objective of this policy is to:

1. provide Council with a process for the application of appropriate Aboriginal words or names for the Aboriginal co-naming of unnamed streets, roads, parks or the naming of Council facilities or rooms as identified;
2. detail the roles of Council, MACC and other stakeholders; and
3. establish an enduring framework that can be revised over time to assist Council to achieve its aims under Our Place, Our Vision – Marrickville Community Strategic Plan 2023.

POLICY STATEMENT

Marrickville Council understands the important role that the Aboriginal naming or co naming of significant places such as parks, unnamed streets, roads or facilities can play towards preserving and promoting Aboriginal culture and heritage in the Marrickville local government area (LGA).

It is one way of acknowledging and respecting the long history and the ongoing connection, custodianship and contribution of Aboriginal people and the local landscape.

SCOPE

This policy may be applicable to Council staff, Councillors, the MACC and other stakeholders working on matters related to Aboriginal naming and co naming.

POLICY

The Role of the Marrickville Aboriginal Consultative Committee (MACC)

The role of the committee is to:

1. *Promote an increased knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal culture and society in the wider community and develop the interests of Aboriginal people in the local area;*
2. *Advise Council on issues relating to Aboriginal people;*
3. *Act as a representative of Council on issues relating to the Aboriginal community; and*
4. *Advise on the development and implementation of Council's Aboriginal Services Strategy under the Belonging In Marrickville Social Plan and other relevant plans.*

As such, the MACC play a fundamental role in working with Council on all Aboriginal naming matters:

- The MACC will be consulted on all Aboriginal naming proposals, and may also put forward their own recommendations;
- The MACC will be given sufficient time to make comment, investigate and discuss all proposals. All applications for dual naming must be formally endorsed by the MACC and recorded in the Committee's minutes;
- All applications must meet the requirements of the associated overarching government Acts;
- The Strategic Community Projects Officer, Aboriginal Inclusion may work with the MACC to seek further support or advice on Aboriginal naming matters from other Aboriginal community members and/or the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council (MLALC);
- The use of 'The Sydney Language' by Jakelin Troy as a source document. This provides Council officers, or the MACC, with the scope to propose a list of names that have been sourced from an approved document (MLALC have confirmed the document's appropriateness);
- In endorsing any proposal to name or co name a site within the local government area, MACC will consider whether the Aboriginal word is culturally appropriate and whether the MACC have any reservations about the proposal in terms of image and/or reputation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of the Marrickville local government area and beyond. For instance, the MACC have agreed that "places should not be given Aboriginal names as quick fixes or easy solutions" (MACC AGM, 22 November 2010).

RELATED LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Geographical Names Act, 1966
- Dual Naming – Supporting Cultural Recognition, Information kit 1 May 2004 (Geographical Names Board of NSW)
- Roads Act, 1993
- Local Government Act, 1993
- Marrickville Council's Our Place, Our Vision – Marrickville Community Strategic Plan 2023
- Marrickville Council's Naming of Unnamed Roads and Lanes Policy, 1997

DEFINITIONS

According to the Geographical Names Board of NSW Dual Naming means “preferencing traditional Aboriginal place names or names with Aboriginal origin wherever it can and restoring traditional Aboriginal names to features with introduced names through its dual naming policy and recognising important traditional Aboriginal placenames alongside longstanding introduced names” (Geographical Names Board, 2004)

Through an extensive and complex consultation process the Aboriginal Naming Project has been called at various stages, ‘dual naming’ and ‘renaming’ of Council Wards. Neither of these terms reflects the original intent of the project. The process of dual naming and renaming of Wards has legal and regulatory implications.

The Geographical Names Board indicates that Dual Naming is a particular term given to geographical features and cultural sites only. This includes rivers, creeks, waterfalls, beaches, harbours, islands, mountains, caves and those cultural and environmental features of significance to the local Indigenous community.

In response to this particular technical significance around Dual Naming, terminology was revised during the Aboriginal Naming Project to the use of ‘Aboriginal naming’ or ‘Co-naming’ to describe when an Aboriginal word ‘to sit side by side’ with existing names.

APPROVALS

The MACC formally approved of this policy at the Committee meeting held on 19 October 2015 and put forward a recommendation for Council to adopt this policy.

REFERENCES

Geographical Names Board: *Preserving the History, Culture and Identity of New South Wales*
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Troy, J. (1994). *The Sydney Language*. Canberra, Australia: Panther Publishing. Available at:
http://spot/teams/commdev/SiteAssets/troy_sydney_language_publication.pdf

POLICY HISTORY:

Version	Summary of Changes Made	Date Changed	Document Reference #
1	Policy adopted by Council at CC0316 Item 5	1 March 2015	25354.16