



# **COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER**

**(CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE)**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**COFF AND CASTLE STREETS, COFFS HARBOUR**

**20 SEPTEMBER 2007**

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# **COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL**

## **SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER**

### **(CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE)**

**20 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Mayor and Councillors

#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

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#### **18 NAMING PROPOSAL FOR HOGBIN DRIVE NORTH ROAD BRIDGE OVER COFFS CREEK**

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##### **Purpose:**

To report on the recommendation of Council's appointed working party on public proposals received for naming the Hogbin Drive North road bridge over Coffs Creek.

##### **Description of Item:**

The working party considered 174 public proposals received and applied the guidelines provided by the Geographical Names Board (GNB) for naming the new bridge.

##### **Sustainability Assessment:**

- **Environment**

There is no environmental impact arising from naming the bridge.

- **Social**

Naming the new bridge would provide recognition of a name of Aboriginal significance. The erection of signage for the bridge would give its name prominence.

## 18 Naming Proposal For Hogbin Drive North Road Bridge Over Coffs Creek ...(Cont'd)

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- **Economic**

### **Broader Economic Implications**

The bridge is positioned on a thoroughfare to be used by locals and tourists. Consequently, signage for the bridge would provide a landmark for passing motorists and pedestrians.

### **Management Plan Implications**

Cost of signage would be met from Council's signage budget.

### **Consultation:**

Council had undertaken public consultation on the naming of the bridge.

### **Related Policy and / or Precedents:**

The GNB *Guidelines for Determination of Placenames* is followed for naming a bridge (attached). It states that "names of Aboriginal origin or with a historical background are preferred" and names acknowledging the multicultural nature of our society is encouraged. Other suitable origins for place names are listed that attract an equal 2<sup>nd</sup> rating - local history, eminent persons (deceased only), flora, fauna, geography etc.

GNB's *Dual Naming – Supporting Cultural Recognition* guidelines (attached) allows a dual naming system to apply to already named geographical and environmental features [such as a river, creek, mountain, cave etc] with specific cultural and environmental significance to the local indigenous community. This would only apply to natural features that existed before white settlement in order to reinstate any indigenous name that previously existed. It cannot apply to an address locality as dual naming would provide confusion for Australia Post and emergency services. Council would need to develop a policy for dual naming to accommodate these guidelines, signage design and costs.

### **Statutory Requirements:**

The bridge being constructed on Hogbin Drive North is a main road (ie MR 540) classified under Section 46 of the Roads Act 1993. Consequently, the RTA is the authority responsible for naming or renaming main roads (including structures thereon) and maintains records of their location and extent as a public record. Council's decision would be referred to the RTA for their concurrence.

The Roads Act 1993 stipulates that Council must publish a notice for a naming approval in the local newspaper, Government Gazette and arrange notification to Australia Post, the Registrar-General and the Surveyor-General of the Department of Lands and in the case of a classified road, the RTA.

## 18 Naming Proposal For Hogbin Drive North Road Bridge Over Coffs Creek ...(Cont'd)

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### Issues:

The appointed Council working party has unanimously determined *Bangalor* for the bridge name, being a name of indigenous origin in keeping with the GNB guidelines. In addition, their recommendation is based upon Council's:

- progressive building of trust with the indigenous community;
- progressive recognition of the indigenous community for example raising the Aboriginal flag outside Council's Administrative Centre and within the Council Chamber, celebrating NAIDOC Week, the Grace Roberts Community Development Award, Aboriginal Network Conference, and participation in indigenous employment programs;
- joining together with the indigenous community in progressive works including the interpretative walkway and signage of the indigenous women's site at Corambira Point, the heritage listing of Ferguson's Cottage, development of the Harbour Plan that includes the promotion and maintenance of the indigenous significance and links to the harbour, consultation with the elder groups and Aboriginal Lands Council during the construction and commissioning of the deep sea ocean outfall and upgrade of the Coffs Harbour Treatment Plant.

### Implementation Date / Priority:

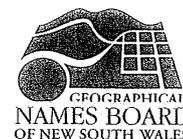
Signage for the bridge to be arranged following RTA's concurrence on the appointed bridge name.

### Recommendation:

#### That Council

1. approves *Bangalor* as the bridge name for Hogbin Drive North over Coffs Creek
2. seeks the concurrence of the RTA
3. notifies Australia Post, the Registrar-General and the Surveyor-General of the Department of Lands of this decision
4. develops a policy for the dual naming of geographical and environmental features and its application across the local government area

## Attachments:



# Guidelines for the determination of placenames

These guidelines were endorsed by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales (GNB) on 17 October 1996.

1. A name suggested for any place that owes its origin to the peculiarity of the topographic feature designated such as shape, vegetation, animal life etc., may be accepted but, in doing so, care should be exercised in avoiding duplication of names already used for other features.  
  
The GNB prefers to avoid the repetition of commonly used names. Sugar Loaf, Sandy, Back, Bald, Deep, Long, Kangaroo, Reedy, Rocky, Spring and Stony are examples of such names.
2. Easily pronounced names should, as far as possible, be used.
3. Names of Aboriginal origin or with a historical background are preferred.
4. Names acknowledging the multicultural nature of our society are encouraged.
5. The changing of long established placenames is generally not preferred, except where necessary to avoid ambiguity or duplication.
6. If considered appropriate, placenames may perpetuate the names of eminent persons, particularly those of early explorers, settlers and naturalists.
7. Names of persons should normally only be given posthumously but the GNB, at its discretion, may approve a feature name which honours a living person. Such a person's contribution to the local community should have been of outstanding benefit to the

community. Ownership of the land is not sufficient reason for the application of the owner's name to a geographical feature.

The GNB will not approve the naming of a feature after a person still holding public office.

8. The GNB may approve a first or given name as part of a geographical name only where it is necessary to appropriately honour the person referred to or where it is necessary to avoid ambiguity.
9. Long and clumsily constructed names and named composed of two or more words should be avoided.
10. The multiplication of names for different parts of the same topographical feature such as a stream or mountain range will be avoided whenever possible and the one name applied to a stream or mountain range throughout its entire length.
11. The naming of forks, arms and branches of a river as North Branch and South Branch is not favoured. Generally, it is preferable to assign independent names to river branches.
12. The use of cardinal points of the compass as a prefix or suffix to an existing name is not favoured. However, well-established names which carry such a prefix or suffix may be approved.
13. Where names have been changed or corrupted by long established local usage, it is not usually advisable to attempt to restore the original form; that spelling which is sanctioned by general usage should be adopted.
14. When a choice is offered between two or more names for the same place, locality or feature, all sanctioned by local usage, the GNB may adopt one of such names as is considered appropriate in accordance with the rules outlined above.

15. The possessive form should be avoided whenever possible without destroying the sound of the name or changing its descriptive application e.g. Howes Valley should be written without the apostrophe.
16. The use of hyphens in connecting parts of names should, as far as possible be avoided.
17. Names considered offensive or likely to give offence will not be approved.

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# Dual naming – Supporting cultural recognition

All Australians share a relationship to the land and the names we give to places convey their significance, sense of history and identity.

The NSW Government is committed to recognising our Aboriginal cultural heritage by registering original place names given by Aboriginal people so that they sit side by side with existing European names. Since June 2001 the government has supported a dual naming policy for geographical features and cultural sites.

This community-driven system acknowledges the significance of Aboriginal culture and, in doing so, represents a meaningful contribution to the process of reconciliation in NSW.

## Policy overview

The dual naming system applies to already named geographical features such as rivers, creeks, waterfalls, beaches, harbours, islands, mountains and caves—specifically those cultural and environmental features of significance to the local Indigenous community.

Relying on community involvement, a dual name can be assigned where there is strong evidence, in the form of written or oral tradition, of a pre-existing Indigenous place name. It should be noted that the dual naming policy applies to geographical and environmental features; it does not apply to suburbs, towns or streets.

## Dual naming guidelines

A dual name must be indigenous to the local area within New South Wales. It can only be assigned where there is definite evidence preferably historic in the form of written or oral tradition that the feature has two names.

Once a dual name proposal is assigned, signposts, maps and directories relating to the area will feature both names. For presentation purposes, the English

language name shall be in standard font and the Aboriginal name shall be in italic font except where only an Aboriginal name is used; in which case it shall be in standard font. All names should be represented by English characters.

The location and spelling of a name resides in the hands of the traditional owner or the organisation that represents them. If there are none, the proposal should be referred to linguistic experts.

## How it works

Under the *Geographical Names Act 1966*, the Geographical Names Board (GNB) has the power to assign names to places, to investigate and determine the form, spelling, meaning, pronunciation, origin, history of any geographical name and to determine the application of each name.

Anyone can submit a dual naming proposal to the GNB. All submissions should:

- follow the guidelines outlined in this document
- have the support of the local council, the local aboriginal land council and the tribal elders group of the area (if there is one).

## Aboriginal community consultation

All dual naming proposals require the support of the local aboriginal land council and, where relevant, tribal elders of the area. In some (rare) circumstances, a proposal may also need approval from a regional or state aboriginal land council. If the geographical feature covers more than one aboriginal land council area (e.g. a river), approval is to be sought from each relevant council. A written proposal should be sent to the local aboriginal land council with details of the geographical or cultural site for which a dual name is being proposed. Proponents should specify the exact location, proposed name and spelling of the site within the proposal.

Proponents should ask the local aboriginal land council to help establish a meeting to discuss the proposal with local elders and representatives from established Aboriginal families. A copy of the proposal should also be sent to the regional aboriginal land council for comment.

Proponents should allow ample time for reply because the local aboriginal land council may need an unanticipated meeting to consider the proposal. If there is no response from the local or regional aboriginal land council within three months, the GNB can submit the proposal to the NSW Aboriginal Land Council for approval.

### Local government consultation

A dual naming proposal also needs to have the written support of the relevant local council. It is strongly advised that proponents should seek comment from appropriate local residents and community groups which can be used as supporting information for council's consideration.

### Geographical Names Board procedure

Proponents should submit the dual name proposal, with written confirmation of support from the relevant local aboriginal land council, local council and community bodies, to the Geographical Names Board. The GNB will forward a courtesy copy of the proposal to the NSW Aboriginal Land Council if this has not already occurred.

The GNB will consider the proposal and ensure that it has local approval and meets the dual naming guidelines. The GNB will then advise all parties of its decision.

Submissions approved by the GNB are then advertised in local media outlets for public comment. If there are objections to a submission, the GNB will seek further advice from the relevant local council, tribal elders group and the local aboriginal land council.

If no objections are received after one month has elapsed, the nominated name and the existing name are notified as a dual name in the NSW Government Gazette. Local councils are then free to communicate the dual names on signposts, locality guides and maps.

All geographical names are recorded in the Geographical Names Register which is maintained by the GNB. The register includes location details of more than 80,000 names and includes their origin, history and meaning if available. Discontinued names are also retained in the register which is an important reference for cartographers, researchers, publishers, government authorities and the public.

### For further advice or assistance

Contact the Geographical Names Board for advice and assistance in preparing a dual name submission.

The Secretary  
Geographical Names Board  
Department of Lands  
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## CORPORATE BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORT

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### C71 LOAN TO COFFS HARBOUR TENNIS CLUB

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#### **Purpose:**

Provide an extension to the loan of the Coffs Harbour Tennis Club to \$35,000 which would provide an additional \$15,641.91 to undertake urgent works.

#### **Description of Item:**

The Coffs Harbour Tennis Club has written to Council seeking to increase its loan from \$19,358.09 to \$35,000. The Club entered into a loan of \$35,000 repayable over four years in September 2005. The Club has met the quarterly loan repayments of \$830.02 (principle and interest) for the past two years. By restoring the loan to \$35,000, at the same interest rate of 6.5%, the existing bank transfer of each quarterly repayment will not need to be altered by the Club. However the repayment term will increase by two years, from September 2007 to September 2011, ie four years from now.

The additional \$15,641.91 will be used to undertake urgent repairs to the fencing in relation to courts six and seven. This mainly consists of replacement of posts and wiring. The Club has advised that the current condition of the fencing requires attention "due to public liability considerations".

The proposed extension to the loan and the undertaking of these works was previously deferred pending a resolution to the future of the tennis court complex which is on Brelsford Park. Although this is not resolved, it is likely that the complex will be able to remain where it is at least for the next five years. The loan will be repaid over four years.

#### **Sustainability Assessment:**

- **Environment**

There are not considered to be any environmental impacts as the work involved relates to the repairs to and replacement of, tennis court fencing.

- **Social**

The existing fencing is considered to be a risk and in need of repair and replacement.

- **Economic**

#### **Broader Economic Implications**

The Club is currently meeting the quarterly loan repayments and it will continue to do so. The loan will be extended for a further two years, ie four years in total from September 2007.

## **C71 Loan To Coffs Harbour Tennis Club ...(Cont'd)**

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### **Management Plan Implications**

The immediate impact of the proposed loan extension is a deficit impact of \$15,641.91. However, as the Club makes quarterly repayments off the total loan, the principal component has a surplus impact, as does the interest being paid.

### **Consultation:**

Council's Executive Manager Business Units has confirmed that the Coffs Harbour Tennis Complex is likely to be able to remain in its current location for at least the next five years.

### **Related Policy and / or Precedents:**

Council has made loans in the past to Clubs providing sporting facilities on Council's behalf on Council land, subject to ability to repay. Council has made previous loans to the Coffs Harbour Tennis Club which is half way through repaying its existing loan.

### **Statutory Requirements:**

The Local Government Act 1993 and related regulations permit Council to provide community facilities with the assistance of community organisations.

### **Issues:**

The provision of the repairs will improve the facility and eliminate a potential risk situation.

To further defer or not proceed with the work, given the circumstances outlined in this report, when the Coffs Harbour Tennis Club is keen to proceed and can meet the loan repayments, is not recommended.

### **Implementation Date / Priority:**

The Club will have quotations by the date of this meeting. The work will proceed as soon as possible.

### **Recommendation:**

- 1. That the loan to the Coffs Harbour Tennis Club be extended by \$15,641.91 to a total of \$35,000.**
- 2. That the revised loan be paid over four years on the existing terms with the current quarterly repayments by bank transfer, of \$830.02, remaining in place for full term.**
- 3. That the \$15,641.91 in funds be provided to the Club subject to its agreement to the terms and conditions by an exchange of letters.**