



CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting

Wednesday, 7 June 2023 at 6:30pm

Cumberland City Council Chambers
Merrylands Service Centre, 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands

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Statement of Ethical Obligations

Oath or Affirmation of Office

In taking the Oath or Affirmation of Office, each Councillor has made a commitment to undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Cumberland and Cumberland City Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

Conflicts of Interest

A councillor who has a conflict of interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council when the matter is being considered, must disclose the interest and the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. Both the disclosure and the nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting where the conflict of interest arises. Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of the Code of Conduct in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

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LATE REPORTS

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Mayoral Minutes

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Item No: MM06/23-32

MAYORAL MINUTE - NAMING OF MERRYLANDS CIVIC SQUARE - “DYIN NGURRA” (“WOMEN’S PLACE”)

Author: Mayor Lisa Lake
File Number: MM06/23-32

SUMMARY

The Merrylands Civic Square project is now in its final stages, and will be shortly scheduled for a grand opening. Located in Merrylands Town Centre between McFarlane Street and Merrylands Road, the Square will be a new major public open space for people to meet, socialise, relax, celebrate and have fun.

A significant and joyful place like this deserves a distinctive name that speaks to the character of this local area.

It is often the case that local places are named after particular people, usually men, to recognise their achievements and contribution. I support such acknowledgments and we must also ensure that the person’s story appears there too. Otherwise, future generations will forget the reasons for the name.

In this local area, indeed everywhere, women are vastly underrepresented in commemorative naming. In April I was happy to be able to unveil a plaque in Granville that honoured a local woman Mrs Beryl Gunther who selflessly gave her energy and time to improve the lives of people in her local area. At the time, I said that I hoped that this would be the beginning of many such plaques in Cumberland. There has been lots of great local women who have made meaningful contributions to this place and they shouldn’t be invisible to us.

But the vast space that will be created by this new Square lends itself to a slightly different idea. Rather than name the Square after a particular prominent woman, why not give the Square a unique identity of its own by designating it as a living monument to all of our unsung women of this area. Our new Square could be a place that not only honours the many significant local women of our past but also recognises every local woman’s contribution to our present, and has the potential to acknowledge particular prominent women in the future.

To this end, I propose that we designate our Merrylands Civic Square as a “Women’s Place” and refer to it as “Dyin Ngurra”, which is the Dharug translation of those words as spoken by our first local women. Our Aboriginal Education and Programs Officer has consulted with Dharug women and the feedback is that this is appropriate and that this naming is a way to encourage the continued use of beautiful Dharug words.

I’m advised that this proposed naming was discussed at Council’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee (ATSIC) meeting on 25 May 2023, and was endorsed by the Committee as appropriate and welcome.

Councillors tonight I therefore recommend the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Propose to name the new Merrylands Civic Square “Dyin Ngurra” (meaning Women’s Place).**
- 2. Place this proposal on public exhibition for 28 days, with a report to be returned to Council at the conclusion of consultation.**
- 3. Should no adverse submissions be received, undertake the following steps:**
 - a) install a plaque in the Square that locally recognises the new name;**
 - b) apply to the NSW Geographical Names Board to approve the name as the official designation for the Square;**
 - c) create an art installation for the Square that honours the past and ongoing contribution of notable and inspiring local women; and**
 - d) insert into the 23-24 Operational Plan, the plaque and the design, development and public exhibition of a suitable art installation that reflects the proposed name of the Square, funded from the Merrylands Civic Square Project Fund.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil