

**Notice of Motion, Cr Leppert: Road Naming Policy**

**6 December 2022**

**Motion**

That the Future Melbourne Committee requests that management draft a Road Naming Policy for public consultation and consideration by Council in 2023, and that the Policy consider:

1. Moving from a developer-led to a Council- and municipal community-led process, especially for significant proposals;
2. Enshrining current practice to prioritise Aboriginal language names and the recognition of historically significant women;
3. The formal role of Traditional Owners in proposing names for new streets;
4. Codifying public engagement standards, including methods of engagement that seek earlier ideas for and feedback on potential names prior to formally testing levels of community support; and
5. When and how engagement with land owners in precincts should be initiated, ahead of subdivision and road naming processes.

**Background**

From time to time the City of Melbourne considers proposals to name unnamed lanes, and name new roads of all types.

In recent years most proposals have been of the type that name historically unnamed laneways in established areas. As infill development and subdivisions create properties that abut those lanes for the first time, it is important that all such roadways are named.

Occasionally, proposals have been of the type that name entirely new roads. In lieu of any other process, these proposals are developer-led.

As newly declared urban renewal areas are developed in coming years, especially Arden and Fishermans Bend but also parts of Macaulay, Council is likely to see a significant increase in proposals to name entirely new roads, streets and lanes. This presents an exciting opportunity to choose names that are supported by the community and which reflect Country and significant people.

It is therefore timely that Council reviews its road naming practices and, in the interests of transparency and community engagement, codifies those practices in policy.

No policy will be able to circumvent the guidelines and rules published by the Registrar of Geographic Names. It is, however, open to Council to choose how proposals are developed prior to submission to the Registrar.

The Arden Structure Plan 2022 includes the following project (Strategy 1.5) and nominates the City of Melbourne as the lead agency to deliver it:

*Create opportunities to embed Aboriginal language, design and names in streets, parks and public buildings in consultation with Traditional Custodians.*

The proposal is also consistent with the aspirations of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (Action 12):

*Protect, recognise and promote Aboriginal culture, heritage and place.*

**Mover: Cr Rohan Leppert**

**Seconder: Cr Dr Olivia Ball**