

---

## Governance and Administration Matters - 25 May 2021

---

### ITEM 7.2                      Naming Request - Jack Munday Park

**AUTHOR**                      City Future

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the feedback received on the proposal to rename 15 Close Street, Canterbury 'Jack Munday Park' and future use of the site.

#### **ISSUE**

Council previously resolved to conduct community engagement to name the previously unnamed land at 15 Close Street, Canterbury, 'Jack Munday Park'.

While Council is the authority responsible for naming or renaming roads and places under its control, all naming applications must be submitted to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) for approval and registration of the name.

#### **RECOMMENDATION** That -

1. Council support the proposal to name the previously unnamed land at 15 Close Street, Canterbury, 'Jack Munday Park'.
2. The naming proposal be referred to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) for approval and registration.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## **POLICY IMPACT**

---

The proposal to name the previously unnamed land at 15 Close Street, Canterbury, 'Jack Munday Park', is consistent with Council's Naming Policy and the GNB Place Naming Policy.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

This report, as written, does not have a direct financial impact. Costs associated with the future design of 15 Close Street Canterbury will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process.

As part of the agreement with Sydney Metro for their use of 15 Close Street as a works depot, a financial contribution will be paid to Council. This funding has been placed in a dedicated Reserve, and will be used for future works upon return of the land to Council.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

---

The proposal to name the previously unnamed land at 15 Close Street, Canterbury to honour Jack Munday AO, is strongly supported by the community.

Further community engagement will be undertaken throughout the process of developing concept plans for the site.

## DETAILED INFORMATION

---

Council resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 May 2020 to honour of the life and contribution made by Jack Munday AO, specifically:

1. *Investigates a suitable park or green space, preferably in or near Croydon Park to be renamed Jack Munday/Green Bans Park, supported by photo and history signage at the location.*

As a result of the May 2020 Council resolution, a review of possible un-named open space in the area was undertaken with 15 Close Street Canterbury identified as the most appropriate site location for a commemoration of Jack Munday.



Council subsequently resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 27 October 2020 to undertake community consultation on both the proposed naming to 'Jack Munday Park', and vision for the future of the open space.

It should be noted that Bayside Council applied to the GNB to name existing Eastlakes Reserve to Jack Munday Reserve in honour of the late Jack Munday. This proposal is currently on community engagement on the GNB.

Following Council's resolution to conduct community engagement to name 15 Close Street, Canterbury, Jack Munday Park and given Jack Munday's ties to the local area, Canterbury-Bankstown Council will contact the GNB to notify them of the process Council have undertaken and the resolution to name 15 Close Street to Jack Munday Park.

It should be noted that the site is temporarily being used as a Sydney Metro works compound for the completion of the Sydenham to Bankstown Metro. As such, any new open space will not be until after the site is returned to Council ownership, which is anticipated to be in 2024.

## **Public Exhibition**

Council undertook a range of community engagement activities across a six week period to seek community feedback on the renaming of 'Jack Munday Park', and more broadly, the future design and uses of the open space once it is returned to Council. Engagement activities included:

- Have Your Say (HYS) website;
- Social Media posts;
- Letterbox drop to local residential catchment – advising of upcoming engagement activities/ directing the interested community to HYS to register and follow (digital reached facilitated via social media);
- Onsite pop-up engagement session:
  - Feedback on the proposed naming
  - Visioning exercise for future use of the site; and
- Special Interest Stakeholder Webinar.

## **Summary of Public Exhibition and Submissions**

Across all forms of community engagement, the community demonstrated strong support for both the proposed naming and the vision for 15 Close Street, Canterbury. Support for both proposals was largely drawn from the desire to see more open space in Canterbury, a recognition of the important legacy of Dr Jack Munday AO, and the unique opportunity presented by the location.

The onsite pop-up engagement session helped inform residents of the naming proposal and gather ideas for the future open space. It was attended by approximately 15 participants and informal feedback collected on the day was broadly supportive of the proposals.

During the course of public exhibition, the Have Your Say page allowed respondents to provide formal submissions with their comments. In summary:

- 737 participants visited the project page;
- 47 participants lodged a submission via HYS, with 6 participants making direct submissions; and
- 19 participants followed the project for updates.

## *Naming*

There was significant support amongst online submissions for naming the previously unnamed land in honour of Dr Jack Munday AO, with 82% supporting the proposal. Respondents acknowledged his legacy as an environmental protector, an advocate of green space in urban locations and a commitment to quality public space. A key theme in the submissions was an alignment of Dr Munday's work to preserve green space with the proposed future open space vision for 15 Close Street, Canterbury.

In total, 6% of respondents were unsure about the naming proposal, and wished to review the future open space design before supporting the measure. These respondents felt that the legacy of Mr Munday should only be cemented in this location, if the future use of the land aligned with their perception of open space. The only opposition to the land naming came from opposition to the open space proposal and the desire to keep the location as a bowling club.

### *Future Vision*

The majority of feedback relating to the proposed vision for 15 Close Street, Canterbury favoured the location becoming open space at the conclusion of the Sydney Metro lease period. Several respondents identified a lack of existing open space across Canterbury, and those same respondents felt nearly all residents would welcome the new site.

There were a number of suggestions for the future open space, including that it should:

- be an open and passive parkland;
- focus on native vegetation;
- incorporate the existing dog park;
- seating and picnic areas for families and residents;
- include community gardens;
- have playground facilities for families and children; and
- provide a clear link from the existing open space in Close Street and along the Cooks River to the new site.

In line with this vision, residents proposed moving the dog park to the higher area, keeping the pedestrian corridor adjacent to the train line open, ensuring a continuation of open space along the Cooks River with room for families and residents.

While the bulk of respondents favoured the previously unnamed land becoming open space at the conclusion of the lease period (84%), a small number of submissions proposed constructing new community and sporting facilities at the site. In addition to the above submissions, some respondents felt that the site should retain its current composition, where the building on the lot would remain and could instead be repurposed.

A small number of respondents did not agree with the site being returned to open space at the conclusion of the Sydney Metro lease. Some submissions from members of the former bowling club instead proposed the site be returned to the community as a bowling site, as it was previously.

### **Next Steps**

Having considered the submissions, it is proposed that Council support the naming of 15 Close Street Canterbury as Jack Munday Park and refer the proposal to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) for their consideration.

As noted in the draft 2021-2022 Operational Plan, Council will commence the process of developing concept design options for the new Jack Munday Park. Ideas for the site captured during this initial period of engagement will be incorporated into future design options and Council will undertake further community consultation once concept plans have been prepared.