

REPORTS TO COUNCIL - ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION

9.9 Ellerton Drive Bridge Naming (Ref: ; Author: Richards/Groves)

File Reference: 2.4.2

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Rescind Resolution Number 145/20 to name the Ellerton Drive bridge the Queen Nellie Hamilton Bridge**
 2. **Endorse the name Andy Lane Bridge for public exhibition for a period of 28 days.**
 3. **Adopt and formalise the proposed name if no objections are received.**
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10 **Summary**

This report seeks Council's endorsement to rescind the decision to name the Ellerton Drive bridge the Queen Nellie Hamilton Bridge as determined by Council at the 26 August 2020 meeting (**Resolution 145/20**).

This is due to objections raised by the Ngarigo people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Monaro region.

Following consultation with the First Nations Network, Council endorsement is sought for the name Andy Lane Bridge to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

20 **Background**

A prerequisite of the Ellerton Drive extension project was that the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Archaeological Report (ACHAR) be updated to include the altered footprint of the updated design, so that the correct assessment could be submitted for the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) application. An assessment of cultural values of the area was undertaken and it was recommended to name the bridge at Ellerton Drive, the Queen Nellie Hamilton Bridge.

At the meeting of 26 August 2020, Council resolved to name the new bridge on Ellerton Drive, the Queen Nellie Hamilton Bridge (**Resolution 145/20**).

- 30 A consultation process was undertaken in 2021 that revealed the Ngarigo People (Traditional Custodians of the Monaro region) were opposed to the name Queen Nellie Hamilton Bridge for a variety of cultural reasons. This information halted the project at that time and the matter was referred to the (then) Aboriginal Consultative Committee (ACC) for review and comment.

Although this matter was on a number of proposed agendas for the ACC the committee was unable to formalise a working committee, and the process was further delayed. It has since been reviewed by the new First Nations Network that was established in June 2025 (**Resolution 863/25**).

Report

- 40 Consultation for this project has been undertaken by the QPRC Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer with local First Nation representative groups through in-person, online meetings, phone and email correspondence between December 2024 and July 2025.

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Feedback received was consistent:

- The bridge should not be named after Queen Nellie Hamilton given the new Council building already carries her name
- Andy Lane was a respected Traditional Owner of the Wallaboloa Clan, whose influence extended across Ngunnawal Country into the South Coast region
- Many local Traditional Owners trace their lineage to Andy Lane, highlighting his strong ancestral significance

The advice supported the view that the Ellerton Drive bridge be named the Andy Lane Bridge.

Andy Lane was born on Ngunnawal Country in about 1811. For some time he worked as a tracker for the Mounted Police. Information provided by descendant Traditional Owners state that Andy Lane 'was a prominent figure in Ngunnawal Country, particularly of the Wallaboloa clan. In the early 1800s he dominated Southeast Australia, right down to the areas of Bega and Eden. He forged strong relationships with non-Indigenous families; the Humes, Broughton's, Kennedys, Walkers and Howells.'

A significant group of local Traditional Owners trace their lineage from Andy Lane. The Wallaboloa clan's territory extends from Yass across these lands to the South Coast of NSW.

It is proposed that signage will be erected once naming has been resolved. This will include not only bridge naming but also signage providing cultural information about the subject and wider area significance.

**Risk/Policy/Legislation Considerations**

Council has sought to acknowledge and pay respect to First Nations history and culture.

Consultation has included Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council, Ngunnawal representatives, and other language groups represented on the First Nations Network.

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Consultation is undertaken through a range of methods to ensure that feedback is sought and provided from all representative groups.

Financial, Budget and Resource Implications

A reserve budget allocation exists for the project and the project will be delivered collaboratively across multiple Council teams.

Links to QPRC/Regional Strategic Plans

- 80
- QPRC Reconciliation Action Plan (Currently in draft)
 - Stakeholder and Community Engagement Policy Framework (2022).
 - QPRC Community Strategic Plan (2025)
- Community
- 1.3 Honour and support Traditional Owners and First Nations Peoples' self-determination and their enduring connection to Country.

Conclusion

Following consultation with local Traditional Owners, Council is requested to rescind its previous decision to name the Ellerton Drive Bridge Queen Nellie Hamilton Bridge and endorse the name Andy Lane Bridge for public exhibition and comment.

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This action respects community feedback, acknowledges cultural heritage, and ensures that both Nellie Hamilton and Andy Lane are appropriately honoured within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area. A sign will be installed, in addition to cultural interpretation signage to share the story of Andy Lane, as recommended in the ACHAR.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Image of Andy Lane (*Under Separate Cover*)