Nepean River Bridge

Public naming
Submissions Report
Roads and Maritime Services | October 2018
Executive Summary

Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) has built a new pedestrian and cyclist bridge spanning the Nepean River between Penrith and Emu Plains. This report provides a summary of Roads and Maritime’s consultation with the community in June and July 2018 on the naming of the Nepean River Bridge, scheduled for opening in late October 2018.

The Nepean River Bridge project is long-awaited by the community, particularly residents and active sporting groups. The bridge will provide a safe pedestrian and cyclist crossing over the river, as well as improve connection to existing and future shared paths.

Roads and Maritime invited members of the community to submit names for the bridge in June and July 2018. We received 303 submissions, with 112 individual names suggested. The submission invitation provided categories to help guide the naming process. These were:

- Aboriginal significance
- Characteristics of the bridge
- Commemorative people, events or places
- Community service or acts of bravery
- Historical significance

The suggested names have been tabled as an appendix in this report.

Naming Committee

The draft version of this document was created to guide the Nepean Bridge Naming Committee in selecting a name for the bridge from the list of public submissions. The Naming Committee has representatives from a cross section of ages, backgrounds and local professional and personal experience, including one high school student.

The Committee has assessed the names suggested through the consultation period. Following the name selection by the committee, a public announcement of the new name will be made, inviting stakeholders and the general public to ‘save the date’ for the bridge launch in late October 2018.
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1. Introduction

Roads and Maritime Services is delivering this new bridge to provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists over the Nepean River, improving connections to existing and future shared paths, including the Great River Walk.

The design and development of the bridge has involved significant levels of community consultation. Community members had campaigned for a safer crossing over the Nepean River, as the current path on Victoria Bridge has no barrier between the narrow path and road traffic.

In 2012, a number of community information sessions were held to assess the best locations for bridge. Six crossing locations were ranked against criteria identified during the community consultation workshops, including safety, function, cost and community.

The location south of Victoria Bridge was considered the safest and most appropriate. The preferred bridge design and location was chosen following community consultation, as it best addressed the environmental, engineering and community constraints.

The new 200 metre span bridge will provide the largest single span shared-user bridge in Australia. It will provide a safe pedestrian and cyclist connection between Penrith City Centre and Emu Plains. The bridge will also:

- be a destination and create opportunities for people to engage with the river
- optimise views of the Nepean River and Victoria Bridge
- respect the historic setting and place of the area
- minimise impacts on rowers and other river users by providing a large main span over the river
- provide a crossing that is flood free, comfortable and safe to use.

1.1. Bridge ‘character’ design changes and features

The design of the bridge changed from a curved to a straight truss. The straight bridge option is a more efficient structural design and simplifies the fabrication and construction methodology.

This change in design reduces risk, provides a reduction in costs and has environment benefits as around 20% less steel is required. The straight bridge provides a large span, generous width and a cathedral like walking experience due to the gently curved vertical alignment.

The straight bridge is very unique and will provide an attractive landmark for the Penrith area. The bridge’s main features are:

- the main span of the bridge is a large triangular steel truss providing a slender and unique design
- three canopies provide shade for people including at the terrace, mid-span balcony and towards the eastern abutment
- there are no piers within the river, to minimise impact on the rowing community and other river users
the ochre colour for the structure is influenced by the surrounding natural and built environment.

- the boat shape design reflects the long tradition of use of the river by rowing community. Nepean River has a significant history of staging major rowing events, boasting the longest straight stretch of river in Australia.

1.2. The naming process

Roads and Maritime was committed to fully engaging and involving the community in the process to name this new landmark in the community. There are many community groups currently using the Nepean River at Penrith and Emu Plains. Many of these groups have a long historical relationship with the river.

Roads and Maritime implemented a simple and inclusive process to invite submissions and create a Naming Committee to review these submissions and decide on an appropriate name.

A naming strategy document was finalised in mid April 2018. The strategy included the following steps:

1. Determine who has organisational responsibility for naming the bridge
2. Establish the Bridge Naming Committee
3. Naming Committee to determine parameters and criteria and agree on community engagement methods
4. Engage with community to submit names
5. Prepare Submissions Report for Naming Committee
6. Naming Committee workshop(s) to review names and select appropriate name

The Nepean Bridge Naming Committee members:

- The Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Member for Penrith
- Councillor Tricia Hitchen, Deputy Mayor, Penrith City Council
- The Hon Peter Collins AM QC, Chair, Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District
- Colin Langford, Director, North West Precinct, Roads and Maritime Services
- Local student representative from Cranebrook High School
Engagement approach

2.1. Engagement objectives

Roads and Maritime invited the community to submit names for the Nepean River Bridge to:

- encourage community ownership of the naming process and the bridge
- encourage a diverse range of proposed names for the Naming Committee to consider.
- build a wider database of interested community members with whom we can engage with and invite to participate in the October 2018 launch of the bridge

2.2. Naming criteria

To help guide the community in suggesting names, and the naming committee when selecting the name, Roads and Maritime proposed the following criteria for each category. The criteria aligns with the Geographical Names Board of NSW policy of Place Naming as well as Roads and Maritime Corporate Policy (PN 266) Naming of Roads and Bridges.

General criteria from Geographical Names Board Naming Policy:

- names shall be written in standard Australian English or a recognised format of an Australian Aboriginal language local to the area of the geographical name
- names shall be easy to pronounce, spell and write, and preferably not exceed three words (including any designated term) or 25 characters. An exception to this is in the use of Aboriginal names when it is accepted that a traditional name may at first appear to be complex but will, over time, become more familiar and accepted by the community
- dual naming - The NSW Government is committed to recognising the Indigenous and European cultural heritage of our State. Our community-driven dual naming program enables the attribution of Indigenous place names to physical and environmental features
- names acknowledging the multicultural nature of NSW are encouraged
- names associated with the heritage of an area are encouraged, especially the names of early explorers, settlers, naturalists and events
- gender diversity in names is encouraged
- widely accepted by the community
- appropriate to community sensitivities.

Participants could submit unlimited names in one or more of the following categories:

Aboriginal

- recognises local Aboriginal cultural heritage
- approved by local Aboriginal groups

Characteristics of the new bridge

- identifies the unique characteristics of the bridge
- provides a description of historic reasons for the design
Commemorative Names
- commemorate a person, event or place
- acts of bravery, community service or exceptional accomplishments
- contributed significantly to the area around the bridge
- commemorative names should not be used to commemorate victims of, or mark the location of, accidents or tragedies
- no living person should be used as by their nature subject to partisan perception and changes in community judgement and acceptance

Community
- acts of bravery
- community service
- exceptional accomplishments

Geographical
- a geographical name shall not include initials
- describes the local geographical area
- highlights significant geographical formations in the local area

Historical
- commemorate a person, event or place
- contributed significantly to the area around the bridge
- acts of bravery, community service or exceptional accomplishments

2.3. How could the community suggest names?

Roads & Maritimes distributed a community update brochure (Appendix A) to around 34,000 local residents and businesses, inviting submissions for the bridge name. Copies were also emailed to key stakeholders. The community update was also available on the website.

Community members and stakeholders were encouraged to submit their name suggestions via the project:

- email inbox - nepeanbridge@rms.nsw.gov.au
- telephone line - 1800 851 934
- postal address – Nepean River Bridge, PO Box 973, Parramatta NSW 2124
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tools</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nepean River Project Update June 2018</td>
<td>• Hard copy distribution of community update to around 34,000 residences and businesses in the area surrounding the bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Soft copy distribution of community update via email to key stakeholders from the project’s email distribution list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>• Roads and Maritime project webpage updated with the latest project information, including the naming submission details at <a href="http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/nepeanbridge">www.rms.nsw.gov.au/nepeanbridge</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media release</td>
<td>• Media release was issued by the Member for Penrith on 5 July 2018</td>
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</tbody>
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Table 1  Communication tools
3. Naming consultation summary

3.1. Overview

We received 303 name submissions, with 112 individual names proposed. From the total submissions, 29 did not fit with the proposed criteria guidelines for the Geographical Names Board of NSW policy of Place Naming, as well as Roads and Maritime Corporate Policy (PN 266) Naming of Roads and Bridges (see page 7).

A further 27 names were removed from the submissions list on a second round of checks, leaving 56 names for the Naming Committee to consider. This second round included:

- grouping similar names together
- removing names not considered locally or regionally significant
- removing aboriginal names which did not pass the cultural checking completed by the RMS Aboriginal Engagement team.

3.2. Feedback and responses

Many of the submissions included a ‘thankyou for the opportunity’ to name the bridge. Of the 303 submissions, 33 were submitted in the Aboriginal category. A dual naming option was requested by two respondents.

Many names fell under more than one category. Some submissions contained detailed historical notes and references. In a few cases, a significant number of submissions indicated groups had encouraged their members to submit multiple responses.

3.3. Naming Committee process

The Naming Committee met on 21 August to consider a list of 56 naming options for the new Nepean Bridge. The workshop included vigorous discussion around themes:

- the name needs a strong story
- pros and cons of using an individual name vs place or event name
- whether the character of the bridge calls for a historical or future-focused name.

The Naming Committee agreed that wide community acceptance and connection to the name was important. At the end of the first workshop two names were selected as preferred options. The committee chose to meet one week later (28 August) to make their final decision. This gave the project team time to further explore and research the chosen names.

The second meeting was held at the project site, and the Committee walked onto the new bridge to consider the remaining options in the context of the new bridge and river setting.

At the second meeting, the Committee agreed on a final name.
3.4 Selected name ‘Yandhai Nepean Crossing’

The name the Committee selected was ‘Yandhai Nepean Crossing’.

The word ‘Yandhai’ contains elements of Darug language, and means ‘walking in past and present’. ‘Nepean’ has been kept in the name to signify the bridge’s place. ‘Crossing’ (instead of bridge), signifies both the bridge’s modern purpose and the historical use of this location along the river as a significant crossing.

‘Yandhai’ and ‘Yandhai Nepean’ was put forward by the public in 16 separate submissions, demonstrating local support for the proposed name. Many of the public submissions had suggested the word ‘Yandhai’ meant ‘river’ or ‘Nepean River’.

Following the selection of Yandhai by the Naming Committee, the word was further researched in regard to both local aboriginal acceptance and meaning.

4 Further steps

Following the name selection by the Naming Committee on 28 August 2018, Roads & Maritime:

- liaised with the Geographical Names Board to verify the name would be suitable
- liaised with local Aboriginal contacts (Derrubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council) to verify the name for local Aboriginal acceptability.
Nepean River Bridge Project update
Roads and Maritime Services | June 2018

Roads and Maritime Services is continuing to deliver this new bridge which will provide a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists over the Nepean River and improve connections to existing and future shared paths, including the Great River Walk.

Your chance to name the new bridge

The new bridge is really taking shape as we launch it out over the Nepean River. As the community is now getting to see what the bridge will look like, Roads and Maritime invites the community to submit names for the new bridge.

All suggestions will be considered, and a special local bridge naming committee will be established. The committee will review all submissions and pick one submission be the permanent name for the new bridge.
How can I participate in naming the new bridge?

To help you with ideas for the bridge name, we have provided some categories to help guide you with what may be considered an appropriate name. The categories are consistent with acceptable standards outlined by the Geographical Names Board of NSW.

You may submit as many different names as you like and they can fit into one or more of the following categories:

- **Aboriginal**
  - Recognises local Aboriginal cultural heritage
  - Approved by local Aboriginal groups

- **Characteristics of the new bridge**
  - Identifies the unique characteristics of the bridge
  - Provides a description of historic reasons for the design

- **Commemorative Names**
  - Commemorate a person, event or place
  - Acts of bravery, community service or exceptional accomplishments
  - Contributed significantly to the area around the bridge
  - Commemorative names should not be used to commemorate victims of, or mark the location of, accidents or tragedies
  - No living person should be used as by their nature subject to partisan perception and changes in community judgement and acceptance

- **Community**
  - Acts of bravery, community service or exceptional accomplishments

- **Geographical**
  - A geographical name shall not include initials
  - Describes the local geographical area
  - Highlights significant geographical formations in the local area

- **Historical**
  - Commemorate a person, event or place
  - Contributed significantly to the area around the bridge
  - Acts of bravery, community service or exceptional accomplishments

All the names received will be submitted will be delivered to the Nepean River Bridge Naming Committee for consideration. The Committee will pick the new bridge name and announce the name to the community.

Where to submit your suggestions

You can make your suggestions by email [nepeanbridge@rms.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nepeanbridge@rms.nsw.gov.au) and via [rms.nsw.gov.au](http://rms.nsw.gov.au). Please provide your suggested name, the category that it fits into, and your reasons for why this is an appropriate name.

All submissions need to be provided before Sunday 29 July 2018. So hurry and name the bridge!
Launching the bridge

We are building the bridge safely, and minimising disruption to river users and the local community. The bridge has been assembled and painted within the temporary workshop on the eastern side of the river.

We progressively pulled the bridge out over the river using two 50 tonne jacks. The bridge was supported on temporary piers, before it reached the western river bank in April 2018.

Key
- Red: Movement of truss in stages
- Green: Temporary piers
- Blue: Temporary pedestrian hoarding over Great River Walk
Appendix B

Shortlist of names submitted

- Mooror Moorak
- Ngallawa Bridge
- Deerubbin
- Yandhai
- Darug Bridge
  (Darug Pedestrian Bridge)
  (Dharug Crossing)
- Muru Mittigar Bridge
- Mariyung Crossing
  Iyora
  Amaroo
- Arthur Streeton Bridge
- Arthur Spowart Bridge
- Sir John Jamison
- Helen Walker OAM
- William Martin Bridge
- Wilson-Ryan Bridge
  (James Tobias Ryan Bridge)
  (Toby Ryan Bridge)
  (Ryan’s Crossing)
- T.R. Smith Bridge
- Queen Victoria II
  (Elizabeth Walkway)
  (Victoria Bridge Walkway)
  (Albert Walkway)
- Wally Gray Bridge
- William Beach Bridge
- Whitton Walk (or Way)
- James R. Riley Bridge
- New John Whitton Bridge
  Watkin’s Bridge
  Gibson Bridge
- Albert Bennet Bridge
- Ausburn Bridge
- Baden King Bridge
- Joe Donovan - boxer
- Richie Beneau Bridge
- Nepean Bridge
  (Nepean Memorial Bridge)
  (Nepean Sunset Footbridge)
  (Nepean Walkway Bridge)
  (Nepean Riverview Bridge)
  (Nepean Promenade)
  (Nepean Crossing)
(Nepean Pedestrian River View Bridge)
(Unique Nepean River Bridge)
Nepean Vista Bridge
(Nepean People’s Bridge)
Great Nepean River Crossing

The Punt
Punt Crossing Bridge
Ferryman’s Footbridge
(Ferry Bridge)
Friendship Bridge
Log Cabin
Emu Ford Bridge

The River Walk Bridge
New Century Bridge
Mountain View Bridge
Emu Crossing
Golden Triangle

Penrith-Emu Footlink Bridge
Wollemi Bridge

Explorers Gateway Bridge
Explorer’s Walk
Explorer’s Pathway
Explorer’s Way
3 Explorer’s Bridge
1813 Bridge

Coo-ee March Commemorative Crossing
Goldrush Bridge
Chocolate Soldiers Bridge
Mother Merciful Bridge
Head of the River Bridge
Light Horse Bridge
Flying Bucket Bridge
The Mandarin
(The Imperial)
(Citrus Bridge)
Perennial Bridge
Penrith People’s Bridge
Pedestrian’s Way
Regatta Bridge
Freedom Bridge
2018 Bridge
Together People’s Bridge
(The People’s Bridge)
Landmark Bridge
Excelsior Bridge