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# West Dapto Suburb A Shortlist of Names

Engagement Report October 2021

Table of Contents

Executive Summary ..... 3

Background ..... 5

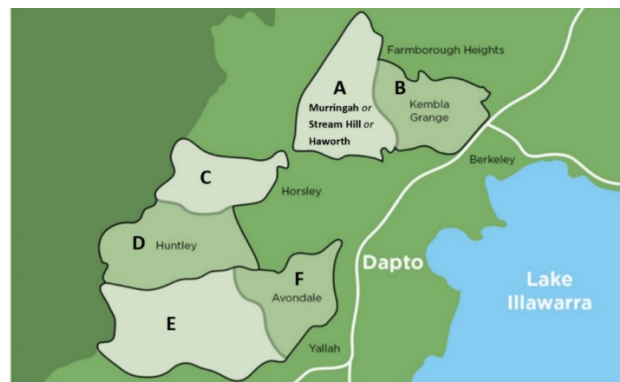
Stakeholders ..... 5

Methodology ..... 6

Results ..... 6

## Executive Summary

Early in 2020, we asked the community to suggest names for the new West Dapto suburbs. Community working groups, made up of members from heritage groups and the Dapto community, reviewed all proposed non-Aboriginal names. Aboriginal community members and Traditional Custodians reviewed all proposed Aboriginal names. The working groups worked closely with Council's project team to develop a shortlist of names, that meet the Geographical Names Board of NSW criteria and are significant to West Dapto. A separate Engagement Report was prepared for the first phase of the project (see Z20/210555). In October 2020, Council resolved to work with residents to investigate additional naming options for the second part of Kembla Grange – Suburb A. Residents were able to make their additional suggestions from 4 November to 16 December 2020.



### Suburb A engagement

In early 2021 the Community Working Group and the Aboriginal Working Group met again separately to discuss the additional names put forward by the community and to carry out further research. A shortlist of names for Suburb A were suggested and reported to Council in July 2021. At the Council meeting on 19 July 2021, Council resolved to endorse the shortlist of names and place these on public exhibition for comment.

The exhibition period ran from 6 August to 17 September 2021. 1015 letters and emails were sent to community members, including those who had made submissions in 2020. These letters included Frequently Asked Questions, a feedback form and a link to the <https://our.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/west-dapto-suburb-a-shortlist-of-names> webpage. Residents were advised they could provide their comments via the feedback form, online survey, email, letters or phoning Council.

275 submissions were received. 130 via the online survey, 123 via the feedback form, 18 emails, three phone calls and one letter.

## **Overview of feedback**

The name Stream Hill received the most support for Suburb A (177), followed by Murringah (83) and Haworth (50). Some respondents supported more than one name and several submissions said Council should keep Kembla Grange as the name for Suburb A.

Stream Hill was considered historically appropriate by many people for Suburb A. It was considered a nice name, easy to spell, say and had a pleasant sound. Negative comments mentioned the Stream Hill timber house was not well kept and it represented recent white history, rather than an older Aboriginal history.

Murringah was supported for recognising Aboriginal history, however the meaning, 'coal' received mixed support. Some people thought coal as a factor of climate change would not be an appropriate suburb name. Others felt it relevant for the region, rather than a suburb.

The name Haworth received less support than Stream Hill and Murringah. Those supporting the name felt it was historically significant and easy to say and spell, others felt it sounded like Hogwarts from the Harry Potter stories.

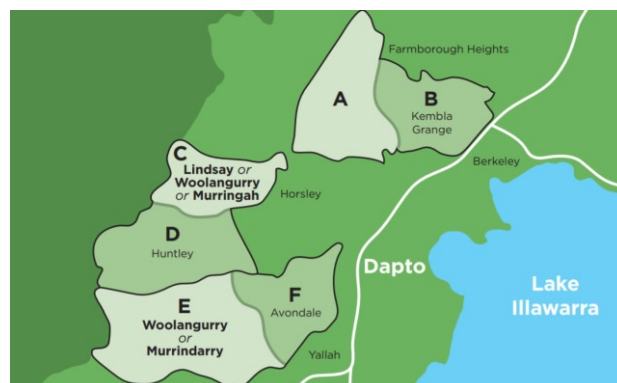
During the Shortlist of Suburb A names exhibition, some community members phoned, emailed and wrote to Council voicing their concern for any changes to the plan to divide the suburb of Avondale. While not part of this particular engagement, Council acknowledged the additional comments on Avondale and advised residents that all feedback would be considered.

## Background

With the growth of the West Dapto Urban Release area, Council decided to undertake a suburb boundary review of Avondale, Kembla Grange and Huntley. The review aims to ensure the suburbs meet the needs of our current and future community. In determining new suburb boundaries, Council follows guidelines and criteria from The Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB).

To begin the process of re-naming three suburbs in West Dapto, the community were invited to tell us their ideas for new suburb names in early 2020. Council wanted suggestions of local Aboriginal significance, local historical females and names that relate to features of the suburb. All Aboriginal language suggestions were reviewed by members of our Aboriginal community. A separate Community Working Group was formed to review all non-Aboriginal names. These two working groups worked with Council staff to prepare a shortlist of names for Suburb C and E. A separate engagement report (Z20/210555 July 2020) was prepared covering Phase 1 of the West Dapto Suburb Review and Naming Project.

The proposed shortlist of names for Suburb C (portion of Huntley) and Suburb E (portion of Avondale) were presented to Council for endorsement on 26 October 2020. Council resolved to endorse the shortlist of names for public exhibition. At the same meeting, Council resolved to work with residents to investigate additional naming options for the second portion of Kembla Grange – Suburb A. The exhibition ran from Wednesday 4 November until Wednesday 16 December 2020.



### Suburb A engagement – 2021

In early 2021 the Community Working Group and the Aboriginal Working Group met again separately to discuss the additional names put forward by the community and to carry out further research. An engagement report (Z20/252083 April 2021) provides a progress update on Phase 2 of the West Dapto Suburb Review and Naming Project. A shortlist of names for Suburb A were suggested and reported to Council in July 2021. This current engagement report details of Phase 2 – West Dapto Suburb A Shortlist of Names. The Project Team will review the data in this engagement report and then prepare a final Report to Council on the entire West Dapto Suburb Review and Naming Project.

## Stakeholders

Stakeholders identified prior to the commencement of the engagement period included:

- Residents
- Traditional Owners
- Local Aboriginal community members
- Community groups
- Community Working Party
- Aboriginal Working Party
- Neighbourhood Forum 8

## Methodology

An information pack including a letter, Frequently Asked Questions and a feedback form was sent to 1,015 community members. Due to the Greater Sydney Covid lockdown, the information packs were not available at our Council libraries and Community Centres.

## Results

This section of the report provides details on the on-line participation summary (Table 1), and the feedback on Murringah (see Table 2), Stream Hill (see Table 3) and Haworth (see Table 4).

### Engagement Participation Results

Feedback came from 275 submissions, which included 130 online responses, 18 emails, 123 feedback forms, three phone calls and one letter.

There were no face to face engagement activities during the exhibition period due to the NSW lockdown and COVID restrictions.

### Online Engagement Results

A total of 130 submissions were received online. Table 1 presents the usage statistics for the project page on Council's website.

**Table 1: Summary of online participation**

Measure and Explanation	Usage
Unique Site Visits – Total number of visits to the project page	718
Aware – Total number of users who viewed the project page	606
Informed – Total number of users who opened a hyperlink or read a document	190
Engaged – Total number of users who have actively contributed to the project via the project page	130

### Submission results

Community members were asked if they supported each of the names Murringah, Stream Hill and Haworth and to add any comments. Feedback came from 275 submissions, which included 130 online responses, 18 emails, 123 feedback forms, three phone calls and one letter. Some respondents supported more than one name and several submissions said Council should keep Kembla Grange as the name for Suburb A. The results for each name on the shortlist are recorded in Table 2 (Murringah), Table 3 (Stream Hill) and Table 4 (Haworth).

### Murringah results

The name Murringah was supported by a third of people who chose to answer the Murringah questions. Details of support for Murringah appear in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Support for Murringah**

Suburb Name Support	Yes	No
<b>Murringah</b>		
Online submissions	48	81
Feedback forms, emails and letters	35	85
<b>Murringah total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>166</b>

### Comments on Murringah

The majority of opposition to the name Murringah referred to 'coal' as inappropriate for a suburb name. Some respondents mentioned the negative environmental impact of coal, while others thought coal was relevant to the entire region, rather than specifically appropriate for Suburb A. Some people said they wanted to support an Aboriginal name but were unhappy as the word coal is now associated with climate change. Fewer people thought the name was hard to pronounce and spell. Concern was raised that Murringah and Warringah sounded

similar and could be confused. Submissions asking Council to keep the name Kembla Grange were received as a response to the questions on Stream Hill, Murringah and Haworth.

Respect for our First Nations people was mentioned by the majority of people who supported Murringah as the name for Suburb A. Some respondents said they liked the sound of the word Murringah.

### Stream Hill results

Community members were asked to provide feedback on the name Stream Hill. 256 of the 275 submissions responded to the Stream Hill questions. Two thirds of these submissions support the name. Details of support for Stream Hill appear in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Support for Suburb Name Stream Hill**

Suburb Name Support	Yes	No
<b>Stream Hill</b>		
Online submissions	84	45
Feedback forms, emails and letters	93	34
<b>Stream Hill total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>79</b>

### Comments on Stream Hill

The majority of positive comments for the name Stream Hill said it was historically appropriate for Suburb A. People said it was a nice name that was easy to spell and say, and had a pleasant sound. Fewer people said it was the 'best of a bad lot' of names.

Negative comments on Stream Hill included concerns the historical property 'Stream Hill' was unkept and was therefore an inappropriate suburb name. Some respondents felt it reflected recent white history, rather than older Aboriginal history, and the name was too similar to nearby Spring Hill. Others felt the name sounded pretentious (although one said it sounded cheap), it sounded like a train station and a street in the Steel Works. Several people thought the name inferred urinating and would attract ridicule as a suburb name. Others said they just don't like the name.

### Haworth results

244 of the 275 submissions provided feedback on the name Haworth. The details of support for Haworth appear in Table 4 below.



**Table 4: Support for Suburb Name Haworth.**

Suburb Name Support	Yes	No
<b>Haworth</b>		
Online surveys	18	108
Feedback forms, emails and letters	32	86
<b>Haworth total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>194</b>

### Comments on Haworth

Three quarters of submissions rejected Haworth as a name for Suburb A. Haworth was considered difficult to pronounce and spell, sounded like Hogwarts from the Harry Potter stories or a local guitar shop. Some respondents said it was not as historically significant as the other suggested names and generally disliked. Those who disliked the name Haworth said it would be confused with Haywards Bay and didn't represent the landscape or community. Several people said they would prefer the suburb to remain as Kembla Grange.

Favourable comments of Haworth included that coincides with Horsley, Huntley and Haywards Bay. Some respondents felt it was a name that reflected the region and was the best of a bad selection of names. Others thought it was easy to say and spell.

### Next Steps

The feedback we've received will be used to inform the Council report with recommendation for the 1 November 2021 Council meeting. Depending on Council's decision, a formal application will then be made to the Geographical Names Board (GNB). The GNB then conduct their own community engagement process before making a final decision.