

# OUR WOLLONGONG

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

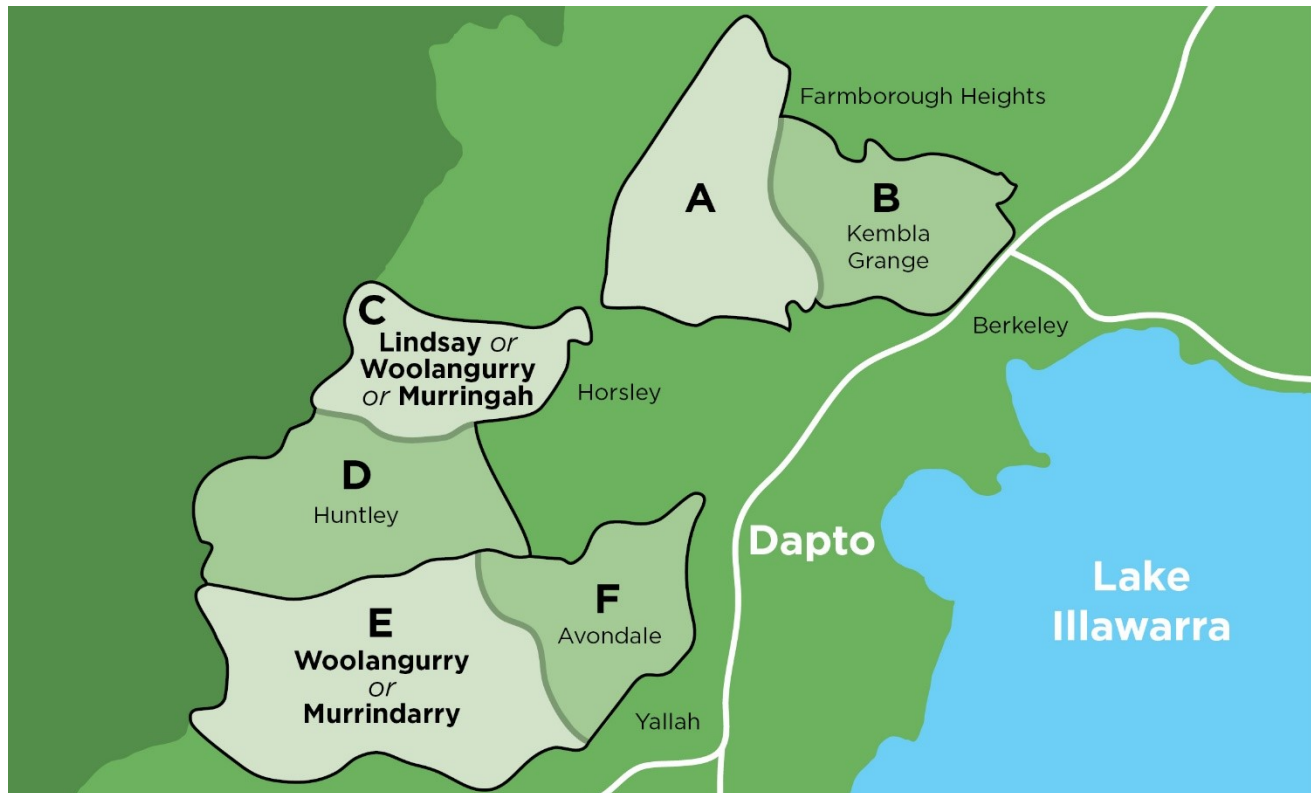


**West Dapto Suburb Review & Naming Project - Phase 2**  
**Engagement Report**  
**April 2021**

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## Executive Summary



Phase 1 of this project commenced in March 2020, informing the community of suburb boundary reviews of Avondale, Huntley and Kembla Grange and inviting community members to suggest new suburb names. For more information about phase 1 of the project visit Council business papers at [www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/your-council/council-meetings/councilbusinesspapers](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/your-council/council-meetings/councilbusinesspapers). The final shortlist of proposed new West Dapto suburb names was presented to Council for endorsement on 26 October 2020. Council resolved to endorse the shortlist of names for the second portions of Huntley and Avondale for public exhibition. At the Council meeting on 26 October 2020, Council resolved to work with residents to investigate additional naming options for the second portion of Kembla Grange - Suburb A.

This engagement report summarises the engagement process for phase 2 of this project. During phase 2, we invited community members to tell us their naming ideas for the second portion of Kembla Grange and to provide feedback about the shortlist of names for Avondale and Huntley.

In total we received 244 submissions and 1 petition during phase 2 of the engagement. Of these submissions, 132 were online, 14 were email or letters and 98 were feedback forms. Residents could complete a separate online survey or feedback form for Avondale /Huntley and Kembla Grange. Emails and letters either mentioned one or both suburb areas.

**Avondale and Huntley** feedback came from 93 submissions, which included 31 online responses, 8 emails and letters and 54 feedback forms and 1 petition. Of the four names suggested for Avondale and Huntley only Lindsay received support (49) with half that number of people opposing it (26). Murringah and Murrindarry received some support but more submitters opposed the use of these names.

Woolangurru results were closer. More people said no to Woolangurru (42) than supported it (35). However, of those who did support the name, more people said they would be happy for the name to be used for either suburb E or C than said yes separately for C or E only.

The petition (with 240 signatures) objected to any name change in the existing Avondale suburb stating “we the undersigned object to the name change from Avondale (Dapto) with a historic, pioneer and rural connection (since 1857) Avondale estate 1893.

**Kembla Grange** feedback came from 160 submissions, which included 110 online responses, 6 emails and letters and 44 feedback forms. Neither Guwara nor McPhail received clear support in submissions, with the majority of people stating they did not agree with either name for Suburb A.

119 people made suggestions for an alternative or new name for Suburb A. 77 different names were put forward. These names were reviewed and researched by the Community Working Group, in conjunction with Council staff.

Community engagement with the Aboriginal community has been consistent and ongoing since February 2020. At the end of 2020, a number of Traditional Custodians and Knowledge Holders requested to be involved with the project and have been highly engaged with the project since this time. The Aboriginal Community Working Group came together in February 2021 to discuss the project. They provided a shortlist of names with information about where each name should be placed and the reasons why.

When the broad community engagement period for Phase 2 ended, the two community working groups were re-established to review and assess all suggested names against the Geographical Names Board’s criteria and significance to West Dapto. The shortlist for Suburb A is Stream Hill, Haworth (nominated by the non-Aboriginal working group) and Murringah (nominated by the Aboriginal Traditional Custodian Groups).

The next step in the process for naming suburbs A, C and E, are expected to occur in April and May, with the suggested names being initially reviewed by the Geographical Names Board, West Dapto Review Committee and Councillors. Any further general community engagement organised by Council will be reported on separately in the future.

## Background

In March 2020, Council informed the community of the suburb boundary reviews in West Dapto and invited the community to suggest names for the new suburbs. As West Dapto develops, the existing suburbs Avondale, Huntley and Kembla Grange are becoming too large and need to be split in half. The project is being run in two phases:

### Phase 1 *(concluded in July 2020)*.

- Inform the community of the suburb boundary reviews.
- Invite the community to suggest names for the new suburbs.
- Establish two (2) Community Working Groups to review and assess the suggested names against the GNB criteria and any significance to West Dapto.
- Use the information collected by the Community Working Groups and Project Team to develop a draft shortlist of names for each of the new suburbs.
  - Draft shortlist to go to GNB staff for informal review.

### Phase 2

The final shortlist was presented to Council for endorsement on 26 October 2020. Council resolved to endorse the shortlist of names for the second portions of Huntley and Avondale for public exhibition. At the Council meeting of 26 October 2020, Council resolved to work with residents to investigate additional naming options for the second portion of Kembla Grange. During phase 2 of the project we invited community members to tell us their naming ideas for the second portion of Kembla Grange and we invited community members to provide feedback about the shortlist of names for Avondale and Huntley. The 6 week public exhibition period commenced on Wednesday 4 November and closed on Wednesday 16 December 2020.

The Community Working Groups were re-established to review and assess all of the newly suggested names for the second portion of Kembla Grange. The West Dapto Review Committee will make recommendations about the proposed new suburb names. Full Council will consider these recommendations. Following this, we will submit the final names and boundaries to the GNB for review and exhibition.

- GNB to inform Council of new suburb names.
- Council endorse new suburb names.

This engagement report is a summary of the engagement process of phase 2 of this project.

## Engagement with Aboriginal community

Engagement with Aboriginal community members, Traditional Custodians and Knowledge Holders has been consistent and ongoing since February 2020. Towards the end of 2020 a number of Traditional Custodians and Knowledge Holders expressed interest in being part of the project and have been highly engaged members of the Aboriginal community working group since. The Aboriginal community working group is made up of Traditional Custodians and Knowledge Holders and has reviewed and assessed all Aboriginal names that were submitted during phase 2 of engagement for this project.

The group initially agreed that the three previously agreed upon names of Murringah (Dharawal language for 'coal'), Woolangurri (Dharawal language for 'track over the mountain') and Murrindarry (Dharawal language for 'the mountain') be put forward to the GNB and Council for consideration. The group again agreed that the three previously agreed upon names of Murringah (Dharawal language for 'coal'), Woolangurri (Dharawal language for 'track over the mountain') and Murrindarry (Dharawal language for 'the mountain') be put forward to the GNB and Council for consideration. Feedback from another Traditional Custodian group resulted in Woolangurri being removed and not being used as a suburb name.

The working group agreed they continued to prefer to keep Murringah for proposed suburb 'A' but could also be used for proposed suburb 'C' in the event a non-Aboriginal name was used for 'A'. The group also decided to keep Murrindarry for proposed suburb 'E'. The group noted their reason for nominating Murringah to also be considered for use at proposed suburb 'C' is that the coal mine is located in 'C'.

## Stakeholders

Stakeholders included:

- Residents of Avondale, Kembla Grange, Huntley and the wider West Dapto and Dapto communities
- Neighbourhood Forum 8
- Wollongong Heritage Reference Group
- Illawarra Shoalhaven National Trust
- Illawarra Historical Society
- Community groups such as CareWays, Rotary and Quota

- Local primary and high schools
- Migrant Heritage Project
- Local Traditional Custodians
- Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Aboriginal Reference Group
- Aboriginal organisations and individual knowledge and language holders

## Methodology

A number of communication methods were used in phase 2, including;

- Engagement website which included links to phase 1 engagement website and GNB, an FAQ, Council Business Papers, maps and two feedback forms.
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Advertiser notifications 18 and 25 November
- All local primary and high schools emailed poster to include in school newsletter
- Posters displayed around the Dapto community (though was limited due to Covid)
- Letters to all residents and land owners of Avondale, Huntley and Kembla Grange including FAQ, poster, survey and reply paid envelope.
- All key stakeholders and participants from phase 1 emailed when project website was live.
- Update at Neighbourhood Forum 8 meeting in November 2020.
- Media release 6 November 2020.
- Information packs including an FAQ, poster and feedback form at Customer Service and Dapto and Wollongong Libraries.

Engagement methods included two separate feedback forms; one to provide feedback about Avondale and Huntley proposed names and the other to provide feedback about Kembla Grange previous proposed names and to invite suggestions of new/alternate names.

## Results

This section of the report provides details on the engagement activities (Table 1), the on-line participation summary (Table 2) and the feedback on the most preferred options for Avondale and Huntley (see Table 3), the level of support for Guwara and McPhail from Kembla Grange (Table 4), the additional suggested names from the community for Suburb A (Table 5), and potential names for Suburb A from non Aboriginal



Working Group members (Table 6). A summary of comments on each of the suburb names appears in the report below.

## Engagement Participation Results

Details of the number of participants for each engagement activity are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Engagement participation results**

Engagement activity	Participation
Submissions received during the engagement period	253
Petition	1

## Online Engagement Results

A total of 132 submissions were received online. Table 2 presents the usage statistics for the project page on Council's website.

**Table 2: Summary of online participation**

Measure and Explanation	Usage
Unique Site Visits – Total number of visits to the project page	1,100
Aware – Total number of users who viewed the project page	864
Informed – Total number of users who opened a hyperlink or read a document	439
Engaged – Total number of users who have actively contributed to the project via the project page	132

## Submission results

The community had the opportunity to complete two online surveys (or feedback forms) for this project. One for Avondale and Huntley and one for Kembla Grange. The results for each of these will be reported separately in the following sections.

## Avondale and Huntley results

Community members were asked to provide feedback on names put forward for Avondale and Huntley

Feedback came from 93 submissions, which included 31 online responses, 8 emails and letters, 54 feedback forms and 1 petition. The results are recorded in Table 3.

**Table 3: Support for Suburb Names for Avondale and Huntley**

Suburb Name Support	Yes	No
<b>Lindsay</b>		
Engagement HQ	17	12
Feedback forms	31	14
Email & letters	1	
<b>Lindsay total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Woolangurri</b>		
Engagement HQ	11	18
Feedback forms	24	26
Email & letters		
Woolangurri for suburb C	10	
Woolangurri for suburb E	19	
Woolangurri for Either	24	
<b>Woolangurri total</b>	<b>35*</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Murringah</b>		
Engagement HQ	16	14
Feedback forms	12	29
Email & letters		1
<b>Murringah total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Murrindarry</b>	13	18
Engagement HQ	17	24
Murrindarry – Feedback forms		1
Murrindarry – Email & letters		
<b>Murrindarry total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>43</b>

Of the four names suggested for Avondale and Huntley, only Lindsay was supported. Murringah and Murrindarry received some support but more people from the general community opposed the use of the names.

Woolangurri's results were closer. More people said no to the name (42) than supported it (35). However, of those who supported Woolangurri, more people said they would be happy for Woolangurri to be used for either E or C, than said yes for C or E only.

The following section provides a summary of the comments made for and against each suburb name.

### **Comments on Lindsay**

Those supporting the name of Lindsay said the name has some historical connection to the area, is easy to pronounce, and spell and does not look or sound similar to other suburb names.

The relevance of Lindsay for the suburb was questioned by those opposed to the name. Some suggested an indigenous name should be used. Others said the name would be confused with Lindsay Mayne Oval at Unanderra.

Rather than suggesting a new suburb name several people said it was a mistake to change the name, and one said they had not been consulted in the first round of engagement.

### **Comments on Woolangurri**

Some people said they like the name Woolangurri. Those not supporting the name said it was too difficult to spell or pronounce, was too similar to Wollongong or Wongawilli and the name, in their opinion, had no historical aspect.

Some residents said Council should leave the existing suburb name as it was very important to the local farming community. A comment was made again that some residents were not directly consulted in the first round of engagement.

### **Comments on Murringah**

Those supporting Murringah said it was a relevant Dharawal word, pays respect to indigenous people, rolls off the tongue, easy to pronounce, different from other Illawarra suburbs and reflects the coal mine land nearby.

Reasons given for opposing the name Murringah were similar to those mentioned for Woolangurri. namely, the relevance of the name for the suburb was questioned and the name was considered difficult to spell. One person said the name sounded cold and sterile.

Rather than suggesting a new suburb name several people said it was a mistake to change the name, and one said they had not been consulted in the first round of engagement.

### **Comments on Murrindarry**

Positive comments said Murrindarry was a relevant Dharawal word and there was some support for an indigenous name. It was considered appropriate being adjacent to Bong Bong mountain.

Difficult to pronounce and spell and doubt about the historical relevance of the name Murrindarry were reasons stated for not supporting this name. Again, some people said rather than suggesting a new suburb name several people said it was a mistake to change the name, and one said they had not been consulted in the first round of engagement.

### Proposed Avondale/Huntley suburb change comments

The online survey and feedback forms asked residents to share any other comments they had regarding the proposed Avondale/Huntley suburb name changes. Comments were received via email, letters and the petition. A summary of the comments appears below.

There were many negative comments about the boundary change for Avondale. Queries were made about whether the creek or roads should be used as a boundary. Several requests were made for area E to remain as Avondale, inclusive of the homestead and future road rerouted to the east side of Avondale homestead. It was suggested this would show Council working with the community.

Some people used this part of the survey to repeat their views on the suggested suburb names. People making positive comments thought it was great to use local indigenous words and names. There were requests to keep names simple but unique from existing suburb names. It was suggested names should be selected that respect local history, the environment but is modern like the area, no longer rural but urban. Using Dharawal names for future streets rather than for suburbs was mentioned as a way to show respect for indigenous culture, but to keep Avondale as the suburb name.

Comments on the recent change of Penrose to Avondale were made, stating that a further change was too confusing. Again a claim was made that ratepayers in area E were not contacted directly in the original engagement.

### Kembla Grange submission results

Community members were asked to provide feedback on the names Guwara and McPhail that were nominated for Kembla Grange. There was also an opportunity to provide an alternative suburb name, and to provide details on how that name met the GNB's guidelines and its significant to West Dapto.

Feedback came from 160 submissions, which included 110 online responses, 6 emails and letters and 44 feedback forms. The results are recorded in Table 4.

**Table 4: Support for Guwara and McPhail**

Suburb Name Support	Yes	No
Guwara – via Engagement HQ	31	77
Guwara – via feedback forms,	10	32
Guwara - emails and letters	1	-
<b>Guwara Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>109</b>
McPhail – via Engagement HQ	5	103
McPhail – via feedback forms,	32	38
McPhail - emails and letters	-	-
<b>McPhail total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>141</b>

Neither Guwara nor McPhail was supported by the community making submissions for Suburb A. Comments for and against Guwara and McPhail have been summarised and appear in the tables below.

#### **Comments on Guwara**

Some people said Guwara was the best of the two names suggested, preferring it to McPhail. The Aboriginal meaning of Guwara was considered very fitting by several people. Those opposed to the name said it was too difficult to say, spell and wasn't relevant to the local area. The existing name Kembla Grange was given as a reason why some residents had bought into the area.

#### **Comments on McPhail**

Several positive comments were received saying the McPhail family had made a positive contribution to the area. One person suggest McPhail Grange would be a more suitable suburb name.

Of the many comments not supporting the name McPhail, most said it sounds like failure. It was mentioned residents living in a suburb called McPhail would be subject to ridicule. It was felt the name was too common, not liked, sounded like a real estate agency and that many other local pioneering families could be honoured. One submission stated the family was acknowledged with the existing McPhail reserve.

#### **New or alternative names suggested for suburb A**

The community were asked if they had a suggestion for a new or alternative name for suburb A.

119 people made a suggestion for Suburb A; 88 online surveys and 31 completed Kembla Grange feedback forms.

Residents were asked to say how their suggested name met the Geographical Names Board's criteria, and the relevance the name had to West Dapto.

A total of 77 names were put forward. Some people suggested more than one name, some names were suggested a multiple of times. Table 5 below shows all of the suggested names for Suburb A.

Table 5: Suggested Names for Suburb A

Suggested Names for Suburb A		
Banyula	Grangeview/Grange View	Little Hill
Barlyn	Granger	Logbridge
Barooga	Grangeville	Lower Dombarton
Baroomby	Gum Tree Valley	Lyden/Lyden View
Black Wattle Hill	Hampton	McPhail Grange
Blue Gum Plains or Blue Gum Sands, Blue Gum Point	Harrington	Mallon Valley
Brumby	Hastings	Marceau Fields
Captains Glen/Captains Grange	Haworth/Haworth Grove	Mountain Grange/View
Cummins	Haysville	Mount Kembla/Mount Kembla Heights
Daisy Bank	Hillview, Hillsvie	Mountindale
Dalton	Hudson Estate	Newton Park
Darkes Meadow	Hunt Valley	Omaroo
Djenbella Plains	Hyde Park	Owen
Dombarton	Iredel	Parkview, Parkdale
East Wongawilli	Johnston's Meadow	Peter
Edenfield	Jordan	Preston
Ellimeek	Kemberton	Sanctuary Views
Escarpment views	Kembla Escarpment/Foothills/ Heights/Hills/Meadows/ Mountain/Plains/Ridge/Vale/ Valley/Views	Sapphire Grange/Valley
Farmborough	Kembla Grange/Kembla Grange Estate	Stane Dyke
Flametree	Kembla Plains	Stream Hill
Fraser Hill	Kembla Ridge	The Grange
Gerard	Kembla Valley	The Ridge
Glen Ayre	Kembla Vale	Warra Views
Glengarry	Kembla Views	Weston Park
Glenleigh/Glen Leigh	Lindsay	Windy Valley

### Community Working Group 2021

Council staff reconvened the Community Working Group in early 2021 and asked for their assistance in reviewing the names put forward by the community for Suburb A. Each member was asked to research a group of names and present their research back to the Project Team.

Members of the Community Working Group then met to discuss the suggested names and have requested that staff discuss the merits of the following names with the West Dapto Review Committee before seeking informal advice from Geographical Names Board staff.

**Table 6: Potential names for Suburb A from non - Aboriginal Working Group members**

Potential Names	Community Working Group Preference	Reason
Stream Hill	Group's preferred name	Historical evidence to support the name and significance to West Dapto.
Stane Dyke	Group does not support this name	Misappropriation concerns, potential spelling and pronunciation issues, the name is already used for park and a street.
Haworth/Haworth Grove	Group generally supportive of this name going forward	Generally supportive with some concern around pronunciation.
Escarpment Views	Group does not recommend the name go forward	Too generic and not unique to West Dapto

For Suburb A, following receipt of the informal advice from the Geographical Name Board, Council staff will present to the Executive Management Committee. Following this, a decision will be made on when to report back to Council for their consideration.