

Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 28 February, 2023

Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Attachments (Under Separate Cover)

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AA22.5 Boongaree Reconciliation Garden - Project Update and Request for Further Concept Design Guidance

HPERM Ref: D22/54726

Department: Community Planning & Projects
Approver: Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

Attachments: 1. Boongaree - Master Plan [↓](#)
2. Reconciliation Garden - Initial Draft Concept [↓](#)
3. Reconciliation Garden - Draft Concept 2 [↓](#)

Reason for Report

To inform the Aboriginal Advisory Committee on the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden project and request their input and advice into the further development of concept plans for the space.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Are informed of the background and current status of the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden project.
2. Participate in discussion with Council staff and provide advice for the concept design of a Reconciliation Garden at Boongaree.
3. Nominate representatives to include in the project stakeholder group that the committee believes would add cultural value and depth to this project.

Options

1. Accept the recommendation.

Implications: This will allow the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to participate in, and inform the design of the Reconciliation Garden. This will result in a well-planned garden, that is reflective of community values, cultural values and is respectful to the land.

2. Provide alternate recommendation.

Implications: Project scope may be repositioned to accept alternative recommendation based on advisement from the Aboriginal Advisory Group. This may impact the timeline of the project.

Background

Boongaree, previously named Berry Sporting Complex and Berry District Park, is located on North Street in Berry. The site is currently used for various passive and active recreation activities including rugby league, cricket, tennis, netball, skate park, walking, cycling, picnics and timed off-leash dog area, along with the newly opened Rotary Nature Play Park which has already become a popular destination for visitors.

AA22.5

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Council initially commenced the process of preparing a master plan for Boongaree in 2014, in preparation of the construction of the Berry Bypass by NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council in July 2017, Council resolved to adopt the Boongaree Master Plan and to proceed detailed design of the various stages of the project. Council is currently in the detailed design and construction phase for the subsequent stages at Boongaree.

Upon the adoption of the Boongaree Master Plan, Council staff initiated a naming campaign which, resulted in a majority vote for the renaming of Berry District Park to be changed to Boongaree - Being the original Aboriginal name for the Berry/Broughton Creek area. At Council's Strategy & Assets Committee meeting in July 2018, Council resolved to adopt the name Boongaree.

Boongaree is identified as one of Shoalhaven City Council's Destination Parks within the town of Berry. Boongaree aims to transform the existing local sporting and recreational area into an integrated nature-based youth, family, sports, and recreation facility that provides a gateway attraction to the Shoalhaven Local Government Area.

The Rotary Nature Play Park and Learn to Ride facility formed Stage 1 of the project, which were opened in January 2022.

The anticipated timing of future stages of Boongaree are provided below:

- Stage 2 & 3- Skate Park and Pump track - 22/23
- Stage 4a & 4b – Cricket nets, netball courts, and reconciliation garden - 22/23(a), 23/24(b)
- Stage 5 – Junior fields, drainage, and parking - 22/23
- Stage 6 – Fenced Dog Off-Leash Area - 22/23
- Stage 7 – Senior fields, drainage, and parking - 23/24

Boongaree – Master Plan and Reconciliation Garden

The Boongaree Master Plan nominates the location of the Reconciliation Garden, which is behind the Netball Courts in the Northern area of the reserve. The purpose of the garden is to provide an inspiring space within the parkland for the community to connect with local Aboriginal culture and explore ideas of reconciliation. This site also aims to create a peaceful location for people to visit and relax.

The Reconciliation Garden site covers multiple Asset Custodians, being Council's Environment Team, Assets and Works Team, and Swim Sport and Fitness Team.

A copy of the Boongaree Master Plan is provided as Figure 1 below and in [Attachment 1](#).

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AA23.6 - Attachment 1

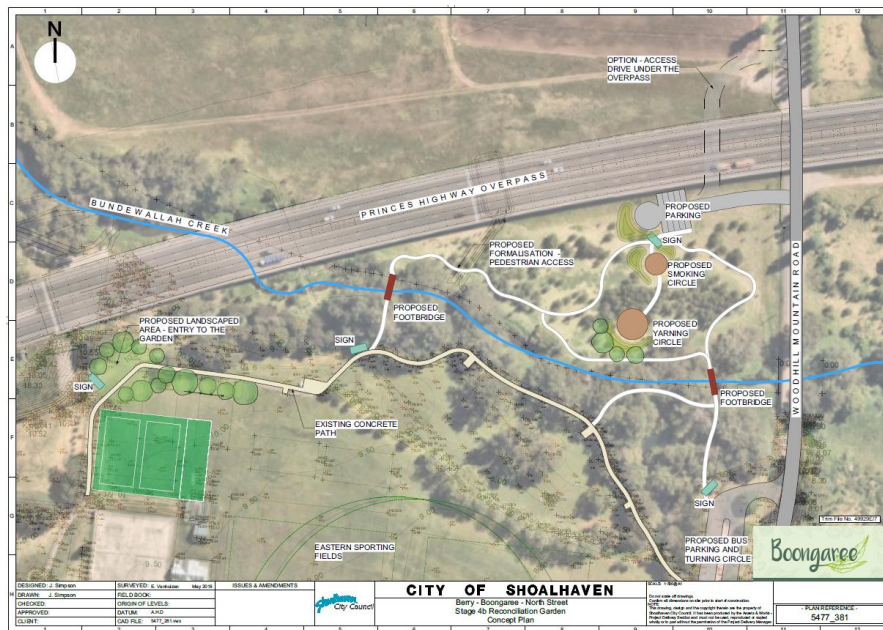


Figure 2 Initial concept developed for discussion

Community Engagement and Evolution of the Concept

The initial concept for the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden is preliminary, to provide Community with an understanding of the potential location, scale, and design. It will be subjected to many iterations prior to finalising first with the internal and external stakeholders, then at a broader community presentation, Councillor briefing, public exhibition and finally a report to Council for endorsement.

Council has created a Get Involved page for the Community to submit feedback or an expression of interest to form part of the stakeholder group. General feedback and expressions of interest will remain open until April 2022.

Currently, Council’s Social Infrastructure Planning team is working with Jerrinja Tribal Group, Jerrinja Local Area Land Council (LALC), Nowra LALC, Berry Bushcare, Berry Landcare, Berry Park Bushcare Group, and the relevant internal and external stakeholders to determine the project scope and a draft concept that meets the needs of all stakeholders. At this stage, there are currently over 50 people are on the stakeholder list.

Consultation Format

Council have developed the engagement in an open and welcoming format. It is important to the success of this aspect of the park to take the time to work with community in an informed and methodological way. This is to ensure the Reconciliation Garden meets the needs of all stakeholders and is respectful to cultural heritage.

Four consultation building blocks have been created in order to provide stakeholders with an understanding of the way forward as well as an opportunity to reflect on the developing design process. Below is an overview of each consultation building block:

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Building Block 1

On 5 January 2022, a workshop was held at the Berry School of Arts. 18 people were in attendance for this event. This building block was an introduction to the site, a concept plan, provision of scope, timeline, and budget. The initial draft concept was introduced to the stakeholders and discussion around the concept occurred in an interactive environment.

Building Block 2

On 2 February 2022, a second workshop was held at Berry School of Arts. 10 people attended this event. An additional concept plan that was developed by Bushcare was produced at the workshop for discussion. Building Blocks 1 and 2 have produced further iterations to the draft concept plan.

Building Block 3 - Upcoming

This consultation has been designed to allow the participants to go back to the fundamentals of what is a reconciliation garden and what does reconciliation mean to the participants.

Building Block 4 – Upcoming

This final consultation will provide opportunity for all stakeholders to review the final plans and to make any final changes prior to a Councillor briefing, public exhibition, and endorsement.

Current draft Concept

As a result of the feedback received so far, and the workshops that have occurred during Building Block 1 and 2, further iterations to the concept have occurred. This concept includes an agreed location for the smoking circle, yarning circle, and parking areas. Further investigations will be required during future consultation regarding the footpaths and foot bridges throughout the Reconciliation Garden.

Plans for the current draft concept can be viewed Figure 3 and in [Attachment 3](#).

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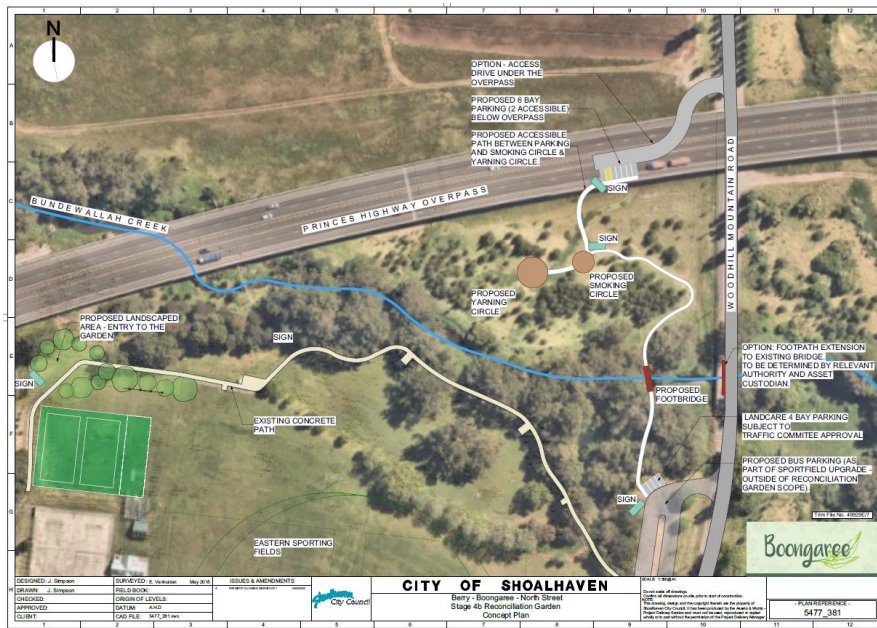


Figure 3 Current Draft Concept

Project Timeline

The proposed timeframes for the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Anticipated Timeframe

Stages	Expected Commencement	Expected Completion
1 Program Strategic Development	Nov 2021	Nov 2021
2 Consultation and engagement	Nov 2021	April 2022
3 Report to Aboriginal Advisory Committee	March 2022	March 2022
4 Final concept design	April 2022	May 2022
5 Further Investigations (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, REF, Flood Study, etc)	May 2022	May 2022
6 Community review (pending investigation outcomes)	June 2022	July 2022
7 Councillor Briefing – for endorsement to public exhibition	July 2022	August 2022
8 Exhibition of Concept Design	September 2022	October 2022
9 Review of exhibition feedback	October 2022	October 2022
10 Concept design amendments – pending exhibition feedback	November 2022	November 2022
11 Report to Council for adoption	November 2022	November 2022
12 Detail Design process	Early 2023	Early 2023
13 Delivery begins	2023	2023

AA22.5

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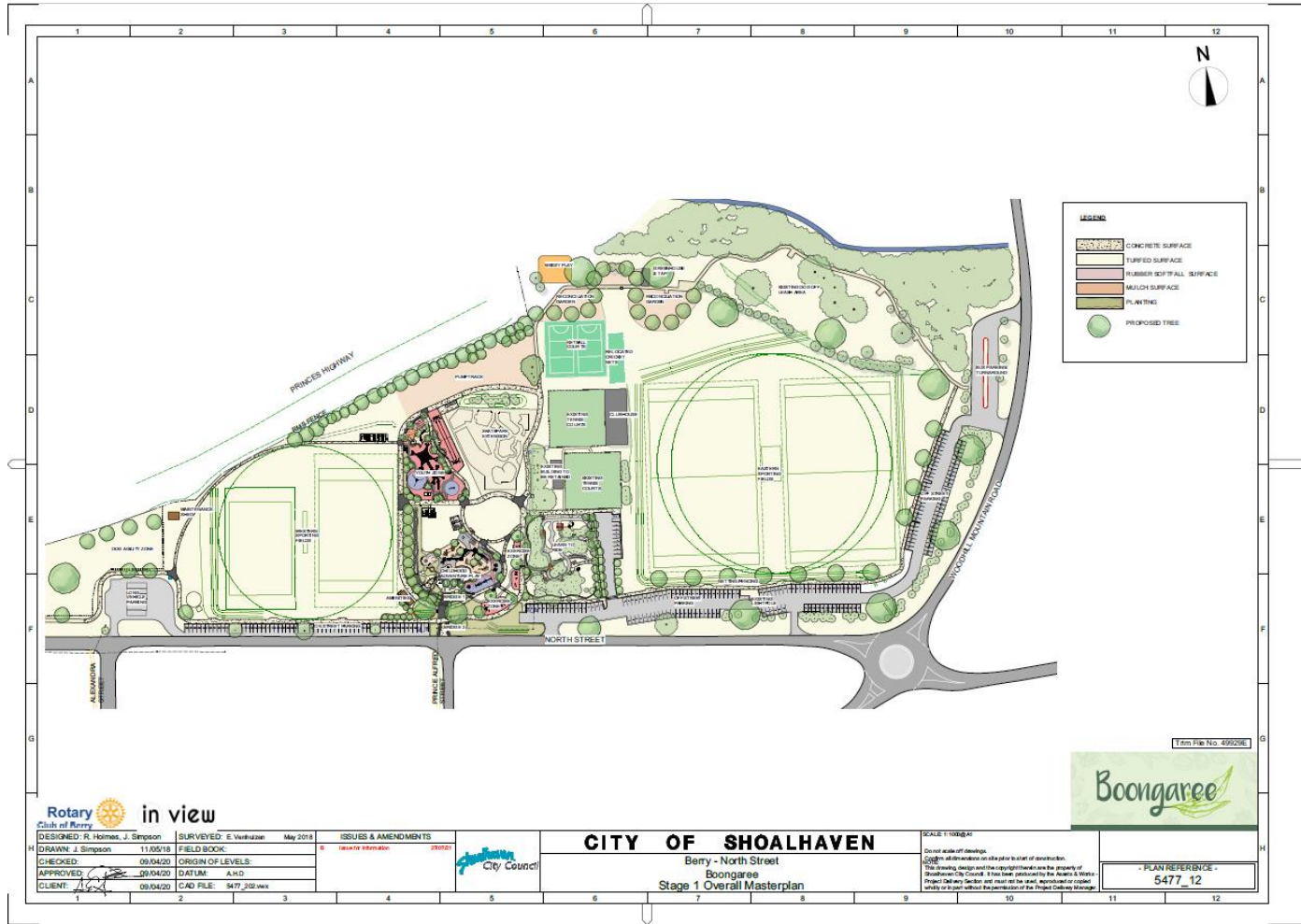
Next Steps

Further feedback on the draft concept will occur via the online feedback form and workshops with the stakeholder group. Feedback will require definitions of a reconciliation garden and what does reconciliation mean to the participants. Final workshops will provide opportunity for all stakeholders involved to review the final draft concept plans and to make any changes prior to a Councillor briefing, public exhibition, and endorsement.

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee provide appropriate and considered advice to Council on all relevant issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the Shoalhaven LGA and are therefore encouraged to participate in the development of this project to ensure that it is reflective of the cultural needs of all residents and visitors in the Shoalhaven.

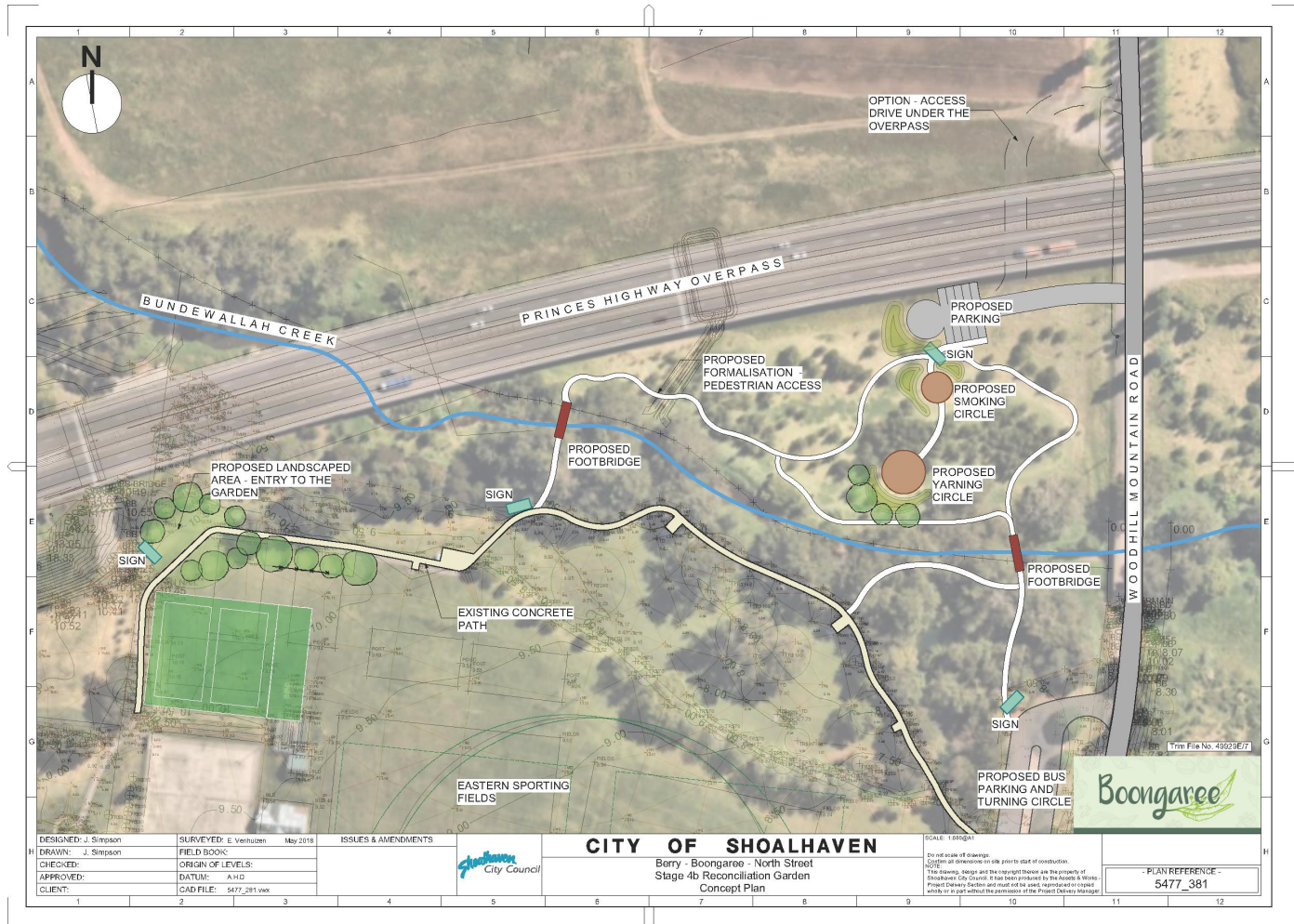
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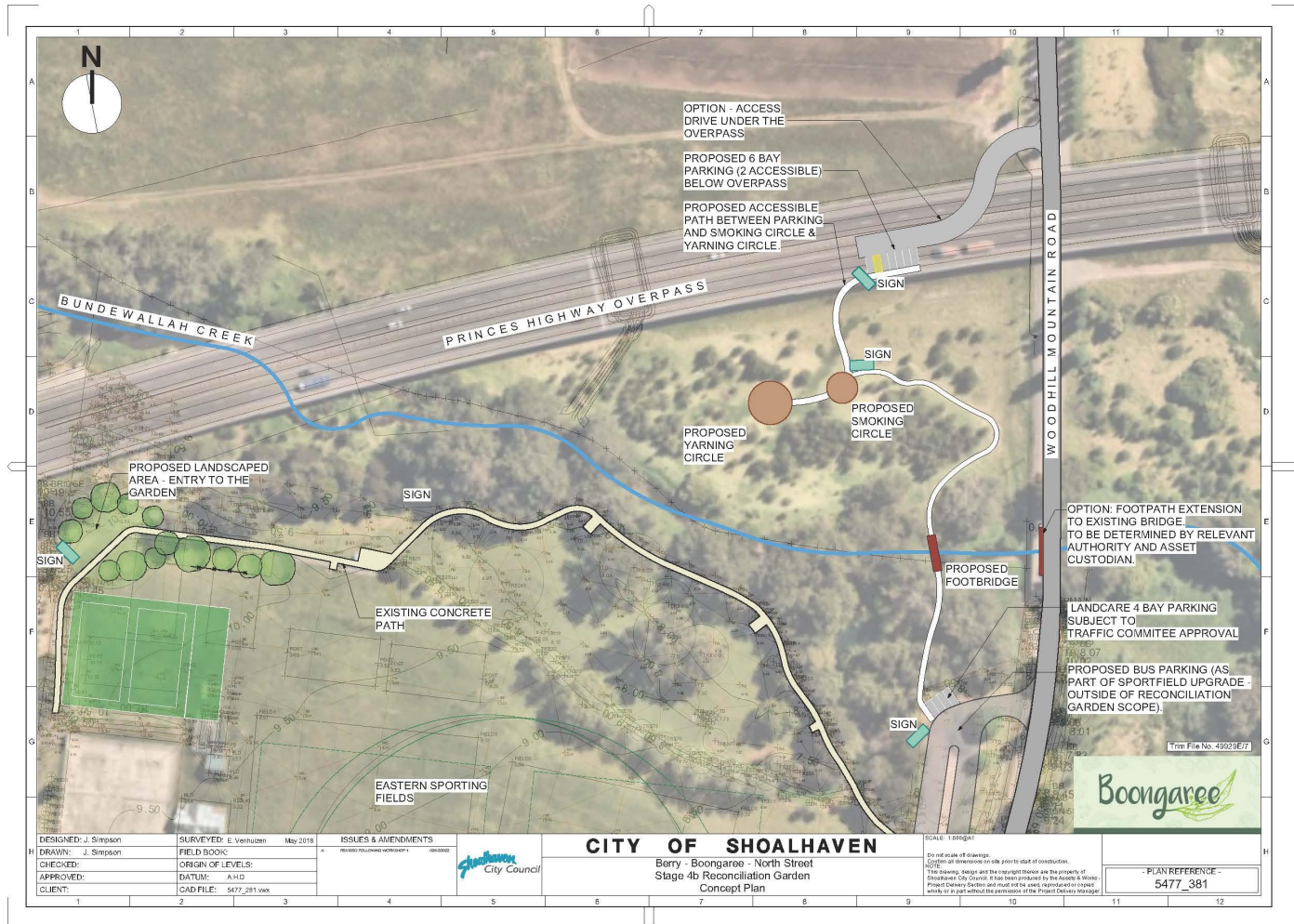
AA22.5 - Attachment 1

AA23.6 - Attachment 1



AA22.5 - Attachment 2

AA23.6 - Attachment 1



AA22.5 - Attachment 3

AA23.6 - Attachment 1

SA18.169 Berry District Park - Name Your Park - Proposed Name Change

HPERM Ref: D18/186473

Group: Finance Corporate & Community Services Group
Section: Recreation Community & Culture

Attachments: 1. Summary of Submissions Received - Name Your Park (Berry District Park) Park)

Purpose / Summary

To report to Council details of the community engagement process undertaken to determine the preferred name for Berry District Park as per MIN16.279 and endorse renaming the park “Boongaree Park”.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That Council:

1. Note the community engagement undertaken for the naming of Berry District Park
2. Having considered feedback from the community engagement process, endorse the renaming of Berry District Park to Boongaree Park.

Options

1. Adopt the recommendations and rename the Park from Berry District Park to Boongaree Park.

Implications: This will allow finalisation of the naming campaign consistent with the Council resolution of 19 April 2016 (MIN16.279, part “g”) and as per the majority votes received during the “Name Your Park” campaign from the community.

2. Council resolve to adopt an alternative recommendation.

Implications: Not in line with the above resolution and community dissatisfaction with wasted staff resources. An alternative recommendation might not fit the community vision.

Background

Berry District Park naming has been ongoing since 2016. Extensive community consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders over the past three months to determine the preferred name for the park. Details of the community engagement process are outlined below. A list of the suggested names for the park received during the consultation period are detailed in **Attachment 1**.

Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement regarding the naming of the park has been undertaken with the community, CCB and sporting groups. Stakeholders were kept up to date on the project throughout the “Name Your Park” campaign through a variety of communication methods.

Council's Social Infrastructure Officer presented a project update to the Berry Forum (Community Consultative Body) on 15 February 2018. The Forum were briefed on the upcoming Name Your Park engagement and provided with flyers.

An on-site Children's Consultation took place in March 2018. The consultation successfully engaged the children and youth, parents and community members of Berry to provide their feedback on the design of the park. The stakeholders were also handed flyers to advise them of the upcoming Name Your Park campaign.

Name Your Park Campaign

The Name Your Park engagement was undertaken in two stages. Stage One was undertaken from 3 April to 16 May 2018 (inclusive). During this stage, members of the community were invited to submit suggested names for the park.

Submissions were received online via Council's Get Involved platform and ballot boxes located at Berry Public School and the Berry Post Office.

Flyers promoting the engagement were emailed and posted to all residents of North Street in Berry, emailed to Schools, Sporting groups of the Park, attendants of the Children's Consultation Day, Berry Forum, Berry Alliance, Berry District Rotary and any previous respondents from previous exhibitions of concept plans. A media release promoting the engagement was issued to all local media on 3 April 2018.

The original deadline for suggested names was extended from 30 April to 16 May to encourage more community members to submit names and allowed the Berry Town Crier (monthly community newspaper servicing 5,000 local residents) to publish information regarding the engagement in their May issue.

Participants were advised that their suggested name should fit the following criteria:

- Demonstrate connection to the Berry community and to the surrounding natural areas;
- Be positive and family friendly; and
- Memorable and original.

As part of this process, forty-five (45) nominations were received. Following completion of Stage One, participants were advised they would be contacted when the shortlist would be made available, when Stage Two of the consultation commenced, and be invited to vote on the shortlist.

Stage Two involved voting on the short-listed nominations and was open for a 2-week period from 17 to 30 May 2018 (inclusive). During this time, community members were invited to vote for their preferred name from the shortlist of names. The shortlist was determined by staff as best meeting the naming criteria provided above. A brief description was provided alongside each name explaining why the name had been suggested by the participant.

The shortlisted names and the brief description provided were as follows:

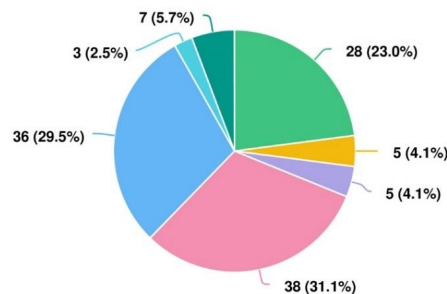
- Banyula Park - Banyula is the Aboriginal word for "Many Trees".
- Berry Adventure and Fun Park - It's going to be fun and an adventure!
- Berry Adventure and Sports Park - It's going to be an adventure and sport is played there.
- Boongaree Park - "Boon-ga-ree" is the original Indigenous name given to this area by the Wodi Wodi people of the Dharawal nation.
- Broughton Park - Berry was originally named Broughton Creek. The creek runs along the park and through the town.

- Diorama Park - Berry is the town of trees. Diorama means tree in Dharawal, the local Indigenous language.
- North Street Community Park - Traditional name which won't be confused with other parks in town. North Street gives clear location. Community gives purpose of the park.

Voting could be completed on the Berry District Park project page on Council's Get Involved platform and at Council's Community Information Evening held at the Nowra School of Arts on Tuesday evening, 29 May 2018. In total, 122 votes were received with Boongaree Park receiving the most votes, at 38 votes and 31.1% of the total. The following table and chart list the outcome of the vote:

PARK NAME	VOTES
Banyula Park	28
Berry Adventure and Fun Park	5
Berry Adventure and Sports Park	5
Boongaree Park	38
Broughton Park	36
Diorama Park	3
North Street Community Park	7

Please select from the list below the name you most prefer for the area currently referred to as 'Berry District Park':



Question options

● Banyula Park
 ● Berry Adventure and Fun Park
 ● Berry Adventure and Sports Park
 ● Boongaree Park
● Broughton Park
 ● Diorama Park
 ● North Street Community Park

(122 responses, 0 skipped)

Following closure of the process, a complaint was received from the Berry Forum regarding several residents reporting to have experienced difficulty voting, for various reasons.

The complaints have been considered and the voting process assessed and deemed robust. However, in order to better understand the issues, complainants were asked to report details of their difficulties directly to the Project Officer, to consider their claims on a case by case basis.

The following submissions were received as a result:

REASON FOR LATE CONSIDERATION OF VOTE	VOTE
Email confirmation showed participant voted for a name other than what they had wished to vote for	Banyula Park
System failure (either technological or user error) – unable to submit online form	2 x Broughton Park

Considering the late votes would change the outcome of the voting to:

PARK NAME	VOTES
Banyula Park	29
Berry Adventure and Fun Park	5
Berry Adventure and Sports Park	5
Boongaree Park	38
Broughton Park	38
Diorama Park	3
North Street Community Park	7

Conclusion

It is recommended that the park be named Boongaree Park as per the minute (MIN16.279, part g) as it has regard to the original Aboriginal name for the Berry / Broughton Creek area.

AA18.25 Request for Advice - Development of Sensory Garden and Native Flora Area - Boongaree

HPERM Ref: D18/254311

Group: Finance Corporate & Community Services Group
Section: Recreation Community & Culture

Purpose / Summary

at Boongaree.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:

1. Participate in discussion and provide advice on the development of a sensory garden and native flora area at Boongaree.
2. Nominate any additional people the committee believes should be consulted as part of this project.

Background

Berry District Park, now renamed Boongaree, is located on North Street in Berry. Currently, this area is used as a sporting complex hosting rugby league, cricket, tennis, netball and a skate park.

On 18 July 2017, the Ordinary Meeting of Council resolved to adopt the masterplan of Berry District Park and to proceed detailed design. Council is currently in the detailed design phase.

Since this resolution, Council staff initiated a naming campaign which saw the community vote in majority for the renaming of Berry District Park to Boongaree Park (the original Aboriginal name for the Berry/Broughton Creek area). On 25 July 2018, Council's Strategy & Assets resolved to adopt the name Boongaree.

In line with the Berry Strategic Plan, and Council's Community Infrastructure Strategic Plan, Boongaree will provide passive and active recreation for the community and visitors.

In addition to the existing active recreation facilities, Boongaree will also have:

- a pump track
- additional junior cricket, rugby league and a Junior soccer pitches
- exercise equipment
- extended skate park
- extended parking
- new netball courts
- nature play children's area
- youth passive recreations spaces
- walking circuit
- fenced dog park and

AA18.25

AA23.6 - Attachment 3

- learn to ride
- bus and RV parking
- additional amenity (with lift and change) facilities
- a sensory garden and native flora area.

Current Situation - seeking advice for the sensory garden and native flora area

Council is planning to develop a sensory garden and native flora area. Council staff are seeking guidance and advice from the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and broader Aboriginal community to assist with the design, contents and stories for this garden to capture the rich cultural history of this area.

Community Engagement

Council has previously engaged with the Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community Alliance Interagency (SACAI) with regards to the Naming Campaign and has provided information via a verbal update previously to the Aboriginal Advisory Committee. Council staff are seeking to continue engagement with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and broader community as part of the development of the sensory garden / native flora area of Boongaree. This might also involve providing connections to local advisors.

Next steps

Council staff will take advice and suggestions of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to further develop the project concept and design and contact any other people the committee nominate. Staff will then report back on further developments to the Advisory Group.

AA18.25

AA23.6 - Attachment 3

ADDENDUM REPORTS

AA22.24 Flood Recovery Programs - NSW Environment Protection Authority

**HPERM REF:
D22/461452**

Note: This Item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

AA22.25 Additional Item - Naming of Boongaree

Under Item AA22.22 it was noted by Mr Jared Brown that the community had raised concerns regarding the naming of the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden.

RECOMMENDATION (Jared Brown / Jason Groves)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee receive further background information on how the naming of the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden was decided, and request to be involved in the consultation process of all future naming's of such Council assets.

CARRIED

AA22.26 Additional Item - Cullunghutti Plan of Management - Updates

This Item was raised earlier in the meeting under Item AA22.22 in relation to AA21.17.

RESOLVED (Jared Brown / Jason Groves)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee request to be kept regularly updated regarding the progress of Cullunghutti Plan Management; this will be discussed at the next meeting.

CARRIED

AA22.27 Additional Item - Cullunghutti Plan of Management - Family Group Representation

This Item was raised earlier in the meeting under Item AA22.22 in relation to AA21.17.

RESOLVED (Jared Brown / Jason Groves)

If there are future consultations on the Plan of Management for Cullunghutti, the Chair advised that Cullunghutti family groups will also be represented.

CARRIED

AA22.28 Additional Item - Council Advisory Committees - Indigenous Representation

This Item was raised earlier in the meeting under Item AA22.22 by Mr Jason Groves.

RECOMMENDATION (Jared Brown / Jason Groves)

That the Aboriginal Advisory Committee encourage the appointment of two (2) Indigenous representatives, male and female, on all Council Advisory Committees.

CARRIED

FOR: Clr Findley, Clr Kotlash, Clr Norris, Clr Butler, Clr D'Ath, Clr Copley, Clr Ell, Clr White, Clr Wells, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Gray

AGAINST: Nil

CARRIED

AA22.21 Cultural Immersion Workshops **HPERM Ref: D22/397800**

RESOLVED* (Clr White / Clr Gray) **MIN22.935**
That Council

1. Note the Aboriginal Advisory Committee received the report regarding Cultural Immersion Workshops for information.
2. Suggest Council staff to investigate other organisations with the capacity to deliver Cultural Immersion workshops targeted towards men's business in addition to the Waminda facilitated training.

FOR: Clr Findley, Clr Kotlash, Clr Norris, Clr Butler, Clr D'Ath, Clr Copley, Clr Ell, Clr White, Clr Wells, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Gray

AGAINST: Nil

CARRIED

AA22.23 Membership Appointment **HPERM REF: D22/418803**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting see MIN22.928

AA22.25 Additional Item - Naming of Boongaree

RESOLVED* (Clr White / Clr Gray) **MIN22.936**

That Council endorse the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to receive further background information on how the naming of the Boongaree Reconciliation Garden was decided, and request to be involved in the consultation process of all future naming's of such Council assets.

FOR: Clr Findley, Clr Kotlash, Clr Norris, Clr Butler, Clr D'Ath, Clr Copley, Clr Ell, Clr White, Clr Wells, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Gray

AGAINST: Nil

CARRIED

AA22.28 Additional Item - Council Advisory Committees - Indigenous Representation

RESOLVED* (Clr White / Clr Gray) **MIN22.937**

That Council as recommended by the Aboriginal Advisory Committee, encourage the appointment of two (2) Indigenous representatives, male and female, on all Council Advisory Committees.

FOR: Clr Findley, Clr Kotlash, Clr Norris, Clr Butler, Clr D'Ath, Clr Copley, Clr Ell, Clr White, Clr Wells, Clr Watson, Clr Kitchener and Clr Gray

AGAINST: Nil

CARRIED

Minutes Confirmed Monday 12 December 2022 – Chairperson.....