

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**10 MAY 2023****7****RENAMING OF BLACKFELLOWS CREEK TO BANA GINDARJA CREEK**

Luke Jackson | 52/8/1 | #7163582

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the renaming of Blackfellows Creek by the State Government to Bana Gindarja Creek

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Department of Resources, QLD Government
Gimuy Walubara Yidinji

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Following a request by Council, the Department of Resources has officially renamed Blackfellows Creek in Edmonton to Bana Gindarja Creek. The process was championed by Gudju Gudju Fourmile - an elder of the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people - who made initial representations to Councillor Rob Pyne to have the creek and adjacent Council park renamed.

The creek renaming is the first of its kind in the Cairns region and Far North. Bana Gindarja has direct cultural significance to Traditional Owners of the area and refers to the Cassowary which is a cultural totem.

This action by Council and the State Government has resulted in widespread positive community support, greater cultural awareness and respect, and builds positive relationships and connections within the whole Cairns community.

BACKGROUND:

At the Community, Sport, Events and Cultural Services Committee Meeting held on 9 September 2020, a general business motion was raised requesting Council to consider an alternative name for Blackfellows Creek in Edmonton. This was to be undertaken in consultation with Traditional Owners prior to a submission being made to the Department of Resources. The Department of Resources is the responsible authority for creek naming, not Council.

Traditional Owners were consulted and advised of this Council motion. A formal request was subsequently made to Council by Traditional Owners on 6 January 2021 requesting that Blackfellows Creek be changed to Bana Gindarja Creek - which refers to the cassowary (an important cultural totem). It was also requested that Blackfellows Creek Park be renamed Allan and May Oliver Park / Bana Gindarja Park.

At the Ordinary Meeting held 27 January 2021, Council resolved to support the proposal

by Traditional Owners to rename Blackfellows Creek to Bana Gindarja Creek and make a submission to the Department of Resources requesting that this be given consideration. Council also resolved to consider changing the name of Blackfellows Creek Park to Allan and May Oliver Park / Bana Gindarja Park.

A submission was made by Council to the Department of Resources on 2 February 2021 requesting that the Department of Resources consider renaming the creek in consultation with Traditional Owners.

At the Community, Sport, Events and Cultural Services Committee Meeting held 14 April 2021, Council resolved to rename Blackfellows Creek Park at Edmonton, Allan and May Oliver Park / Bana Gindarja Park.

The Department of Resources undertook community consultation for the request and officially renamed the Creek, Bana Gindarja Creek by Gazettal Notice on 13 January 2023.

COMMENT:

The renaming of Blackfellows Creek to Bana Gindarja Creek is the first of its type for a creek in the Cairns Regional Council area and one of only a handful of creek renamings that have occurred across Queensland.

Council has renamed or dual named many parks in the last decade since the Council policy was adopted to encourage Traditional Owners involvement in the process of naming parks. This has proved to be a positive and well received initiative by Traditional Owner groups and the wider community. Renaming parks and creeks by Traditional Owners has several positive impacts, such as:

- Creating awareness of culturally important places, historical events, individuals, groups and heritage,
- Garnering greater community knowledge, appreciation, understanding and respect for local Traditional Owner groups, their stories, their connection to country, and their culture,
- Building positive relationships and connections between Traditional Owners, government agencies and institutions, and the wider community.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The creek has a significant cultural connection for Traditional Owners. It provided a vital source of food, shelter and water, and was used as a camp prior to and after European settlement.

Policy:

Naming of Community Infrastructure General Policy.

The renaming aligns with the provision in the policy to acknowledge Traditional Owners by naming or dual naming community infrastructure in consultation with them and enabling names to be provided that reflect cultural heritage.

Reconciliation Action Plan

The renaming aligns with the Visions in the RAP. In particular, the renaming aligns with the vision to value and support the Bama; the Rainforest Peoples and individual clan groups within our area, and acknowledge and respect their unique customs, culture, heritage and language.

CONSULTATION:

The Department of Resources undertook community consultation for the creek renaming and Council officers have been in ongoing discussions with Traditional Owners about this matter.



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