

5.6. NAMING OF NEW BRIDGE IN WHYANBEEL

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DEPARTMENT Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to name the new bridge in Whyanbeel Jimalji Bridge.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new bridge has been built over Little Falls Creek in Whyanbeel, replacing a causeway which was subject to flooding. The new bridge is currently unnamed. Several suggestions were put forward by the community for Council to consider.

The Kuku Yalanji language name Jimalji has been recommended.

BACKGROUND

Whyanbeel Causeway No. 1 was a single lane crossing on Whyanbeel Road over Little Falls Creek. It provided connection for several sugar cane farms, grazing properties and rural residential allotments.

The creek is the collection point for a large catchment area and was inundated by floodwater several times each year. To reduce the instances of flooding the causeway has been replaced with a bridge.

The project was 100% funded by the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland program.

COMMENT

Under Section 59 (1) (d) of the Local Government Act, a road is "a bridge, culvert, ford, tunnel or viaduct".

Under Section 60 (2) (d) of the Local Government Act, Councils are granted the power to name roads, but must do community consultation. Consultation has been completed a report attached.

PROPOSAL

That Council resolves to name the new bridge at Whyanbeel Jimalji Bridge.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil – cost of sign will be covered by the Queensland Government's Works for Queensland

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Nil

Environmental: Nil

Social: Nil.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy, and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

***Goal 1** - We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.*

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play several different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Builder/Owner Council makes a significant investment every year in the infrastructure that underpins the Shire through its capital works program. Council will manage its assets with appropriate frameworks and deliver its projects through robust project management.

CONSULTATION

Internal: Project team

External: Whyanbeel residents; traditional owners, Historical Society and the public in general. See attached report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Summary of Comments [O8J1] [5.6.1 - 3 pages]

Whyanbeel Bridge Name Consultation

Consultation Method

An email was sent to 18 Whyanbeel residents (those on the ratepayer database) asking for suggestions and requesting a response by 10 August 2020.

Others invited to make suggestions were Traditional Owners via Jabalbina and the Historical Society.

On 12 August, four suggested names were posted on Council's Facebook page.

Douglas Shire Council
August 12 · 🌐

What do Fan Palm, Jimalji, Karnak and Little Falls have in common? Well, they are all excellent names which have been suggested for the new bridge in Whyanbeel.

Which is your favourite? Check out the Whyanbeel Causeway project page to find out the story behind each of names and then share your thoughts.

Whyanbeel Causeway Upgrade | Douglas Shire Council
Whyanbeel Causeway No. 1 was a single lane bridge on Whyanbeel Roa...

2,234 People Reached **281** Engagements [Boost Post](#)

👍👤 Deborah Favier, Matthew N Jones and 12 others 10 Comments

Performance for Your Post

2,234 People Reached

28 Reactions, Comments & Shares ⓘ

13 👍 Like	13 On Post	0 On Shares
1 😲 Wow	1 On Post	0 On Shares
14 Comments	14 On Post	0 On Shares
0 Shares	0 On Post	0 On Shares

253 Post Clicks

0 Photo Views	47 Link Clicks	206 Other Clicks ⓘ
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide Post **0** Hide All Posts

0 Report as Spam **0** Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Short list of Names Suggested

- Fan Palm
- Jimalji
- Karnak
- Little Falls

Comments:

- I would like to express my desire for an Aboriginal name. I think it is time to honour the land where we live and recognise the first nations people of our country. Whyanbeel is such a place...where aborigines settled and live in harmony with our precious nature for such a long time. Therefore I would feel very proud of seeing the new sign showing a Kuku Yalanji name.
- I would strongly advocate for an Aboriginal name for the new bridge in Whyanbeel to honour the Traditional Owners of this valley and this land. Not being Bama I will leave it to the local Elders to make an appropriate suggestion in language...

At the opening of meetings and gatherings in the Shire the Traditional Owners and local Elders are often acknowledged in word - I see this as an opportunity to do something tangible. Something tangible to correct a history that has seen them largely marginalised. With (50,000 plus) years of history and connection to this land I think that this is the very least that we can do as a community.

Just want to reiterate my support for the Aboriginal name chosen by the Kuku Yalanji Elders for the new bridge in Whyanbeel. The name they have chosen relates not only to their own history and connection to country but it also signals for tourists that they are in the correct area to find the walking track up to the Devil's Thumb or more appropriately Manjal Jimalji. I know that there is a bit of nostalgia in the valley for Karnak but there is already a road just there which carries that name and records that history.

We already have a KARNAK Road just there as a tribute to Diane Cilento would it not be better to select a name in the language of the Traditional Owners who have called this land home for more than 50,000 years? Let's respect the Traditional Owners of this land and name the bridge Jimalji.

- The old causeway was locally referred to as Karnak Causeway, I would like to suggest keeping the name for the new bridge. I have contacted the current Karnak owner they are happy to have the bridge named after Karnak.
- Bridge looks amazing. It's always been known as Karnak causeway. So be fitting for it to be known as Karnak Bridge. Many of the people in the valley have had much to do with Karnak over the years, even before it was a playhouse.
- I'd like to suggest Fan Palm Bridge. Fan palms are abundant on many properties behind the bridge. It is a very pretty palm and I am not aware of another bridge in this area with this name. We would be happy to donate a couple of fan palms from our property if the council would intend to plant some more around the bridge.
- I would like to see the bridge called Jimalji Bridge. Or double name it with Karnak. The other two names are boring, especially Little Falls.
- As a resident of Karnak Road, I would like to see the new bridge have a local name. An old settler or a sovereign people's name.. Or brown hawk as we have plenty of these guys. Looking forward to hearing what has been decided.
- As a local we have always called it Karnak crossing
- Cilento Causeway

- Strikes me as a bit weird that so many people are leveraging their tenure in the local landscape as a valid rationale for choosing a name which is inspired by Egyptian culture and very recently made famous and localized by a recent immigrant, while simultaneously discounting a name of great relevance to the local indigenous culture who, you could reasonably argue, have a somewhat deeper more substantial tenure in this landscape... Just saying'...

You may ask "What's in a name?", I would argue that there is great power in words, and names in particular. That is why such eye watering expense and investment is made by opinion managers everywhere, from governments and propagandists to corporate advertisers and PR firms into the concoction of carefully crafted naming schemes. Words define how we think about the world and names define how we think about the named.

The local people who currently refer to the landmarks around them by certain names, are a fleeting, temporary blip in the history of the place in which they live. Those who come after them will inherit the naming schemes left by their predecessors and those names will influence how those people relate to their landscape.

We can, and I think we should, greatly aid the important task of reconnecting future generations to the deeper context of this land and the ancient culture that sculpted it, through a judicious application of appropriate nomenclature.

- Karnak (three responses)
- The Historical Society met yesterday and decided that Karnak would be an appropriate name for the bridge at Whyanbeel, to commemorate the creation of international actress Diane Cilento of the now-defunct theatre nearby.
- Jabalbina – extract from letter below:

Kuku Yalanji Language Name for Whyanbeel Bridge – 'Jimalji'

Jabalbina Yalanji Land Trust was established in 2007 to hold land under the Aboriginal Land Act – Queensland. Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) has been working since it was established to support Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama achieve their aspirations. Jabalbina when translated in Kuku Yalanji means "Home of the Ancestors". The Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bubu (country/land) boundary is mostly in the Wet Tropics areas.

Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC) is registered as the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Cultural Heritage Body and has statutory responsibilities under the *Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (QLD)* to protect all cultural heritage and serve as a first point of contact.

The Eastern Kuku Yalanji Aboriginal people are the Traditional Owners of this area. Their traditional country extends from near Cooktown, south to Mowbray towards Yule Point. Many natural features of the landscape have spiritual significance for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji including *Wundu* (Thornton Peak), *Manjal Dimbi* (Mount Demi), *Wurrmbu* (The Bluff) and *Kulki* (Cape Tribulation). Manjal Jimalji is a significant cultural site that tells the story of fire creation.

Devils Thumb, also known as Manjal Jimalji by the Eastern Kuku Yalanji, is a mountain located near Mossman within the Daintree National Park, Far North Queensland, Australia. Devils Thumb rises 1,065 metres above sea level. The creek that runs under the new bridge at Whyanbeel travels from Manjal Jimalji. Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation would like to name the new bridge – '**Jimalji**'.