

9.5 Naming of a new road in a subdivision off Adams Lead Road Gulgong.

REPORT BY THE PROPERTY SUPPORT OFFICER
TO 17 MARCH 2021 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, P25207 R0790041

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Property Support Officer on the naming of a new road in a subdivision off Adams Lead Road Gulgong; and**
2. **formally approve the name of Peru Road for this new road.**

Executive summary

Formal approval is requested to name the new road in a subdivision off Adams Lead Road in the locality of Gulgong, Peru Road.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Council, being the Roads Authority, is required to name new and unnamed streets and roads. Following the approval of a subdivision off Adams Lead Road in the locality of Gulgong, Council went through the road naming process and approved the name of Joinery Lane at their 19 February 2015 meeting. However, the road has not yet been built and the developer requested the road be re-named to commemorate Mr Peru Perumal. Council wrote to the neighbours of the subdivision on 28 August 2020 requesting their naming suggestions. Public consultation was also invited in an advertisement placed in the 28 August 2020 Mudgee Guardian and on Council's website.

Five additional submissions were received, all in support of Peru Road. Two other names were previously submitted for the original naming of this road. From these names Council provisionally approved the name of Peru Road at their 21 October 2020 meeting.

Peru relates to Peru Peramul (20/9/1941-26/5/2020). Peru was a highly regarded Sydney architect who first came to Gulgong in the early 1970s, as a member of the National Trust's Urban Conservation Committee, to carry out an investigation into the town's then, current and future conservation needs. Gulgong became Peru's second home and he made a huge contribution to saving Gulgong's unique architectural character. He was an inspiration for, an active participant in, and a major influence on the conservation, enhancement and promotion of the historic precincts of Gulgong and Mudgee.

The Geographical Names Board was advised of this possible road name but are unable to approve it at this stage due to the requirement that a person is to have been deceased for at least 12 months before an application to commemoratively name a road after them is deemed acceptable.

Aside from the time limit there are no other obstructions to approving the name. This will not preclude Council from formally approving this name at this meeting. After which staff will place the naming process on hold until the end of May and resume the application to the GNB after the 12 month period has passed. The developer is aware of the situation and has received temporary addressing based on Adams Lead Road pending the gazettal of the new road name.

Once the application is resumed with the GNB notices of the new road name will be served on Australia Post, the Registrar General, the Surveyor General, the NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Fire & Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Brigades, NSW Police Force, NSW State Emergency Service and NSW Volunteer Rescue Association via the NSW Online Place and Road Naming Proposal system.

Street naming is legislated under the Roads Act (1993). This Act empowers the authority in charge of the road with the rights to name it. The naming of this road will allow the completion of street addressing within the new subdivision. Section 162 of the Roads Act (1993) states that “a road authority may name and number all public roads for which it is the authority. A road authority may not alter the name of a public road unless it has given the Geographical Names Board (GNB) at least two months’ notice of the proposed name.”

In accordance with Council’s Road, Bridge & Place Naming Policy, should Council formally endorse the naming of this new road, notice of the approved name will be:

1. Published in the Government Gazette, the Mudgee Guardian and on Council’s website.
2. Concurrently, notice of the new name will be sent to Australia Post, the Registrar General, the Surveyor General, the NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Fire & Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Brigades, NSW Police Force, NSW State Emergency Service and NSW Volunteer Rescue Association, and, in the case of a classified road – Roads and Maritime Services.

Council received written permission from Mr Perumal’s daughter on 13 October 2020 for the use of photos of Mr Perumal in Council’s Reports in relation to the naming of this road.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Connecting Our Region
Goal	High quality road network that is safe and efficient
Strategy	Provide traffic management solutions that promote safer local roads and minimise traffic congestion

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Not applicable.

Council Policies

Road, Bridge & Place Naming Policy.

Legislation

Roads Act 1993.

Road Regulation 2008.

Geographical Names Act, 1996.

Geographical Names Board of NSW Address Policy and User Manual, October 2019.

Financial implications

The cost of and installation of streets signs will be met by the developer.

Associated Risks

Nil.

CAROLYN ATKINS
PROPERTY SUPPORT OFFICER

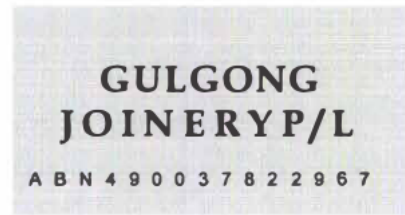
LEONIE JOHNSON
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

23 February 2021

Attachments: 1. Submission.
2. Map.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER



Mr Brad Cam
General Manager
Mid Western Regional Council
PO Box 156
MUDGEES NSW 2850



3 August 2020

Dear Brad,

**RE: ROAD NAMING REQUEST: FORMAL SUBMISSION
GULGONG JOINERY P/L SUBDIVISION 103 ADAMS LEAD ROAD GULGONG
DA 0146/2020 LOT 3 DP1244767**

Further to my letter to you of 9 July 2020 which you kindly passed on for me to the relevant Council department, I have been advised by personnel from that department that I should now submit a formal Road Naming Request to have the name Joinery Road changed to PERU ROAD. The road is yet to be built but it is a condition of the DA (DA0146/2020) Consent received by me on 24 June 2020 for my company's subdivision.

I, therefore, now formally request that the road into the subdivision be renamed Peru Road. As advised by Council staff, I submit the obituary written about Peru and 2 photos of him as documentary evidence to support my submission. As is evident from the obituary, Peru made an enormous contribution to Gulgong, Mudgee and to the MWRC area generally and to have this road named after him would be a fitting acknowledgement of his very significant legacy. Peru worked tirelessly to conserve, enhance and promote the unique heritage of the entire Mid Western Council region for many years from 1975 up until the mid 2000s when he had an input into the master plan for Gulgong's Red Hill Precinct. In that he was able to mobilise an entire community, thus enabling people to 'see' and to appreciate the unique heritage of Gulgong and the MWRC area, is testament to his commitment and the very positive impact his work, much of which was voluntary, had.

Not only has Peru's family give their permission for me to submit this formal request but they also expressed their gratitude in the hope that Peru could be remembered in this way. The family also asked that his Christian name (Peru) and not his surname (Perumal) be used to name the road. Indeed, throughout his highly successful professional career as a prominent Sydney architect, he was always referred to as Peru and it is by his first name that those of us who were privileged to know and work with him still fondly remember him.

It would be very much appreciated therefore if you could forward my letter with your endorsement to your relevant Council department to progress this formal request.

Yours faithfully,

David Warner

GULGONG JOINERY P/L ACN 003 782 296
Postal Address: MUDGEES NSW 2850 AUSTRALIA
MOBILE: EMAIL:

GULGONG SAYS THANK YOU PERU

PERU PERUMAL (20 September, 1941– 26 May, 2020)

Gulgong, and indeed the whole shire, has recently lost a good friend. Many current residents would be unaware of the early days to save Gulgong's unique architectural character. Peru's contribution towards this is an important part of the town's history, and of its development and presentation as a townscape of rare quality evolved from important historic and social events of Australia's past. Indeed, Peru Perumal, a highly regarded and much respected Sydney architect, was an inspiration for, an active participant in, and a major influence on the conservation, enhancement and promotion of the historic precincts of the Mid-Western Regional Council (formerly Cudgegong and Mudgee Shire Councils) for over 40 years.

TIMELY INTERVENTION

In the early 1970's, the National Trust (NSW) was very much aware of Gulgong's special architectural and historic significance. It was also fearful for its future if measures were not taken to arrest trends that were current at the time. And so it was, into this atmosphere of uncertainty, that Peru (along with Tony Strachan) came to Gulgong, in a voluntary capacity, as a member of the National Trust's Urban Conservation Committee to carry out a preliminary investigation into the town's then current and future conservation needs.

A report, *Gulgong: Proposed Conservation Area – Classified and Recorded* was produced by Peru and presented to a well-attended public meeting in the Prince of Wales Opera House on Friday 12 September, 1975. Prior to its presentation, an editorial in the Mudgee Guardian referring to this heritage conservation study stated that this plan:

“ ... is perhaps the most important document to be tabled in Gulgong, and one that should attract the attention firstly of local citizens, and with continued Shire backing, the State Government itself. Gulgong is singularly fortunate that two dedicated experts should give their time to produce a plan aimed at “stopping the rot”, and—preserving what is acknowledged as Gulgong's greatest asset and certainly its greatest tourist attraction the historic character of the town.”

(15 July 1975)

MOBILISING THE COMMUNITY

The release of the report was followed by a series of further public meetings which were held to inform local residents of the national significance of their town, the process whereby its conservation and enhancement could be ensured, and the life style and commercial benefits that would ensue. An outcome of the very first public meeting was the formation of *The Gulgong Conservation Society* which played an active role in the promotion of the conservation ideal. With significant input from Peru, a system of bi-annual awards was implemented. This was a joint venture between the Conservation Society and Mudgee Shire Council. These awards, with a judging panel which included representatives from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the National Trust (NSW), and The Heritage Council of NSW, recognised local residents, architects and tradespeople in the areas of building restoration and new building work (including additions) within the town's designated conservation area. Peru also presented a series of articles in the local media which sought to further explain the concept of conservation, how it applied to the towns, and how best it could be implemented.

THE FORMAL HERITAGE STUDY

Further to his preliminary report for the National Trust, Peru was commissioned by the Mudgee Shire Council and the Heritage Council of NSW to prepare a formal study of the town. This report, *The Gulgong Environmental Study* presented in 1981, was adopted by both authorities and formed the basis of Mudgee Shire Council's LEP No. 10 which set about formalising and then implementing its recommendations. To assist in this regard, Peru was appointed Mudgee Shire Council's Heritage Advisor, a position he held for almost 10 years. Although the position was funded for only 2 days per month, Peru spent countless additional days, at his own expense, liaising with and advising Council and the people of the Shire in conservation matters.

THE GULGONG DESIGN AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

As part of this process Peru established *The Gulgong Design and Review Committee* which was made up of members of the local community and councillors. Its purpose was to review and advise on building conservation issues submitted by the public prior to them being forwarded to Council for approval. This achieved two important outcomes: most issues were resolved before they became problematic; and the conservation of the town was being guided by the local community itself rather than being imposed from above by some external authority. As a consequence, the people themselves adopted the need to conserve the town's historic architectural character. This, together with a new found pride in its uniqueness, still continues today.

OTHER AREAS OF INFLUENCE

As the heritage conservation work being done in Mudgee and Gulgong became well-known Peru, along with other members of the community working with him, were invited to speak at a number of historic centres, e.g. Bathurst and Glen Innes, which were also developing conservation programs at the time.

During his time as Heritage Advisor, Peru also played an important educative role. He was an important mentor and consultant for 2 significant town initiatives. Firstly, *The Gulgong Town Trail*, an instructional walking tour which led participants on a self-guided tour of the town's unique historic buildings and elements within the designated conservation area. His expertise was also drawn on for the 1984 submission to the NSW Education Department to establish an Historic Urban Field Studies Centre (the very first in Australia) at the disused Red Hill School site. This became a reality in the mid-nineties and now flourishes as The Red Hill Environmental Education Centre.

Red Hill was the site of the first gold discovery in 1870 which led to the founding of the town of Gulgong. Until recently, Peru had been the voluntary advisor for the Red Hill Project, a local community initiative in partnership with Mid-Western Regional Council. Peru developed a master plan for the project and although funding was initially limited, a number of significant works have since been undertaken resulting in the establishment of the *Gulgong Gold Experience* which, through educative signage, displays and information, details the early days of mining on Red Hill and the town itself.

A HANDS-ON APPROACH

Peru was also involved with the restoration and enhancement of existing buildings along with the construction of sympathetic additions and new buildings throughout the shire. Examples of the restoration work included: the Mudgee and Gulgong Police Stations, the original Gulgong Town Hall and the "Lawson House" in Gulgong. New buildings included St Matthews School in Mudgee, major additions to All Hallows School in Gulgong and to the (former) Ulan Electric Building – to mention but a few. He also advised on the initial beautification of the Mudgee CBD. The façade on the former Gulgong WESTPAC Bank

building was also one of Peru's initiatives so that, being in such a prominent position in Mayne Street, it would better blend in with the historic streetscape.

Peru always referred to Gulgong as his second home. Indeed, his warmth, genuineness and enthusiasm for the town and its people endeared him very much to those who knew him and who were privileged to partner with him in the important task of conserving the town for the benefit of present and future generations. By example, he brought the need to conserve our historic precincts to the consciousness of the people of Gulgong, Mudgee and district. His work over many years saw him advise, educate, enthuse and participate in all matters of urban conservation. Far from being a theorist, Peru was very much a hands-on practitioner and willingly provided all manner of practical advice and guidance to those wishing to undertake restoration and/or sympathetic new building work or who just required a traditional colour scheme.

THE LAWSON HOUSE

The "Lawson House" in Medley Street is an excellent example of his approach. Built by Henry Lawson's father in the late 1800's this derelict building had a demolition order placed on it in the 1970's. Peru put together a syndicate of 5 local people and set about the task of restoring this historically significant building. Not only did he draw up the plans for the building's conservation but he also organised working-bees in which he was very much involved, and often with his young family accompanying him. Local builders too were involved and guided through the restoration process. More recently, he had input into the restoration of Dolly's in Medley Street (an early example of a miner's cottage) and The Old Belmore Hotel in Herbert Street (a remnant from Gulgong's *Roaring Days*).

PERU'S LEGACY

Conservation worked in Gulgong because Peru, through his expertise, his compassion, his personable approach, and his vision, enabled local people to 'see' those things that make the town unique and special. The community was, therefore, enabled to internalise the need for this to happen. Through his efforts and encouragement the town has flourished and has become a unique regional tourist destination and an important educational resource and facility.

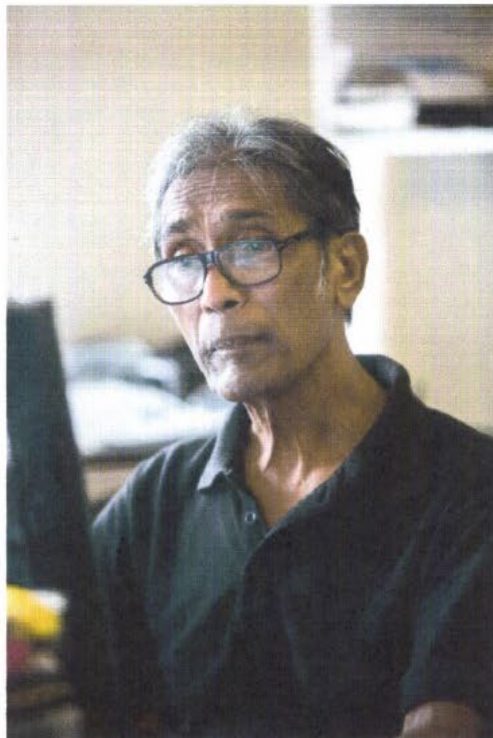
Peru was a valuable friend and mentor who was able to empower, motivate and mobilise a whole community. Without his timely intervention in 1975, Gulgong could very well have gone the way of other historic towns which did succumb to the ravages of time, neglect and disinterest. For this we are all indebted to him for his drive, initiative, foresight and guidance without which our region's historic precincts would be the poorer. As such, his legacy cannot be overstated and should not be forgotten.

David Warner
3 June 2020

PERU PERUMAL (20 September 1941 – 26 May 2020)



Peru when he came to Gulgong in 1975 to conduct the town's first Heritage Conservation Study.



Peru Perumal in 2014 when he was still Providing advice on the Red Hill Mining precinct and museum in Gulgong.

