

## Item 9: Finance

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### 9.1 Naming of Roadside Rest Area in the Locality of Cudgegong

#### REPORT BY THE PROPERTY SUPPORT OFFICER

TO 04 AUGUST 2021 ORDINARY MEETING

GOV400088, P23737, PAR300020

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### That Council:

- 1. receive the report by the Property Support Officer on the Naming of Roadside Rest Area in the Locality of Cudgegong; and**
- 2. support the name of Aunty Mary Hooker Rest Area and support the proposal to honour Aunty Mary Hooker as submitted in the confidential attachment.**

#### Executive summary

Council received a submission for a place or road to be named in memory of Aunty Mary Hooker. After consultation with family members it was agreed to name the rest area on the Castlereagh Highway adjacent to the road leading to the Cudgegong Cemetery, in memory of Aunty Mary Hooker.

#### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

#### Detailed report

Council received a submission for a place or road to be named in memory of Aunty Mary Hooker. After the location was selected, letters were sent to the immediate neighbours of the Rest Area on 30/7/20 and advertised in the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Mudgee Guardian. Submissions closed on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 with 2 additional submission received. However the two submissions, for Atkinson and Malone, were for a duplicated name and a name too close in similarity, that were already in use, Atkinson Street and Maloneys Road.

The original submission for Aunty Mary Hooker Rest Area was presented in a Report to Council at the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 meeting. As the submission related to an Aboriginal woman Council also liaised with the Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding the naming proposal. The MLALC did not support the naming of the reserve after a person believing it to be culturally appropriate to name places after topography, fauna and flora, geology, resources, events, use of place etc. However, wishing to acknowledge a worthy person, Council supported the name and an application was submitted to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) on 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. To ensure all sides of the matter were represented the MLALC letter was included in the application.

The GNB is the authority for the naming of places and the proposal application went to their 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 meeting where it was approved to be advertised for public comment. The proposal was advertised in the Mudgee Guardian and on the GNB website from 16<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021. During that period the GNB received one objection and the matter has now returned to Council for consideration.

Objections to the GNB Proposals site are private / confidential and are not to be made public. A copy of the objection will be provided to the Councillors as a separate Confidential attachment. Council has written to the objector and advised that the matter will go back to Council at this meeting to allow for them to provide any other information they wish to draw to Council's attention. A response received 6<sup>th</sup> July has been included in the separate Confidential attachment.

As part of the naming process Council supports submissions for Aboriginal names; names related to local history, including property names; the names of early explorers, pioneers, settlers and other eminent persons (not living); names from war and casualty lists; and thematic names such as flora, fauna or ships. The worthiness of this particular submission is elaborated upon in the attached GNB application.

The 6<sup>th</sup> July response from the objector has also raised another proposal to honour the life of Aunty Mary Hooker which is worthy of support. This could be supported in addition to the naming of the rest area.

It is recommended that Council support the naming of the rest area as Aunty Mary Hooker Rest Area and the proposal put forward in the 6<sup>th</sup> July letter.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Looking After Our Community</b>
Goal	Vibrant towns and villages
Strategy	Respect and enhance the historic character of our Region and heritage value of our towns

## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Not applicable.

### **Council Policies**

Road, Bridge & Place Naming Policy.

### **Legislation**

Geographical Names Act, 1996

Geographical Names Board of NSW Policy – Place Naming, 2019

## Financial implications

Cost of signage is included in the 2021/22 Operational Plan

## Associated Risks

Nil

CAROLYN ATKINS  
PROPERTY SUPPORT OFFICER

LEONIE JOHNSON  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

30 June 2021

*Attachments:* 1. GNB Application.  
2. GNB Application Consultation document.  
3. Confidential Attachment. (Confidential - separately attached)

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER

**\*Your Reference**

Rest Area PAR300020 P23737

**\*Type of Proposal**

- Place Name Proposal     New/Amended Address Locality Name     Address Locality Boundary Amendment

**Geographical Details**

**\*Proposed Geographical Name**

Aunty Mary Hooker Rest Area

**\*Local Government Area(s)**

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL x

**Parish**

Tannabutta x

Start typing and press enter to add a P

**County**

Wellington x

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**\*Address Locality/Suburb**

Cudgegong x

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**State Electorate**

Dubbo x

Start typing and press enter to add an E

**\*Describe the feature and it's extent**

Roadside Rest Area at 9176 Castlereagh Highway CUDGEGONG NSW 2850. Located on Castlereagh Highway Road Reserve adjacent to lane leading to Cudgegong Cemetery and Lot 169 DP 169 DP 1148732, and opposite Lot 51 DP 1160463.

**\* Attach Marked Map**

Click or drag file here to upload...

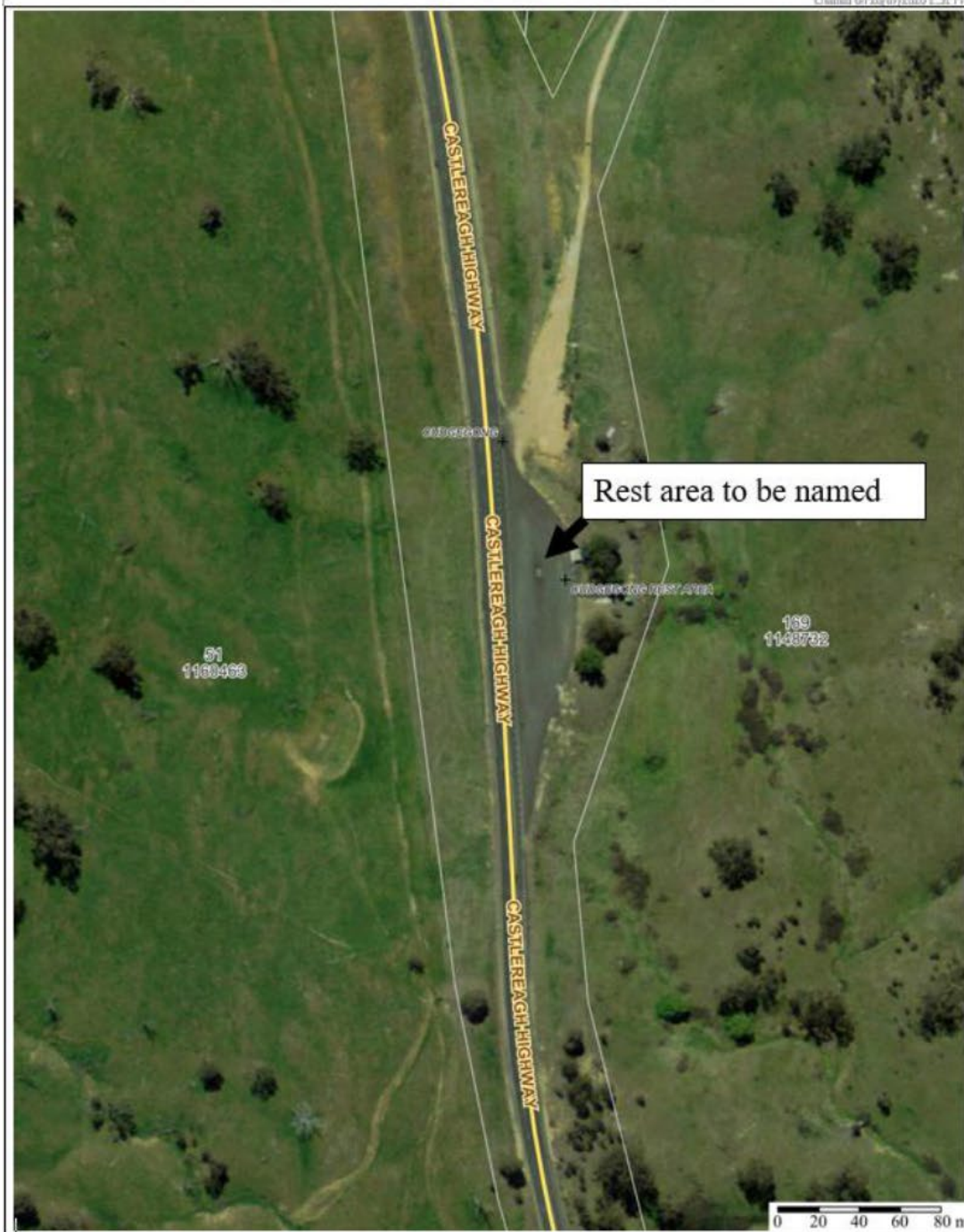
Add Files



Map.pdf


View File

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**Attach Marked Photo**

Click or drag file here to upload... [Add Files](#)

 Photo.jpg [View File](#) [Remove](#)



## Lot and Plan Information

Please provide lot and plan information if available

	Lot	Section	Plan	Address	
1	<input type="text" value="Enter lot.."/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Sec"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Plan"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter address..."/>	<input type="button" value="Add Lot"/>

## Name Details and Origin

### \*Origin of Proposed Name

Please describe the origin of the feature's proposed name in the context of what the name signifies, what culture or background the name derives its meaning or to whom the name commemorates.

Aunty Mary Hooker was a proud Biripi / Bundjalung woman, part of the Stolen Generation, who was a strong advocate for Indigenous health and education. She held many roles including Aboriginal Ambassador for NSW/ACT Guide Dogs and Aboriginal Representative for the Stolen Generation Foundation, and was committed to reconciliation and bringing Australians together. An Aboriginal Elder, an Author, and educator, Aunty Mary Hooker was an outstanding role model for her children, grandchildren and community at large. Aunty Mary died on 30/9/2019 and is buried in Cudgegong Cemetery located near the rest area being named.

### Attach supporting material for origin

Click or drag file here to upload...

	Report to Council (prelim) - Naming of a rest area in Cudgegong.pdf	<a href="#">View File</a>	<a href="#">Remove</a>
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**\*Reason for the choice of the proposed name**

Aunty Mary is an example of someone who suffered the worst of her fellow human kind and rose above it to become an example of the best of her fellow human kind. She contributed not only to the area she chose to live in but to the state and to her fellow human kind. It is fitting that a small area of land be a memorial to her so close to her final resting place.

**Meaning of word used in proposed name**

Enter Meaning of Word Here...

**Provide the phonetic spelling of the proposed name**

Enter Phonetic Spelling Here...

**Attach pronunciation audio/sound files**

Click or drag file here to upload...

**Add  
Files**

**\*Does this proposed name commemorate a person?**

No  Yes

**\*Full Name of Person**

Mary Elizabeth Hooker (Aunty Mary Hooker)

**\*Date of Birth**

1958-02-08

**clear**

**\*Date of Death**

2019-09-28

**clear**

The Date of Birth or Death is unknown

**\*What is the person's association with this feature and their main contribution to the local community?**

Aunty Mary was an advocate, on the state and national level, for Aboriginal reconciliation and against institutional child abuse. She was also an ambassador for Guide Dogs NSW/ACT, travelling around the State, including the local area, to raise awareness of vision loss issues along with Gulliver, the world's largest guide dog. Aunty Mary also worked with her local communities in 2018 to help organise protests against the bulk transfer of water from Windamere Dam. The rest area is located next to Lake Windamere (Windamere Dam) and just below the Cudgegong Cemetery where Aunty Mary chose to be buried.

**What is the source for this information?**

Please see attached Council Report. Also articles from Wellington Times 4/9/2013, Daily Telegraph 7/3/2014, Yass Tribune 12/11/2014, Daily Liberal 14/8/2018, Western Magazine 12/9/2018 and Mudgee Guardian 16/11/2018

### Attach supporting documentation

Click or drag file here to upload...

Add  
Files



AuntyMaryDailyLiberal140818.pdf

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AuntyMaryYassTribune121114.pdf

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AuntyMaryDailyTelegraph070314.pdf

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AuntyMaryWellingtonTimes040913.pdf

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AuntyMaryWesternMagazine120918.pdf

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AuntyMaryMudgeeGuardian161118.pdf

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### Is the proposed name an Aboriginal name?

No  Yes

### Has the name been selected in consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council and the local Aboriginal community?

No  Yes

### List the community groups consulted and provide evidence of support

Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council were contacted on 22/9/20 regarding providing comment on this naming proposal. A response was received on 4/11/20 and a copy is attached. While the MLALC have chosen not to support the proposal it is hoped that the Geographical Names Board will consider Aunty Mary's contributions to the people of Australia was not limited to one area and her worthiness is not limited to where she was born or even where she chose to be buried.

### \*Attach supporting documentation

Click or drag file here to upload...

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MudgeeLALC Letter 041120.pdf

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### Country/Aboriginal nation

Biripi / Bundjalung

### Language Group

Biripi / Bundjalung

### How would you describe the place type?

Roadside Rest Area



**Does the proposed name have a multicultural dimension?**

No  Yes

**Place Name Proposal Checklist**

1. Is the name supported by council resolution?  No  Yes

2. Does the name have public support?  No  Yes

3. Is the feature currently named?  No  Yes

4. Does this name comply with **Section 9.2** in the GNB Place Naming Policy?  No  Yes

5. If naming a reserve, does this name comply with **Section 9.8 Generic Reserve Names** in the GNB Place Naming Policy?  No  Yes

6. Has an Aboriginal name been considered?  No  Yes

7. Has a multi-cultural name been considered?  No  Yes

**\*Local Newspaper(s)**

If approved by the GNB, this proposal will be advertised in a local newspaper. Please provide the name of a local newspaper.

Mudgee Guardian ✕

Start typing and press enter to add a Newspaper name...



Mid-Western Regional Council  
Carolyn Atkins  
PO Box 156  
Mudgee NSW 2850

04/11/2020

**RE: Request for support for the naming of the roadside rest area off the Castlereagh Highway near Cudgegong Cemetery.**

Dear Carolyn,

I am writing regarding your request for support for the naming of the roadside rest area off the Castlereagh Highway near Cudgegong Cemetery after Aunty Mary Hooker.

This decision has been carefully considered after community consultation and has been made from a local cultural perspective and in accordance with cultural protocols.

We respect and value the contribution that Aunty Mary Hooker has made to Australian society, however the consensus is that it is not culturally appropriate to name the proposed area after her. We understand the desire to recognise people for their contributions and we understand the request has come from her family however culturally we do not support place naming in this way.

Our ways of place naming since time immemorial relate to the wider cultural landscape – topography, fauna and flora, geology, resources, events, use of place etc – as is evident when you look at the place names in use today. Mudgee, Gulgong, Wollar, Menah, Putta Bucca, Guntawang and so on all have names derived from Wiradjuri words relevant to place. Our community believe that this is the culturally appropriate way to place name.

We understand that generally there is a movement to include more reference to Aboriginal people and culture in naming and signage but we believe that it should be done in a culturally appropriate way with true meaning so that it does not become tokenistic.

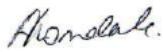
Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council  
PO Box 1098, Mudgee NSW 2850  
Ph: 02637 23511 Fax: 0263723522  
Email: mudgeelalc@bigpond.com  
ABN: 54 927 738 589

As such we respectfully decline the request for support for the proposed naming of the rest area after Aunty Mary Hooker and recommend that if the area is to be named with any reference to Aboriginal history and culture that a culturally appropriate alternative needs to be found through consultation with the Mudgee LALC.

We are more than happy to work with Mid-Western Regional Council to suggest suitable names with Wiradjuri cultural significance and relevance to Country and the local Aboriginal community within our LALC region in the future.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 0411451776.

Yours Sincerely,



Aleshia Lonsdale  
Chairperson  
Mudgee LALC