

6.2.3 Renaming of Officer Recreation Reserve to 'Rob Porter Recreation Reserve'

Responsible GM: Debbie Tyson
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Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. Note that no objections were received to the proposed renaming of the Officer Recreation Reserve,
2. Formally resolve to rename the Reserve the 'Rob Porter Recreation Reserve' and
3. Forward the resolution to Geographic Names Victoria for formal approval and publication in the Government Gazette

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

Council resolved at the 15 April Council Meeting to undertake a community consultation exercise seeking community input into the suggested renaming of the Officer Recreation Reserve to 'Rob Porter Recreation Reserve' in acknowledgement and appreciation of the extraordinary services provided by Mr Porter to the community of Officer and the wider Cardinia Shire.

This report provides the feedback received to the community consultation and as no objections to the proposal have been received proposes to have the Council resolve on the proposed renaming.

Background

Mr Robert Porter passed away on Christmas Day in 2023 after providing a lifetime of service to the Officer community.

Councillor Ross lodged Notice of Motion #1088 for consideration at the February Council Meeting proposing that the Officer Recreation Reserve be renamed in honour of Mr Porter. Subsequently the Council resolved at its April Council Meeting to undertake a process of community consultation regarding the proposed renaming.

The process for naming or renaming places and features are set out in the *'Naming rules for places in Victoria'* the statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities are established under the provisions of the Geographic Place Names Act 1998.

These rules require any naming proposals to first be submitted for approval in-principle by the Registrar of Geographic Names, when naming proposals involve the use of the names of individuals that are deceased the rules state that these names should only be applied no less than two years posthumously.

In this regard Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) have been approached regarding the renaming proposal detailing the extraordinary and exemplary service that Mr Porter had provided to the reserve and the Officer Community. GNV have responded to advise that the exemption request has been approved and, subject to complying with the remaining naming principles, Council is clear to proceed with the use of Mr Porter's name.

Mrs Carol Porter OAM has been contacted regarding the suggested renaming. Mrs Porter has consulted with her two sons and has advised that the family is pleased and honoured to consent to the renaming of the reserve and have requested that the reserve name be 'Rob Porter Recreation Reserve'. Mrs Porter has been advised that as this suggested name is the family's preference it will be the name suggested as part of the renaming processes.

This community consultation exercise has been completed and no objections to the renaming have been received. Council is therefore now able to resolve on this matter and forward the renaming proposal to the Office of Geographic Names for formal approval and gazettal.

Policy Implications

This consultation exercise was undertaken in accordance with the Council's Place Naming Policy and the *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria*.

Relevance to Council Plan

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There are no climate emergency issues associated with this matter.

Consultation/Communication

Following Council resolving to commence a community consultation exercise on the proposed renaming an advertisement was placed in the Pakenham Gazette on 24 April advising of the proposed renaming, in addition the Officer Community Affairs Association, the Officer Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee and the 'One School Global' Berwick campus as a property neighbouring the reserve have been advised of the proposed renaming seeking their feedback.

One response has been received from the Officer Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee reaffirming their support for the renaming.

Financial and Resource Implications

Other than the provision of new reserve signage, which can be funded through the operating budget, there are no financial or resource implications associated with this matter.

Conclusion

As no objections to the proposed renaming of the Officer Recreation Reserve to 'Rob Porter Recreation Reserve' the Council is now able to formally resolve on the renaming.

