

MEDIA RELEASE

8 July 2016

INDIGENOUS NAMING COMES TO NEWCASTLE

Eight Newcastle landmarks will now also be known by their traditional aboriginal names after the NSW Geographical Names Board approved the proposals from the City of Newcastle.

Acting Chair of the Geographical Names Board, Paul Harcombe, said the following landmarks will be dual named as follows:

- Nobbys Head – Whibayganba
- Flagstaff Hill – Tahlbihn
- Pirate Point – Burrabihngarn
- Port Hunter – Yohaaba
- Hunter River (South Channel) – Coquun
- Shepherds Hill – Khanterin
- Ironbark Creek – Toohrnbing
- Hexham Swamp – Burraghihnbiing

The City of Newcastle's Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee submitted the names based on aboriginal references to the landmarks documented in maps, sketches and geological descriptions dating back from as early as 1798.

Geographical Names Board Acting Chair, Paul Harcombe, said the dual naming meant the area could be referred to by either name.

"A dual naming does not intend for one name to take precedence over the other," Mr Harcombe said. "It does however allow either name to be used."

The Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee has welcomed the gazettal of the dual names.

"Since the project commenced in 2012 it has received wide community support from both local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups," Guraki Chairman Kyle Finlay said.

"Dual naming landforms reflect an international trend and further complement the identity of Newcastle in developing a rich overlay of reference points on the landscape in local language."

Since 2001, the State Government has supported a dual naming policy as a meaningful contribution to the process of reconciliation in NSW. Notable dual-naming examples in Australia include Uluru/Ayers Rock and Wahluu/Mt Panorama.

More information, including pronunciations of the new Aboriginal place names, can be found on the Geographical Names Register of New South Wales at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au.