

Media Release

16 April 2021

HAVE YOUR SAY ON A PLACE NAME IN MID-WESTERN REGIONAL LGA

The Geographical Names Board is seeking community feedback on a proposal from Mid-Western Regional Council to name a rest area in the suburb of Cudgegong as *Aunty Mary Hooker Rest Area*.

Chair of the Geographical Names Board Narelle Underwood said the Board is encouraging community comment before it considers the proposal.

“It is important that place names reflect the character and history of the local area and community,” Mrs Underwood said.

“We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to provide their feedback on the proposed name.”

The rest area is located on the Castlereagh Highway, Cudgegong, next to an un-named road leading to Cudgegong Cemetery.

The proposed name seeks to commemorate Aunty Mary Hooker (1958-2019) who was a proud Biripi / Bundjalung woman, part of the Stolen Generation, and was a strong advocate for Indigenous health and education.

An Aboriginal Elder, author and educator, Aunty Mary Hooker was an outstanding role model for her children, grandchildren and community at large.

Aunty Mary was an Aboriginal Representative for the Stolen Generation Foundation and an advocate on the state and national level for Aboriginal reconciliation.

She advocated against institutional child abuse and was committed to bringing Australians together.

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 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.

Details of the proposal can be viewed and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board's [website](#).

Alternatively, written submissions may be mailed to the Secretary, Geographical Names Board, 346 Panorama Ave, Bathurst, NSW 2795.

The closing date for submissions is 16 May 2021.

MEDIA CONTACT: 0438 108 797 | media@customerservice.nsw.gov.au