



Media Release

Thursday 19 December 2019

HAVE A SAY ON A DUAL NAME FOR THE DARLING RIVER

The Geographical Names Board is seeking public comment on a proposal by the Barkindji Native Title Group Aboriginal Corporation to dual name the Darling River as Baaka.

The proposed dual name of Baaka is for the full length of the Darling River, commencing approximately 39 kilometres north east of Bourke, winding through Bourke, Wilcannia, Menindee, Pooncarie and Wentworth where it joins the Murray River.

Chair of the Geographical Names Board Narelle Underwood said the board is committed to reawakening Aboriginal place names.

“Dual naming supports recognition and revival of Aboriginal languages,” Mrs Underwood said.

“We want to make sure the local community has an opportunity to provide their feedback.

“The Geographical Names Board will also reach out to relevant Local Aboriginal Land Councils, local government councils and National Parks seeking endorsement of the proposal.”

Baaka has been proposed by the Barkindji Native Title Group as the name has been used and passed down through generations by local communities.

Through the public consultation process the community is encouraged to have a say on the proposed name and its spelling.

Where a feature has a non-Aboriginal name, an Aboriginal name can be assigned. The name will sit alongside the non-Aboriginal name, each part having equal status.

Once a dual name proposal is assigned, signposts, maps and directories relating to the area will feature both names.

Since June 2001, the NSW Government has supported a dual naming policy for geographical features and cultural sites.

Through place naming, communities have the opportunity to unlock past stories, preserve traditions, reawaken language and provide a sense of belonging and identity.

Dual naming does not apply to towns, roads, localities or other administrative based areas such as a reserve or state forest.

Assigning a place name under the Geographical Names Act 1966 does not impact other legislation or change rights or responsibilities.

Details of the proposal can be viewed, and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board’s website at www.gnb.nsw.gov.au.

Alternatively, email submissions can be sent to ss-gnb@customerservice.nsw.gov.au or written submissions may be lodged with the Secretary Geographical Names Board 346 Panorama Avenue Bathurst NSW 2795.

The closing date for submissions is Tuesday 28 January 2020.

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