

Media Release

6 October 2021

HAVE YOUR SAY ON A PLACE NAME IN THE HILLS SHIRE LGA

The Geographical Names Board is seeking community feedback on a proposal by Professor Grace Karskens to name a creek in Cattai as *Wiyingay*.

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

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

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

The proposed name *Wiyingay* is for an unnamed creek located in Cattai, connecting Wheeny Lagoon on the east with a series of unnamed lagoons/chain of ponds on the west, within The Hills Shire local government area.

Wiyingay is believed to be the name given by Darug people to the Reverend John McGarvie in the late 1820s as the name for the creek.

McGarvie included this name in his 1829 'List of Native Names for Places on the Hawkesbury River', spelling it as 'Weenay'.

McGarvie's List is now in the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

In 2018 McGarvie's List became the subject of an ongoing collaborative project, led by Professor Grace Karskens working with Darug researchers, *The Real Secret River Dyarubbin*.

The 178 names on McGarvie's List were researched, relocated (where possible) glossed and phonetically reconstructed. 'Weenay' was glossed as 'place of fire' or 'fire dreaming place' and phonetically reconstructed as 'Wiyingay'.

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 8th November 2021.