

<p>ORDINARY MEETING</p> <p>22 MAY 2024</p>	<p>5</p>
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REQUEST TO NAME PARK “STRAGUSZI PARK” AT 2 – 6 CUTTERS BOULEVARD, GORDONVALE

52/8/1 | #7413121

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council names the unnamed park at 2 – 6 Cutters Boulevard, Gordonvale, “Straguszi Park.”

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Nil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As part of a residential development north of Draper Road Gordonvale, a new local park has recently been completed. The developer of the land has made a request to name the new park Straguszi Park, in honour of the family who first settled the land, cultivated it for cane farming for four generations, and are now developing it for residential lots.

The proposed name meets the naming criteria in the Naming of Community Infrastructure Policy (the Policy).

A proposed name for the park was suggested by Traditional Owners from the area. Following consultation with Traditional Owner groups, it was found that a consensus could not be reached for dual naming at this site. As such conversations will continue with a view to inform future consideration by Council when appropriate.

Public consultation for the proposed name occurred over a 4 week period in April/May 2024, with broad support from the community for the name. Several alternative names were suggested which either do not meet the requirements of the Policy or had very little support.

The recommendation of this report is that Council names the unnamed park, Straguszi Park.

BACKGROUND:

A request was made by the developer of the subdivision and park to name the park after the Straguszi family who have owned and cultivated the land for sugar cane for four generations. The Straguszi family are also the owners presently developing the land and have provided the park, including significant improvements in the park, as part of their development approval for the subdivision of the land. The land was recently transferred to Council as park and is yet to be named.

The following information was provided in support of the proposal to name the park after the Straguszi family.

- The Straguszi family have farmed and owned the land currently under development for four generations. The land has predominantly been used for sugar cane farming and is now being redeveloped for residential land.
- After WW1 Italy was gripped by famine and poverty. With no future in sight, Salvatore Straguszi made the life changing decision to migrate to Australia in search of a better life for his wife and child.
- In the early 1920's he boarded a sailing ship and made the harrowing crossing to Australia for a new life in an untamed land. Eventually disembarking in Ingham.
- It was in Ingham that he started work as a canecutter. Through resilience and hard work, he eventually saved enough to buy his own farm.
- From Ingham, he moved to Gordonvale and purchased a farm on Draper Road.
- In 1923, Rosario Straguszi was born, and at an early age worked alongside his father and other pioneering families clearing land and felling scrub, battling disease, unfamiliar wildlife and cyclones.
- With the outbreak of WW2, many Italian farmers were interned, including Rosario's father in-law, Andrea Messina who also owned a farm on Draper Road. Rosario and his family helped the remaining women and children, working their farms, as well as their own.
- With his expertise in speaking various dialects, Rosario also served as an interpreter for the Italian speaking farmers. He was often called upon to negotiate contracts and legal disputes.
- Rosarios' progeny - including Ross Straguszi - has retained a connection to the site.
- Ross Straguszi's sister, Lynette, lived on the site until her passing, and Ross continues to maintain a direct connection to the site including via ongoing farming operations.

COMMENT:

A park naming consultation was undertaken from 8 April to 6 May 2024. The community were provided with the proposed name for the park in accordance with the Naming of Community Infrastructure Policy (the Policy). Letters were sent to local residents, signs were installed at the site, and a range of media platforms were used to inform the public of the process and invite them to provide responses.

A summary of responses received is as follows:

- 23 responses received
- 8 different suggested names
- 4 names were of local individuals or families
- 4 names were suggested more than once
- 4 names complied with the Policy
- 11 responses in support of Straguszi Park
- 1 - 3 responses in support of other names.

The responses indicate strongest support for Straguszi Park and very low support for other suggestions. Straguszi Park complies with Naming of Community Infrastructure General Policy by way of:

- The land was owned by the Straguszi family for four generations,
- The land was developed by the Strauszi family for cane farming and now residential development,
- The park is provided as part of the development by the Straguszi family.
- A background check has indicated there is no known controversy related to the Straguszi family.

The Naming of Community Infrastructure Policy seeks to acknowledge the inherent connection of public spaces to First Peoples. Following consultation with Traditional Owner groups, it was found that a consensus could not be reached for dual naming at this site. As such conversations will continue with a view to inform future consideration by Council when appropriate.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (recommended)

That Council names the unnamed park at 2 – 6 Cutters Boulevard, Gordonvale, “Straguszi Park.”

Option 2:

That Council does not name the park as requested by the developer and names the park after the adjacent street.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

The community consultation showed strong support for the proposed name. Whilst other names were suggested, it is not considered that this will create controversy in the community.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

There are no costs associated with naming the park.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

Dulabed Malanbarra Yidinji Traditional Owners requested that the park be named Gidigidi Nganyju Park, which translates to “kids feeling lively”. The Naming of Community Infrastructure Policy seeks to acknowledge the inherent connection of public spaces to First Peoples. Following consultation with Traditional Owner groups, it was found that a consensus could not be reached for dual naming at this site. As such conversations will continue with a view to inform future consideration by Council when appropriate.

Policy:

The recommendation of this report complies with the provisions of the Naming of Community Infrastructure General Policy

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Location of park proposed to be named Straguszi Park.



Tim Dendle
Executive Manager Community Spaces



Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle and Community

Attachment 1 :Location of park indicated by dropped pin

