

STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
2 JUNE 2008 **GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE**

A12	NAMING OF RESERVE BOUNDED BY CNRS VICTORIA AVENUE, O'GRADY & MOUBRAY STREETS, ALBERT PARK
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	CORNER BOUNDED BY VICTORIA AVENUE, O'GRADY & MOUBRAY STREETS ALBERT PARK
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	SALLY CALDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ORGANISATION SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT
AUTHOR:	MURRAY CHICK, COORDINATOR GOVERNANCE
FILE NO.:	78/01/13
ATTACHMENTS:	1. SITE PLAN

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal and commence statutory procedures to name a reserve on the corner of Victoria Avenue, O'Grady & Moubray Streets, Albert Park 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve'.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 2.1. When naming reserves the Council has the authority to name or rename under the Local Government Act 1989, Section 206 and Schedule 10 (5), Council's Lane Naming Guidelines and must also abide by the Guidelines set out in the Geographic Place Names Act 1998. These guidelines also cover the naming or renaming of reserves.
- 2.2. Ward Councillor, Cr Klepner has had numerous discussions with the Association and its members to name the reserve opposite Tobruk House.
- 2.3. In investigating the proposal to name the reserve, numerous sources have described the battle of Tobruk, Libya as:
'In 1941 Great Britain withdrew most of its forces from Africa to defend Greece, leaving the Australians the task of defending the port of Tobruk, Libya. The German forces were twice the size of the Australian forces. The Australians did not give up they managed to hold off Rommel's forces for 250 days. When Rommel's forces charged into Tobruk with tanks the Australians attacked the infantry leaving the tanks with no ground support and giving the Australian forces an advantage. When the Germans retreated to regroup, the Australians didn't wait. Instead they went on the offensive attacking German positions stealing German artillery and then retreating back into the city without trace.'

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Those who served there became known as the 'Rats of Tobruk', so-called because the German radio propaganda broadcaster 'Lord Haw Haw' described them as rats living in the ground.'

- 2.4. Traffic treatment has commenced and is due to be completed by the end of June 2008. Treatment work will also include the road closure of O'Grady Street. The remaining portion of the closed road will be extended to be included as part of the park. This part of the process will be separately managed by Council's Traffic and Parking Management Department.

3. RECOMMENDED OPTION

- 3.1. It is recommended that statutory procedures be commenced to name the reserve on the corner of Victoria Avenue, O'Grady & Moubray Streets, Albert Park 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve'.
- 3.2. Criterion for recommendation
- 3.2.1. The proposed name 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve' will have immediate community identification as Tobruk House is immediately opposite the unnamed reserve.
- 3.2.2. Discussions have been held with the local Historian, who has endorsed the proposed name 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve'.
- 3.2.3. Upon final approval of the naming of the reserve, notification will be provided to all emergency/statutory authorities and all abutting properties.

4. SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

- 4.1. Social Equity
- 4.1.1. This proposal fits with the social objective of Council recognising significant contributions by members of the community.
- 4.1.2. Once public consultation has been finalised and Council has approved the name of the reserve it is proposed that a small function will be held at the Rats of Tobruk Hall to commemorate the Association and its members.
- 4.2. Economic Viability
- 4.2.1. There is economic cost implication with this proposal. The costs include advertising, staff time, costs associated with the erection of the appropriate signage.
- 4.3. Environmental Responsibility
- 4.3.1. Minimal signage will be erected on the reserve and have minimal physical impact on the environment
- 4.4. Cultural Vitality
- 4.4.1. Naming the reserve after the 'Rats of Tobruk is a means of recognising their achievements in their fight to protect the port of Tobruk, Libya.

4.5. Policy and legislative implications

- 4.5.1. When naming a place of local significance, the Council is required to follow the procedures outlined in the Local Government Act 1989, Section 206 and Schedule 10 (5), the Geographic Place Names Act 1998, its corresponding guidelines and Council's Road and Lane Naming Guidelines.

4.6. Risk implications

- 4.6.1. There are no risk implications.

4.7. Resource implications

- 4.7.1. Council will be required to pay for advertisements in the local newspaper (public consultation component) and the appropriate signage.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

5.1. Option 1

- 5.1.1. That Council commence the appropriate statutory procedures to name the reserve opposite Tobruk House 'Rats of the Tobruk Reserve'.

5.2. Option 2

- 5.2.1. That Council reject the proposal and determine not to proceed with the naming of the reserve.

6. PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

6.1. Internal

- 6.1.1. Discussions have been had with the ward councillor, who fully supports the proposal at this stage of the process.
- 6.1.2. Local Historian Librarian, who has no objection to the proposed name of the reserve.
- 6.1.3. Coordinator Traffic and Parking Management, has indicated that consultation will be commenced with affected residents and businesses to close the 'O'Grady St between Moubray St and Victoria Avenue to enable the continuation of the reserve and that he has no objection to the proposed name of the reserve.

6.2. External

- 6.2.1. This report seeks the Council's approval to commence a public consultation process in accordance with Council's Road and Lane Naming Guidelines and seek submissions on the proposal from residents and emergency/statutory authorities.
- 6.2.2. Preliminary discussions have been held with the President of the Rats of Tobruk Association. The Association fully supports the proposal to name the reserve.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1. Officers will place advertisements and press releases about the proposal in the local newspapers. Council will consider all submissions and a final report will be presented to Council for decision.

8. COMMUNICATION

- 8.1. The proposal will be communicated to the community via the media (newspaper advertisements, media releases).

9. RECOMMENDATION

That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommend to Council to:

- 9.1.1. Authorise the commencement of the statutory procedures required, in accordance with the Geographic Names Act 1998, to name a reserve on the corner of Victoria Avenue, O'Grady & Moubray Streets, Albert Park 'Rats of Tobruk Reserve'.