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<b>Item:</b>	<b>D1</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Road Naming – Old Pacific Highway, North Arm Cove</b>
<b>Index:</b>	<b>Naming &amp; Dedication of Public Roads, Renaming Roads; RN13/06</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Paula Sciacca, Engineering Services</b>

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### **SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

With the opening of the Pacific Highway between Karuah and Tea Gardens the existing Pacific Highway will become a Council public road, between Tenterfield Parade, North Arm Cove and The Rock Service Station. This section of road requires naming and two road names have previously been proposed: - Dawson Drive and Gooreengai Road.

### **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that Council determine a name for the subject road and the appropriate procedures for renaming be completed.

### **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATION:**

No financial implications for Council other than re-advertisement and postal costs.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The proposed road name "Dawson Drive" meets Council's Road Naming Policy.

The proposed road name "Gooreengai Road" meets Council's Road Naming Policy, except Item 5.5 which specifies that the road name should be a maximum length of nine letters. In light of this, altering the spelling to "Gooreengi Road" would meet all policy requirements.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:** Nil

### **LIST OF ANNEXURES:**

"A" – Council's Road Naming Policy & Procedure

"B" – Objection received from Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council dated 21 April 2006.

"C" – Road name suggestion received from Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council dated 19 May 2006.

"D" – Letters of objection received from Mr & Mrs Needham dated 27 May 2006 and 23 June 2006.

"E" – Excerpt provided by Clr Roberts in relation to the "Gringai" Tribe.

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### **BACKGROUND/INFORMATION**

A proposal to name this section of road "Dawson Drive" – in recognition of Robert Dawson, the first Superintendent of the Australian Agricultural Company at Carrington, was advertised in the NOTA on 19 April 2006. A letter inviting comments in relation to the proposal was also sent to the North Arm Cove Residents Association on 18 April 2006. No objections to

this proposal were received from residents, property owners, North Arm Cove Residents Association, Australia Post or the Department of Lands.

An objection was received from the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council on 21 April 2006 (see Annexure B). On 18 May 2006 a suggestion was received from the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council to name this section of road "Gooreenggai Road", in recognition of the Gooreenggai Clan which was the local Indigenous Clan of the Worimi Peoples that inhabited the northern side of Port Stephens (see Annexure C). In light of the requirements of Council's Road Naming Policy, ie. that three (3) suggestions be provided and that the road name be a maximum nine (9) letters, the Land Council was requested to provide a further two road name suggestions and to consider alteration of the spelling. However the Land Council advised that this was the only appropriate name and that the spelling could not be altered.

The proposal to name this section of road "Gooreenggai Road" was then advertised in the NOTA on 24 May 2006 and the North Arm Cove Residents Association notified. No objection to this proposal was received from Australia Post or the Department of Lands.

A letter was received from the North Arm Cove Residents Association on 5 June 2006 requesting the phonetic spelling of "Gooreenggai" for pronunciation purposes. No objection to the naming or spelling was raised.

The Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council was contacted and advised that the pronunciation was "GOOR-IN-GI" (I as in Ice). The Land Council indicated that the only alteration to spelling acceptable would be "Gooreengi". As the road name proposal had already been advertised as "Gooreenggai", and a time limit had been imposed by Baulderstone & Hornibrook in order to erect signage, re-advertisement of the road name with a different spelling was not deemed appropriate.

A reply was sent to the North Arm Cove Residents Association advising of the correct pronunciation. No response, by way of objection or request to alter the spelling was received from the Association.

A letter was received from residents, Mr and Mrs Needham, on 1 June 2006 attached at Annexure D. They advised that they did not object to naming the road an indigenous name, however expressed concern in relation to the mispronunciation and misspelling of the road name "Gooreenggai". In addition they indicated that they supported naming the road "Old Pacific Highway".

A reply was sent to Mr and Mrs Needham on 9 June 2006 advising the phonetic spelling of the road name, and that usage, over time, as with other road names in the Great Lakes area, would resolve any mispronunciation or misspelling of the road name. They were also advised that, as per Council's policy, the road could not be named "Old Pacific Highway" due to its duplication in other Council areas.

No further formal objections to "Gooreenggai Road" were received. As such "Gooreenggai Road" was advertised in the NSW Government Gazette on 16 June 2006 and in the NOTA 21 June 2006 as approved. On 22 June 2006 property owners and services/authorities were advised, via letter, that the road name had been approved and that property addresses would be updated closer to the opening of the new section of the Pacific Highway in October 2006.

On 23 June 2006 Clr Roberts advised the Director Engineering Services that several residents from North Arm Cove object to the road name not being spelt phonetically. Clr Roberts suggested the name for the road should be "Gringai" (refer to Annexure E).

After letters had been sent to property owners, a second letter was then received from Mr & Mrs Needham on 22 June 2006 requesting that the spelling of Gooreenggai Road be altered to "Gooringi". A third letter, addressed to the Mayor, was received on 23 June 2006, from Mr & Mrs Needham, again requesting that the spelling be altered to avoid mispronunciation and misspelling (see Annexure D).

The Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council was contacted on 23 June 2006, and requested to consider altering the spelling to "Gooringi". However the Land Council advised that the only alteration they would accept would be "Gooreengi". In addition, the Land Council advised that "Gringai" would not be suitable as this tribe inhabited the Gloucester area and Hunter Valley going west, but not the Karuah area. They also advised that they had been contacted by two prevalent families in the North Arm Cove area who were extremely supportive of the road being named, and spelt, "Gooreenggai".

Mr Needham was contacted by Engineering Services on 23 June 2006 in relation to the Land Council's compromise to alter the spelling to "Gooreengi". Mr Needham advised that he would compromise and accept this spelling. However Mr Needham also requested that Council reconsider naming the section of road Dawson Drive, in light of the fact that only one objection was raised to this name by the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council, and no objections were received from residents of North Arm Cove.

Boulderstone & Hornibrook were contacted on 23 June 2006 and requested to put a hold on ordering the signs for this road name, in order for Council to resolve the matter.

Should it be resolved to name the road anything other than "Gooreenggai Road", the road name would need to be re-advertised in the NSW Government Gazette and in the NOTA, and property owners and services/authorities would need to be notified of the alteration. Boulderstone & Hornibrook also require official notification so that the correct road name signs can be ordered and erected as soon as possible.

In summary, the following four (4) road names require consideration:

**Dawson Drive** - in recognition of Robert Dawson, the first Superintendent of the Australian Agricultural Company at Carrington.

**Gooreenggai Road** - in recognition of the Gooreenggai Clan which was the local Indigenous Clan of the Worimi Peoples that inhabited the northern side of Port Stephens.

**Gooreengi Road** – a simplified spelling of "Gooreenggai" above.

**Gringai Road** - the Karuah Local Aboriginal Council advise that the Gringai Tribe did not live in this area and thus this does not satisfy the requirements of Council's Road Naming Policy.

#### **RECOMMENDATION: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING SERVICES**

It is recommended that Council determine a name for the subject road and the appropriate procedures for renaming be completed.

## ANNEXURE A

A

### **POLICY STREET/ROAD NAMING**

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#### **1. Objective**

- 1.1 To co-ordinate the process whereby new streets and roads are named and existing streets and roads are renamed. To establish standardised procedures for the naming of new streets and roads and the renaming of existing streets and roads. Establish the guidelines for the naming of streets and roads within the GLC area and give applicants submitting road name proposals a clear understanding of Council's requirements.

#### **2. Scope**

- 2.2 This policy relates to the naming of new streets and roads, as well as, the renaming of existing streets and roads, that fall within the legislated jurisdiction of the Great Lakes Council administration. It specifically relates to the specific requirements of the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales in accordance with Council's obligations, as a road authority, under the *Roads Act 1993* and the *Roads (General) Regulation 2000*.

#### **3. Specific Objectives**

- 3.1 To establish criteria for the naming of new local streets and roads and the renaming of existing local streets and roads that fall within the jurisdiction of the Great Lakes Council administration;
- 3.2 To regulate procedures for the naming of new streets and roads and the renaming of existing local streets and roads that fall within the jurisdiction of the Great Lakes Council administration;
- 3.3 To provide a standardised method of naming and renaming streets and roads within the Great Lakes Council area;
- 3.4 To provide guidelines for the selection and approval of new street and road names, in accordance with the requirements of Geographical Names Board of New South Wales, the *Roads Act 1993* and the *Roads (General) Regulation 2000*, within the Great Lakes Council area;
- 3.5 To ensure the naming of streets and streets and roads conforms with the Rural Addressing Scheme;

File No : R31/1  
Date Adopted : 13 September 1994  
Minute No : 195  
Date Reviewed: 31 October 2000  
Minute No: 364  
Date Reviewed: 9 March 2004  
Minute No. 294  
Procedures Manual Ref :

Delegations Reference :  
Code Ref :  
Contact Division : Engineering Services

Section: Roads

10.200

## ANNEXURE A

### **POLICY STREET/ROAD NAMING (Cont)**

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#### **4. Definitions**

- 4.1 *euphony*: pleasantness of sound.
- 4.2 *Street(s) and Road(s)*: is a catch all phrase to describe any public thoroughfare deemed to be under the jurisdiction of Great Lakes Council, whereby Council is empowered as the administering authority thereof, as defined in the *Roads Act 1993*.
- 4.3 *Rural Addressing Scheme*: a national initiative aimed at standardising rural addressing to ensure transparent and easily accessible processes for the benefit of; regulatory bodies, emergency services, transport and goods delivery, as well as, members of the community

#### **5. Requirements**

Proposed names of new streets and roads offered for approval shall be considered using the following guidelines:

- 5.1 All applications for the naming of streets and roads must be made in writing to the General Manager of Great Lakes Council;
- 5.2 All applications must suggest three (3) new names and state reasons to support the requested name for each suggestion. If possible, the history of the name(s) proposed should be included with the application;
- 5.3 All applications must be accompanied by an annotated GIS map and sufficient particulars to enable the road to be identified;
- 5.4 The proposed name(s) should meet the *Guidelines for the Naming of Roads* published by the Geographical Names Board of NSW, as amended from time to time;
- 5.5 The proposed name(s) should have a maximum length of nine letters (excluding the suffix);
- 5.6 Euphony shall be considered when determining appropriateness of proposed name(s);
- 5.7 Where appropriate, name continuity shall be maintained for streets and roads in the vicinity of and crossing boundaries between adjoining Council areas;
- 5.8 The proposed name(s) should be appropriate for the physical environment, historical and/or cultural character of the subject area;
- 5.9 Naming proposals should represent the values of the community and be mindful of future generations.

#### **6. Basic Conditions for Approval**

All names of new streets and roads are to be judged for appropriateness according to the criteria below. These criteria are intended as a guideline for the reviewing body. Proposed street and road name(s) or change of street and road name(s) shall:

- 6.1 comply with the aforementioned requirements;
- 6.2 reflect any relevant street naming theme adopted by Council for the area;

## ANNEXURE A

### **POLICY STREET/ROAD NAMING (Cont)**

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- 6.3 maintain continuity of street and road names in the vicinity, if no themes have been adopted;
  - 6.4 be unique within the Great Lakes Council area and, where possible, not duplicate names in proximity to neighbouring Council areas;
  - 6.5 have an appropriate suffix for the road type of the subject street/road;
  - 6.6 be deemed inappropriate if they are offensive or likely to give offence.
- 7. Policy Details**
- 7.1 Development approval is required for all subdivisions and construction of streets and roads, through Council's Planning Division;
  - 7.2 Any person may apply in writing to the General Manager of Great Lakes Council to name a new road or rename an existing road in accordance with the provisions described herein;
  - 7.3 Any person may make a written submission regarding a proposed road name or change to a road name in accordance with the specifications given in the notice of such proposal;
  - 7.4 The selection and approval process for the naming of roads, within the Great Lakes Council area, shall comply with the requirements of Geographical Names Board of New South Wales, as described in their publications, the *Roads Act 1993* and the *Roads (General) Regulation 2000*, as amended from time to time;
  - 7.5 There is no fee payable, however, any additional disbursements will be charged to the applicant, including, but not limited to, advertising costs;
  - 7.6 The authority to approve road names is delegated through the General Manager to the Director of Engineering Services;
  - 7.7 Where the subject street or road is highly significant, or if considerable difficulty in selection of new road name or name change is encountered, a Council Resolution shall be sought;
  - 7.8 Approved Street names shall be shown in the final subdivision release;
  - 7.9 Names must be approved prior to use;
  - 7.10 New names will be approved in accordance with the provisions described herein;
  - 7.11 All approved names shall be gazetted in the *NSW Government Gazette* in accordance with the GLC Naming of Roads Procedure.
  - 7.12 Council retains the right to change or modify names of new or existing streets and roads, that fall within the jurisdiction of the GLC administration, if and when it is deemed necessary to do so;
  - 7.13 The quality of timelessness will be considered in the significance of the proposed name.

## ANNEXURE A

03/03/04

### Procedure – Naming of Roads

**Responsible Officer:** Administration Officer – Transport Assets – Engineering Services

Upon receipt of a valid written application for the naming of new roads, in accordance with the provisions of the Great Lakes Council adopted Street/Road Naming Policy, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Ensure application is complete and complies with the GLC Street/Road Naming Policy.
2. If application is incomplete or all three names are found to be unacceptable, write to applicant for further information and/or name suggestion(s).
3. Send proposed name(s) to Survey/Technical Assistant to check for duplication on the GLC roads register.
4. If all three names are found to be duplications on the roads register, write to applicant for further name suggestion(s).
5. Select the first appropriate and acceptable name, which is not duplicated on the roads register, in accordance with the GLC Street/Road Naming Policy.
6. Publish notice of name proposal stating that written submissions on the proposed name may be made to:

Director of Engineering Services  
Great Lakes Council  
Breese Parade  
FORSTER NSW 2423

by a date to be specified in the notice, as follows:

- (a) advertise the proposed name in local newspaper;

Attach copy of proposed advertisement to the completed Placement of Advertising Memo (I:\SHARED\Advertisements\Placement of Advertisements Memo) and send to the Business Support Officer.

- (b) notify the Geographical Names Board, Registrar General & Surveyor General by writing to:

Team Leader Metropolitan Cadastre  
Information Sourcing  
Department of Lands  
PO Box 143  
BATHURST NSW 2795

- (c) send written notification to Australia Post and, if the road is classified, to the RTA.

7. Consider any submission on its merits in relation to the GLC Policy and any reason(s) for preference over the original name proposal.
8. If an alternate name is selected, go back to Step 3

## ANNEXURE A

03/03/04

9. Where the subject street or road is highly significant, or if considerable difficulty in selection of new road name or name change is encountered a Council Resolution may be sought. Otherwise, the Director of Engineering Services has delegated authority to approve street and road names.
10. If name proposal is accepted:
- (a) publish notice of the new name in the *NSW Government Gazette* by sending completed Road Naming Gazette Ad Template to publishers of *NSW Government Gazette*;

### GAZETTE INFORMATION

*Business hours and Gazette inquiry times are:*

*Monday to Friday: 8.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.*

Telephone: (02) 9743 8777; Fax: (02) 9743 8203

email: [nswgazette@commerce.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nswgazette@commerce.nsw.gov.au)

NB: Deadline for the receipt of advertisement request for *Gazette* is 4 p.m. each Wednesday for publication the following Friday.

- (b) publish notice of the new name in the local newspaper with a brief description of the location of the road;

Attach copy of proposed advertisement to the completed Placement of Advertising Memo (I:\SHARED\Advertisements\Placement of Advertisements Memo) and send to the Business Support Officer.

- (c) notify the Geographical Names Board, the Registrar General & Surveyor General by writing to:

Team Leader Metropolitan Cadastre  
Information Sourcing  
Department of Lands  
PO Box 143  
BATHURST NSW 2795

- (d) send a letter confirming new name, with sufficient particulars to enable the road to be identified, to the following:

- Applicant
- Australia Post
- RTA (classified road only)
- Forster Police
- Local Rural Fire Services
- Local Fire Station
- Local Ambulance Service
- Local State Emergency Service

- (e) send internal memo confirming new name, with sufficient particulars to enable the road to be identified, to the following:

- Revenue Accountant
- Manager – Transport Assets
- Manager - Strategic Planning
- Survey/Technical Assistant
- Engineering Draftsperson



## ANNEXURE B

Mike Teagan  
Great Lakes Council  
Street Planning Officer

Dear Mr. Teagan,

Re: Objection to Name Change to Old Pacific Highway North Karuah

I wish to place an objection to the name change of the Pacific Highway north of Karuah, to Dawson Road. The name Dawson and the Australian Agriculture Company takes Aboriginal people back to the "bad old days."

The local Aboriginal people of Port Stephens particularly around the Pindimar, Carrington and Karuah area, area which holds specific interest to the Goorenggal Clan of the Worimi Nation, experienced great suffering when the area was settled by the new Australians. Of the people who came here, few were settlers however most were convicts, not fit to live freely. These people were forced upon the innocent Aboriginal people with many being ill-treated or massacred.

Aboriginal people's suffering began with loss of access to hunting grounds as each Tribe/Clan held its own distinct territory, dialect, customs and history.

Aborigines were hunters and gatherers who wandered within their own territory in response to seasonal availability of food, so that the lands' resources could be naturally replenished. For example, the coastal tribes would move inland during winter to hunt, and back to the coast in spring and early summer to fish.

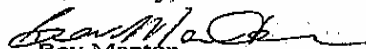
In the Great Lakes district there were two tribes - the Biripi, who inhabited the area between Tuncurry, Taree and Gloucester, and the Worimi, who occupied the land between Barrington Tops and Forster in the north and Maitland and the Hunter River in the south.

The Australian Agriculture Company was guilty of denying access to hunting grounds by fencing off of pastoral paddocks and watering holes.

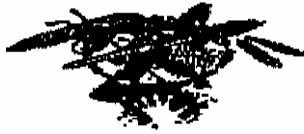
This land is in private ownership and at this point in time the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the general community has improved therefore we do not need reminders of the "bad old days."

This road should have an Aboriginal name, and if it will be acceptable I will be forwarding our suggestions when I return to work 1/5/06.

Yours truly,

  
Bev Manton  
Coordinator  
Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council

ANNEXURE C



**Karuah Local Aboriginal  
Land Council**

# Fax

<b>To:</b> Paula	<b>From:</b> Bev Manton
<b>Fax:</b> 65917248	<b>Pages:</b> 1
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Date:</b> 18/05/2006
<b>Re:</b> Road Name	<b>CC:</b> [Click here and type name]
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> Please Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Please Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Please Recycle	

Hi Paula,

The Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council members wish to have the old Pacific Highway north of Karuah renamed after our forefathers.

**Name:** Gooreengai Road.

The Gooreengai Clan was the local Indigenous clan of the Worimi peoples that inhabited the northern side of Port Stephens. (this can be verified on the internet)

Most of Karuah's Indigenous people are direct descendents of the Gooreengai people and it would be pleasing to see the road renamed as a sign of respect for our people and culture.

Yours truly,

Bev Manton  
Coordinator  
Karuah LALC

PO Box 30 Karuah or 16 Mustons Rd Karuah NSW 2324

Ph: (02) 49 973733

Fax: (02) 49 973750

Email: [klalc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:klalc@optusnet.com.au)

## ANNEXURE D

This Is A Reprint Of A Scanned Image

Norm and Sandy Needham  
"Middle Wharf" Pacific Highway  
Tea Gardens NSW 2324

Director Engineering Services  
Great Lakes Council  
Breese Parade  
FORSTER NSW 2428

GREAT LAKES COUNCIL

01 JUN 2006

RECEIVED RECORDS

27/05/06

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write in regard to the proposed name change of that part of the existing Pacific Highway between Tenterfield Parade, North Arm Cove, and The Rock service station.

Our property and home are on the Eastern side of that road, about one kilometre South of The Rock.

While we have no objection to the use of an indigenous name, we object to the proposed name "Goorenggai Road" on the following grounds.

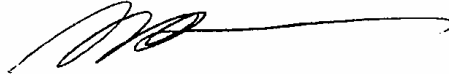
1. "Goorenggai" is an unusual name that will no doubt be misspelled and mispronounced more often than not. For example, if read phonetically, it sounds similar to Ku-ring-gai, which is obviously spelt quite differently, and is yet another indigenous name that is almost always misspelled.
2. "Goorenggai" will cause confusion when given verbally as one's address, especially on the telephone. We (and other residents on this road) will surely find ourselves repeating the spelling several times each time we give our address, and undoubtedly will be asked repeatedly "how do you pronounce that?"

We are sure that those who live on this road, and those living at North Arm Cove and Carrington, when describing to visitors or delivery persons how to access their homes, will say something like, "take the old highway South from The Rock", or "turn right onto the old highway just after the Northern Karuah exit".

Therefore, we would strongly support the road being named "Old Pacific Highway". This describes precisely and accurately what it is. We believe that no matter what name it may be given, it will become known locally as exactly that (the Old Pacific Highway).

Alternatively, because they are directly affected, we respectfully suggest that the residents of this section of road should be consulted. Perhaps a short list of names could be circulated to these residents, and a consensus reached.

Sincerely



Norm and Sandy Needham

## ANNEXURE D

This Is A Reprint Of A Scanned Image

FROM : NORM SANDY NEEDHAM

FAX NO. : 0249973030

Jun. 23 2006 11:27AM P2

Received  
23 JUN 2006  
GM's Office

BY FACSIMILE two pages to 6591 7366

Norm Needham  
"Middle Wharf" Pacific Highway  
Tea Gardens 2324

The Mayor  
Councillor John Chadban  
Great Lakes Council

GREAT LAKES COUNCIL  
23 JUN 2006  
RECEIVED RECORDS

Dear Sir,

I write in regard to the re-naming of that part of the Pacific Highway between The Rock service centre and Tenterfield Parade, North Arm Cove.

It was originally proposed by council that because this road would be by-passed by the new highway, it should be re-named Dawson Drive. This was duly advertised in public notices in the Myall Coast Nota, and comments invited.

I understand that there was an (one only) objection to the proposed name from the Karuah Aboriginal Land Council; presumably on the grounds that they believed the road should have an indigenous name. I do not disagree with this.

Council saw fit to acknowledge this objection and propose the name Goorreenggai Road, which was then duly advertised in public notices, again inviting comment.

I made comment by way of *not* objecting to an indigenous name as such, but by objecting to that particular name on the grounds of its peculiar spelling and the difficulties that might arise with misspelling and mispronunciation.

I received a reply from Mr Mike Keegan (signed by Paula Sciacca). That letter claimed that mine was the only such objection, and that the road should be named Goorreenggai. I am informed that this may not be true, in that the North Arm Cove Progress Association may have suggested that an anglicised or phonetic spelling of the indigenous name be adopted (and I support this suggestion). Mr Keegan also suggested in his reply that the phonetic spelling of the name is Gooringi.

I duly wrote back to Mr Keegan suggesting that his phonetic spelling seemed like a good compromise, and that I would support the name Gooringi.

The Myall Coast Nota of yesterday (Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>) contains in public notices a notice from council that the name will be Goorreenggai. This would indicate that the matter has been finalised based on the one original objection to Dawson, despite the several objections I believe have been made against the spelling Goorreengai.

I now further support my argument with the facts that the indigenous dialects were never a written language, and that in local English historic writings, that particular name has been spelt Gringai. I respectfully suggest that Gringai might also be considered. Either of these spellings (Gooringi and Gringai) will alleviate misspelling and mispronunciation problems.

ANNEXURE D

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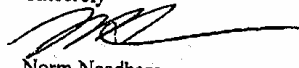
FROM : NORM SANDY NEEDHAM

FAX NO. : 0249973030

Jun. 23 2006 11:27AM P1

I understand that councillors representing this area (Southern part) of the shire will be raising this matter at the coming council meeting on Tuesday next, and ask that you consider the matter seriously, and that council take into account the objections made by local residents. I would attend that meeting to support my comments, but will be interstate at the time.

Sincerely



Norm Needham  
Ph 4997 3030

copy with  
Ray 23/6

## “The Port Stephen’s Blacks”

Because so few of the aboriginal inhabitants of coastal New South Wales remain, and because so little has been recorded of their habits and customs, I have felt that, for the enlightenment of future generations, it is a duty devolving on me to commit to paper some of my early recollections of the Port Stephens tribe, which, when I knew it, had not been greatly subjected to what unfortunately has proved to be the degenerating influence of the white race.

This was the Gringai tribe, a sub-branch of numerous native people that once inhabited the lower portions of the Hunter and Karuah River valleys.

So far as I am aware there is no one extant to-day in a position to describe the habits and customs of the aborigines who lived their simple lives on the shores of that magnificent harbor and my regret is that, when I was among them, I did not carefully record every single thing connected with their manners, however small and seemingly insignificant it may have appeared at the time. For even now, scientists and humanitarians are awakening to the value of precise descriptions of a race that has become well-nigh extinct. Historians many years ago realised the tragedy of permitting facts concerning the blacks to become lost and buried with the passing pioneers, and are now combining in a praiseworthy effort to preserve whatever is possible from the memories of the older generation still alive.

I was born at Carrington, Port Stephens, on September 19, 1844, my father, John Scott, being employed in a secretarial capacity at Car-

ington by the Australian Agricultural Company, a wealthy English corporation, which had secured a million acres of land in that part of the country. Of matters relating to the district and the activities carried on thereabout I will have somewhat to say at a later stage, but my preliminary dissertations will deal almost exclusively with the blacks who were there in large numbers in my boyhood days.

It will be as well for me to state at the outset that I am not depending entirely on memory for the facts I intend to present. Before I left Port Stephens for Queensland, in 1873 I went to a good deal of trouble to make a written record of many incidents and descriptions of customs and ceremonies, besides preparing a considerable vocabulary of words and phrases common in the tribe. These, I fortunately kept by me through the years, and with their aid I have been able to refresh my recollection on some points. The list of aboriginal words used by the tribe is probably the only one in the world, for none other, to my knowledge, ever troubled to commit a glossary to paper.

At the date of my birth, Carrington was a considerable establishment, although declining in importance, as the Company by that time was transferring the main centre of its activities elsewhere. But the blacks remained, and many of my earliest recollections are of them. The lads of the tribe were my playfellows. I learned to speak their language with a certain degree of fluency as did my sister to a greater extent—and we mastered those difficult labials and gutturals that few white men have been able to catch correctly, as is evidenced by the discordant corrup-