

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

NOTICE OF MOTION

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA: I give notice that I shall move – That this Assembly:

1. Notes That:

- a. The ACT Government currently operates ACTmapi, a search tool that collaborates with the community to offer information about the origins and importance of place names in the ACT. These names encompass various aspects, including Australian flora and fauna, prominent figures like writers and artists, scientists, and words from the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander vocabulary.
- b. The names of suburbs, streets, and places in the ACT pay tribute to Australia's remarkable people, geography, heritage, and history. These names honour a diverse array of individuals, both well-known figures and those whose achievements might have been less publicised. They collectively embody our Indigenous heritage, national treasures, and captivating stories, which are beautifully reflected in the names of our national capital.
- c. Each suburb in the ACT follows a distinct 'Theme' for naming its streets and significant places, often related to nature reserves or parks. For instance, Throsby's theme revolves around native fauna, while Reid's theme incorporates Aboriginal words.
- d. Dating back to 1927, the ACT has maintained a longstanding policy governing the naming of streets and suburbs. This policy was established by a committee tasked with naming the streets and suburbs of the ACT.
- e. Waramanga, situated in the ACT's Weston Creek district, was established in the late 1960s. As per the ACT government, the name "Waramanga" pays tribute to the Warumungu Aboriginal people in the Tennant Creek region of the Northern Territory.
- f. ACTmapi provides brief historical and significant descriptions for each street name in a suburb to preserve the city's cultural identity. However, in the case of Waramanga, it only mentions the suburb's theme.

- g. New Canberra suburbs receive more comprehensive coverage with a wealth of information. For instance, even a small cul-de-sac like "Elphick St" in Bonner boasts a 200- word biography of its namesake. This discrepancy is concerning, especially considering that Bonner shares a similar theme with Waramanga, focusing on Aboriginal Cultural Groups.
- h. A nearby southside suburb, "Red Hill," with its theme of "Ships and explorers," includes detailed descriptions of Captain Cook's second in command and various colonial ships in the street names.
- i. Waramanga's residents could benefit significantly from active engagement with the government to promote their local history and place names. Sharing information about street names can inspire community involvement in preserving and celebrating Waramanga's rich history and culture.
- j. Street names offer valuable context for urban planning and development decisions. An understanding of the historical and cultural significance of street names can influence choices related to infrastructure, landscaping, and community development.
- k. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Street names in the ACT recognise the cultural significance, extensive history, traditions, and profound connection to the land of Indigenous communities and their people. Proper recognition serves as a heartfelt acknowledgment and respect for this cultural heritage.

2. Calls on the ACT Government to:

- a) Engage in stakeholder collaboration (including consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, and AIATSIS) to incorporate pertinent details regarding the street names in Waramanga.
- b) Consider implementing a comprehensive evaluation of the content provided on ACTmapi as a measure to enhance and bolster the cultural identity of the ACT.
- c) Report back to the Assembly by June 2024 to provide an update on progress.



Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
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