

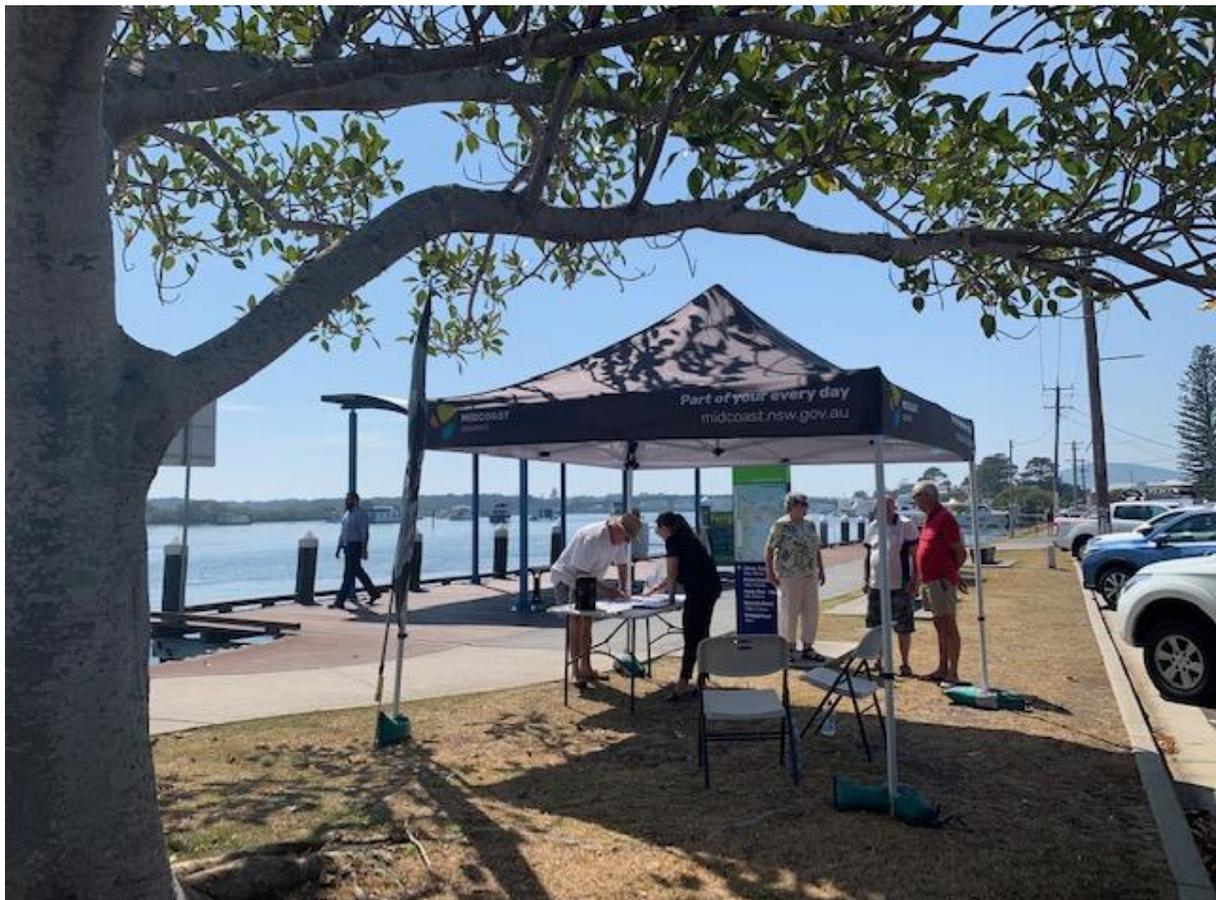


**MIDCOAST**  
council

## Tea Gardens Wharf naming

**December 2019**

# Engagement Outcomes Report



## Introduction

This report provides a summary of consultation undertaken during November and December 2019 to gain community feedback on the proposed new names for the existing public wharves in Tea Gardens.

This report is presented in four sections:

1. Introduction and background
2. What we engaged the community on
3. What people told us
4. Next steps

## Project background

The Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association has submitted a request to MidCoast Council to approve names for the three public wharves located on the Marine Drive waterfront. The Progress Association wanted to name the wharves in a way that would mark the history of the area. The waterfront was the site for the significant timber industry which was at its peak in the 1880s to early 1900s.

Timber was cut in the Bulahdelah area, transported to Tea Gardens by droghers, unloaded and stored and then transhipped by sailing vessels to markets around Australia. The association has gathered photographs of historic vessels moored to the specific wharf sites and would like to recognise the early pioneers by identifying and naming those wharves appropriately.

The names suggested for the three wharves by the Progress Association were Salamander, Ability and Yalinbah.

In making the request to Council, the Progress Association provided documentation indicating support from a range of community groups in the area, including;

- The Myall Koala and Environment Group
- Chamber of Commerce
- Myall U3A Inc
- Lions Club of Tea Gardens
- Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Family Research Group Inc
- Myall Coast Historical Society

Consultation was undertaken with the community throughout November and December 2019 with an online survey and a pop up held on site at the Marine Drive waterfront to ask community members what they thought of the suggested names and/or if they had any other suggestions to put forward. Later that evening was a second opportunity for the community to submit their feedback at the Community Conversations in Tea Gardens.

## What were people engaged on?

### Purpose of engagement

The overall purpose of the engagement with the community was:

- To gain feedback from the community on the options for the naming of the three public wharves on the Tea Gardens waterfront and provide an opportunity to suggest other significant names for consideration.

### Objectives of engagement

To achieve this, the engagement had the following objectives:

- Provide key stakeholders and community with the opportunity to complete the survey and share their opinions/suggestions.
- To educate the community and key stakeholders on the considerations given to the options.
- Ensure participants in the engagement feel their feedback is valued during this process and are informed of the how their feedback has informed the final decision.
- To continue to build trust with our community and ensure that we deliver benefits by meeting the current and future needs of the community.

### Project scope

The Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association has submitted a request to Council to approve three names for the three public wharves located on the Marine Drive waterfront. The names the Progress Association put forward alongside multiple letters of support from prominent community groups in the local area are as follows.

- Salamander
- Ability
- Yalinbah

### Background on the naming options

#### **Salamander**

To represent one of the droghers that transported timber through the region.

#### **Ability**

To represent one of the droghers that transported timber through the region.

#### **Yalinbah**

Representative of the vessel which plied the port, river and lakes with groceries, mail and passengers and locally known as the Yally.

**Other considerations**

Early settler names were considered by the Progress Association during their own research however they decided to keep the names to original vessels that were used to service the area and were historically significant.

**How did people have their say?**

The range of engagement activities undertaken provided a variety of ways for the community to share their opinion and ideas and generate community conversations.

Face-to-face engagement	Online and electronic engagement	Communications
<p><b>Pop up session 26 November 10 – 12pm</b></p> <p><b>Community Conversations 26 November 6 – 8pm</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> visits to <b>Have your say</b> page on Council's website with 29 unique page views</p>	<p>Great Lakes Advocate</p> <p>News of the Area</p>
		<p><b>Submissions</b></p> <p><b>33 submissions in total</b></p> <p><b>24 paper</b> submissions received</p> <p><b>9 Online</b> submissions received</p>

**Engagement activities**

The following activities were used to seek input and build awareness of the community consultation on the proposed names suggested for the three wharves in Tea Gardens.

**Have Your Say page**

The *Have Your Say* page provided an online hub to both share information, encourage participation in engagement activities and direct linkage to the online submission.

Information included information on the project, process and the online survey.

Over the period of the engagement, there were **31** visits to this page.



### **Pop up and Have your Say survey**

This was the primary engagement tool to gain community feedback on the name options and also provided participants with the chance to suggest another name. The pop was held as an opportunity for the community to complete a submission and raise any questions or concerns they may have about the process.

**33** survey submissions were completed.

Support for the proposed names had already been received through formal letters of support from the following groups.

- The Myall Koala and Environment Group
- Chamber of Commerce
- Myall U3A Inc
- Lions Club of Tea Gardens
- Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Family Research Group Inc
- Myall Coast Historical Society
- Karuah Aboriginal Land Council

### **Level of engagement**

As outlined in MidCoast Council's Community Engagement Policy we utilise the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) five-point framework for measuring the level of community engagement for each project.

Within this scale, this project achieved an Inform /Consult /Involve level of engagement. At this level our commitment to the community was to listen to and acknowledge the naming preferences and any suggestions provided.

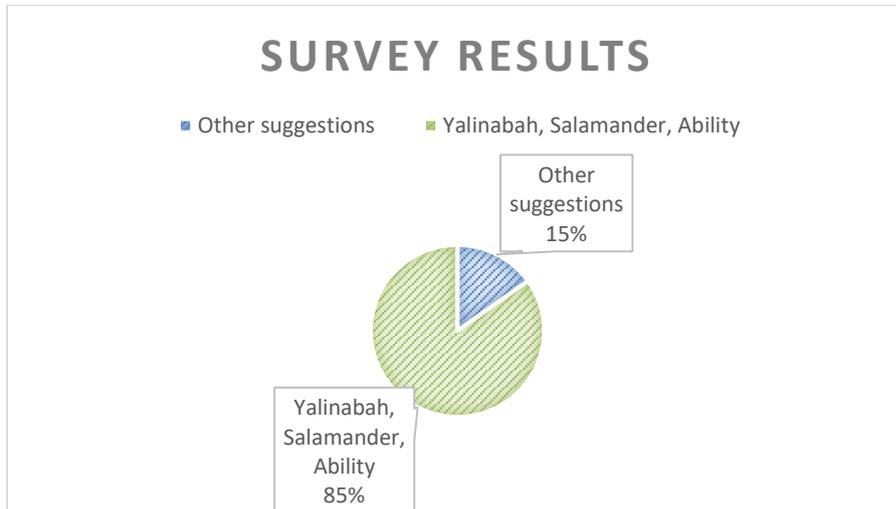
The diagram below shows the levels of engagement and the activities undertaken within each level.



## What people said

Participants in the engagement were asked to provide feedback on the three naming options or alternatively to suggest another name with its meaning for consideration.

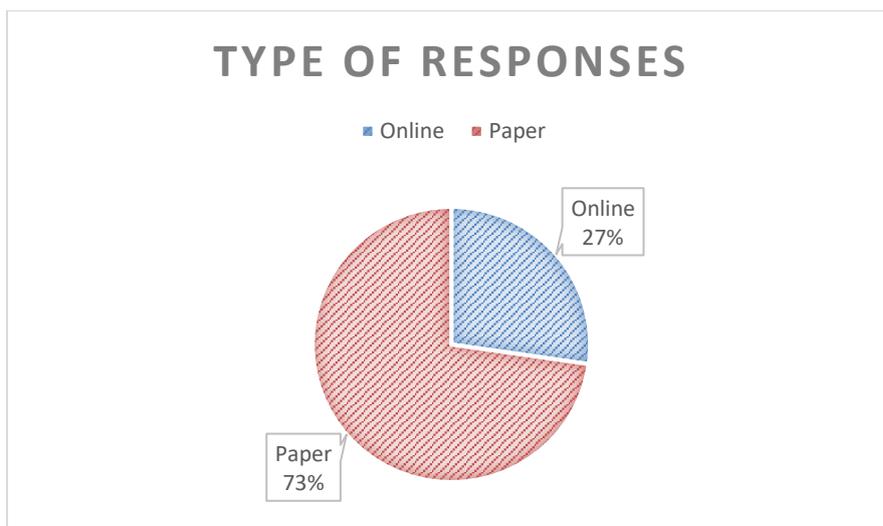
Figure 1.1 Survey results



### Other suggestions

- Yulinbah – Kattang language meaning ‘come back’
- Cedar, Turpentine and Ironbark – timbers used to complete the wharves
- John Witt – early pioneer for the region
- Coweambah – shipwreck
- Iluka – shipwreck

Figure 2.1 Type of responses



## Information to note

Further investigation into the historical background of the wording 'Yalinbah' has been undertaken through our Community Strengthening Officer, Aboriginal dedicated Hannah Early. Contact has been made with the local Aboriginal Land Councils with details of the project and the channels available to complete the survey and how to present another option if the community would like to.

It is understood that the word Yalinbah has an Aboriginal origin and the Karuah Local Aboriginal Lands Council has supported using Yalinbah in writing after discussion at a board meeting with members.

## Summary

It can be easily identified that all suggestions hold rich historical significance to the community and the local area.

A large percentage of the survey data clearly showed that Salamander, Ability and Yalinbah was the preferred option and many of the comments around the consultation supported the continuation of the historical name suggested. Other suggestions raised have been represented and considered as part of the process.

## What's next?

The engagement data contained in this report will be used to inform key staff and management on the outcomes of the consultation for the proposed naming suggestions.

This feedback will be considered, along with other factors in the process of choosing the name for each wharf at Tea Gardens.

A copy of this report will be made publicly available on Council's website.

