COOKS RIVER VALLEY association

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8 August 2018

To:
Ian Naylor
Manager, Civic and Executive Support
Leichhardt Service Centre
Inner West Council
7-15 Wetherill Street
Leichhardt NSW 2040

Dear Ian

Re: Petition on proposal to establish a Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail

The Cooks River Valley Association (CRVA) would like to submit the attached petition to establish a Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail to the Inner West Council.

The signatures on the petition were mainly collected at two events that were held in Marrickville during April and May 2018. These events were the Anzac Day Reflection held on 25 April 2018 in Richardson's Lookout – Marrickville Peace Park and the National Sorry Day Walk along the Cooks River via a number of Indigenous Interpretive Sites on 26 May 2018.

The purpose of the petition is to creatively showcase the history and culture of the local Aboriginal community along the Cooks River and to publicly acknowledge the role of Pemulwuy as "father of local Aboriginal resistance".

The action petitioned for was expressed in the following terms: "We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Inner West Council in conjunction with Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group (A&TSIRG) to designate the walk between the Aboriginal Interpretive Sites along the Cooks River parks in Marrickville as the Pemulwuy Trail and produce an information leaflet to explain the sites and the Aboriginal connection to the Cooks River (River of Goolay'yari)."

A total of 60 signatures have been collected on the petition attached.

Background to the proposal for Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail

The background to the proposal was outlined in an agenda item considered by Marrickville Cooks River Committee (MCRC) at its meeting on 25 August 2014.

This agenda item noted that Marrickville Council's Aboriginal Interpretive Project was opened at the Steel Park site "Living on the Land" on Friday 18 October 2013. In opening the project Mayor Jo Haylen said "Marrickville is home to a significant number of Aboriginal residents and important Aboriginal heritage and community sites. One of our chief aims for the local community is that we promote awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal art, culture and history. We have said we will do this through fostering public connection and respect and by increasing interpretative signage and Aboriginal art in public places."

It was in the Steel Park area in December 1788 that Watkin Tench and a party of 40 soldiers crossed the river in an attempt to capture Pemulwuy.

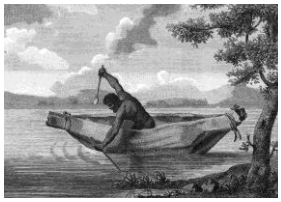
The agenda item also noted that the proposal for a Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail arose from discussion at the June meeting of Marrickville Residents for Reconciliation (now Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation - ANTaR Inner West) when members were reviewing the National Sorry Day candle-light walk along part of the proposed trail.

Design of the trail

The CRVA recommends that Council designates the walk between the four Aboriginal Interpretive Sites along the northern side of the Cooks River and the mosaic of Pemulwuy and his son Tedbury in Gough Whitlam Park on the southern side of the Cooks River as the Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail. (Refer to Attachment 1, Map of proposed Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail).

It is also recommended that Council produce a leaflet containing a map of the trail, an explanation of the Interpretative Sites and Story Poles and a short history of the Indigenous connection with the Cooks River. As outlined below, a brief biography of Pemulwuy should also be included.

Recognition of Pemulwuy



Pemulwuy in a canoe. Engraving on paper: Samuel John Neele (1758-1824) - State Library of Victoria, Public Domain.

An important part of the proposal is to give recognition to the Aboriginal resistance leader Pemulwuy.

Pemulwuy was a prominent Aboriginal resistance leader who opposed the British settlers who occupied his land.

According to the historian Keith Vincent Smith, "(f)rom the age of about 30 in 1790, when he killed his first colonist, until he was shot in 1802, Pemulwuy was a resistance leader and scourge of the colony of NSW as it spread inland from Sydney Cove."

According to historic reports, Pemulwuy killed Governor Phillip's game shooter, the convict John McIntyre, near the Cooks River on Friday 10 December 1790.

Convinced that Pemulwuy was responsible for the unprovoked killing, Keith Vincent Smith writes that Governor Phillip "ordered a punitive expedition of 50 marines, led by Tench and carrying hatchets and head bags, to kill six Indigenous men at Botany Bay and capture two for execution. On the second day they met Colebee at Botany Bay, who told them Pemulwuy had fled to the south and was by that time a long way off. The expedition was a failure, and a second one was a farce."

During the final decade of the eighteenth century, "Pemulwuy led guerrilla attacks against settlers' farms, burning their huts, maize crops and livestock, and plundering their possessions. He operated mainly in his own Bidjigal or Bediagal territory, which stretched from Botany Bay south of the Cooks River and west along the Georges River to Salt Pan Creek, south of Bankstown … Bidjigal literally means 'River Flat Clan'."

Pemulwuy was shot dead around 1 June 1802 by Henry Hacking. His head was cut off and shipped to England.

In the nineteenth century Pemulwuy's head was known to be in the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons in London. Its location is now unknown.

The Aboriginal Interpretive Site at Steel Park draws attention to the role that Pemulwuy played in the Frontier Wars and also acknowledges the impact of invasion and colonisation. Also the signage at Richardson's Outlook - Marrickville Peace Park acknowledges the Frontier Wars and also pays tribute to Indigenous soldiers who served in WW1.

The Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign (GCPC) initiated the campaign to have Richardson's Lookout designated as a Peace Park. GCPC's original proposal was for Peace Park to be called a Peace and Reconciliation Park. The Geographical Names Board NSW however rejected this title as being too long.

The ANTaR sea of hands are embedded at the Looking Out site in the Peace Park. This site, together with the other Aboriginal Interpretive Sites along the Cooks River, have been the focus of National Sorry Day events for a number of years.

Previous support for Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail

Below is a list of local organisations which have expressed their support for the proposal to create a Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail:

- Former Marrickville Residents for Reconciliation (now ANTaR Inner West);
- Marrickville Cooks River Committee (MCRC);
- Cooks River Valley Association (CRVA);
- Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign.

Recommendation

In accordance with the signed petition attached, we believe Council should continue to actively promote the awareness and appreciation of Indigenous art, culture and history within the local government area. We therefore recommend the proposal for Council to establish a Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail.

References

Atkins, Jon. 'National Sorry Day Walk – 26th May 2018', Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign, 31 May 2018.

Gapps, Stephen, *The Sydney Wars: Conflict in the Early Colony, 1788-1817*, NewSouth Publishing, May 2018.

Irish, Paul. 'First people of the Cooks River', *The Dictionary of Sydney*, 2013.

Irish, Paul. *Aboriginal History: Along the Cooks River*, Cooks River Alliance, May 2017.

Kohen, J. L. 'Pemulwuy (1750–1802)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, published first in hardcopy 2005.

Muir, Lesley. 'Aboriginal people of the Cooks River valley', *The Dictionary of Sydney*, 2013.

'Our Indigenous Mosaic', Schools Activity Sheet for the Two Valley Trail: a 13 km walk extending along the Wolli Creek and Cooks River Valleys from Bexley North to Campsie, Wolli Creek Preservation Society, 2008.

'1790–1802, Pemulwuy's War' in Hawkesbury and Nepean Wars, Wikipedia, accessed 23 July, 2018.

Smith, Keith Vincent Smith. 'Pemulwuy', *The Dictionary of Sydney*, 2010.

Attachments

1. Map of the proposed Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail
2. Aboriginal Interpretive Sites along the Cooks River
3. Signage in Steel Park, Marrickville.
4. Historical Signage in Richardson's Lookout – Marrickville Peace Park
5. Mosaic of Pemulwuy and son Tedbury – Gough Whitlam Park, Earlwood
6. Petition containing 60 signatures.

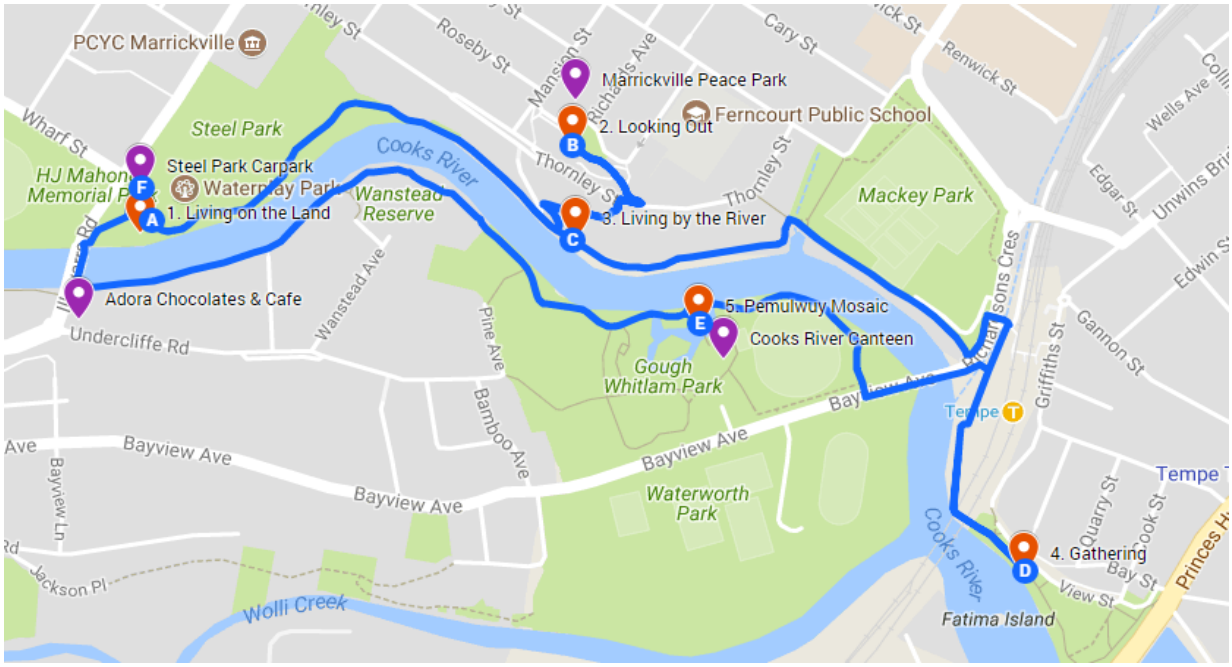
Yours sincerely



John Butcher
President
Cooks River Valley Association
PO Box H150
Hurlstone Park NSW 2193
Tel: 02 9559 3406

ATTACHMENT 1

Map of proposed Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail



Key

Marker	Interpretive Site / Feature	Location
A	Living on the Land	Steel Park
B	Looking Out	Richardson's Lookout – Marrickville Peace Park
C	Living by the River	Lower Warren Park
D	Gathering	Kendrick Park
E	Pemulwuy Mosaic	Gough Whitlam Park

Refer to photos of the Interpretive Sites and Story Poles (Attachment 2) and photos of the Pemulwuy Mosaic (Attachment 5).

Also refer to photos of historic signage in Steel Park (Attachment 3) and Richardson's Lookout – Marrickville Peace Park (Attachment 4).

ATTACHMENT 2

Aboriginal Interpretive Sites and Story Poles along the Cooks River in Marrickville and Tempe

Steel Park - Living on the Land






Warren Park – Living by the River






Richardson's Lookout - Marrickville Peace Park – Looking Out





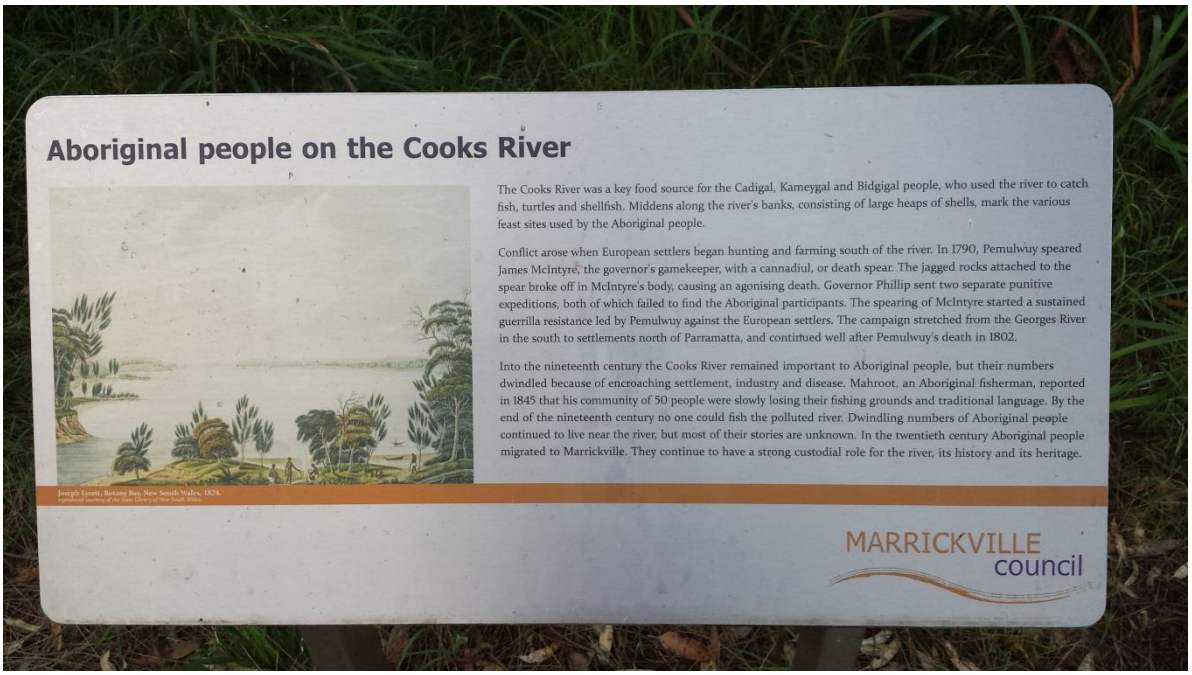

Kendrick Park – Gathering






ATTACHMENT 3

Signage in Steel Park



Aboriginal People on the Cooks River

The Cooks River was a key food source for the Cadigal, Kameygal and Bidgigal people, who used the river to catch fish, turtles and shellfish. Middens along the river's banks, consisting of large heaps of shells, mark the various feast sites used by the Aboriginal people.

Conflict arose when Europeans began hunting and farming south of the river. In 1790 Pemulwuy speared James McIntyre, the Governor's gamekeeper, with a cannadiul, or death spear. The jagged rocks attached to the spear broke off in McIntyre's body causing an agonising death. Governor Phillip sent two separate punitive expeditions, both of which failed to find the Aboriginal participants. The spearing of McIntyre started a sustained guerrilla resistance led by Pemulwuy against the European settlers. The campaign stretched from the Georges River in the south to settlements north of Parramatta and continued well after Pemulwuy's death in 1802.

Into the 19th century the Cooks River remained important to Aboriginal people, but their numbers dwindled because of encroaching settlement, industry and disease. Mahroot, an Aboriginal fisherman, reported in 1845 that his community of 50 people were slowing losing their fishing grounds and traditional language. By the end of 19th century no one could fish the polluted river. Dwindling numbers of Aboriginal people continued to live near the river, but most of their stories are unknown. In the 20th century Aboriginal people migrated to Marrickville. They continue to have a strong custodial role for the river, its history and its heritage.

ATTACHMENT 4

Historical Signage in Richardson's Lookout - Marrickville Peace Park

Eastern Signage

Long View	Front Panel	Back Panel
		

Front Panel

Richardson's Lookout – Marrickville Peace Park

Richardson's Lookout is part of the old Warren Estate orginally owned by Thomas Holt whose home The Warren was a remarkable castle-like mansion surrounded by rabbits for sport, alpacas and other exotic animals. Holt used the hunting grounds to entertain royalty and other guests.

When he returned to London in 1886, he left his estate to the Carmelite nuns. The Warren was demolished in 1919. In 1986, two of the original entrance pillars were recovered by Marrickville Council and installed here. Since the 1990s the reserve has been used by the local community for events that celebrate Aboriginal culture and history, reflecting on the site's Traditional Owners, the Cadigal-Wangal People. This has included reflective events that both recognise the Stolen Generations and promote peace through reconciliation.

In April 2015, Richardson's Lookout was designated by Marrickville Council as a Peace Park to honour the many uses and meanings of Richardson's Lookout including its Aboriginal, miitary and local heritage.

Back Panel

Richardson's Lookout

Swamp oak, mangroves and salt march flats once lined the northern edge of Cooks River, leading up to thick Ironbark and Turpentine forests. Aboriginal people fished along the river, where remnants of the feasting sites – middens made up of discarded seafood shells and bones – remain today.

Europeans arrived in Australia with diseases to which the Aboriginal people had no resistance. In 1789 an epidemic, possibly of smallpox, decimated the Aboriginal population, halving the Eora nation to 1,000 individuals. Sustained frontier conflicts developed on Sydney's outskirts, as European farming challenged traditional land uses of the Aboriginal people. Pemulwuy, an Bediagal man, led the first resistance, burning crops and leading attacks north of the Georges River.

In 1787 he crossed the Cooks River to lead guerilla actions against government facilities at Toongabbie and Parrmatta, where he was seriously wounded. In November 1801, Governor Philip King sent troops to the Georges River to quell the conflict; the following June Pemulwuy was shot dead. His campaign, along with numerous other conflicts across Australia, fought against the displacement of Aboriginal people from their Country.

Western Signage

Long View	Front Panel	Back Panel
		

Front Panel

Richardson's Lookout – Marrickville Peace Park

Same as the text on the front panel of the Eastern Signage.

Back Panel

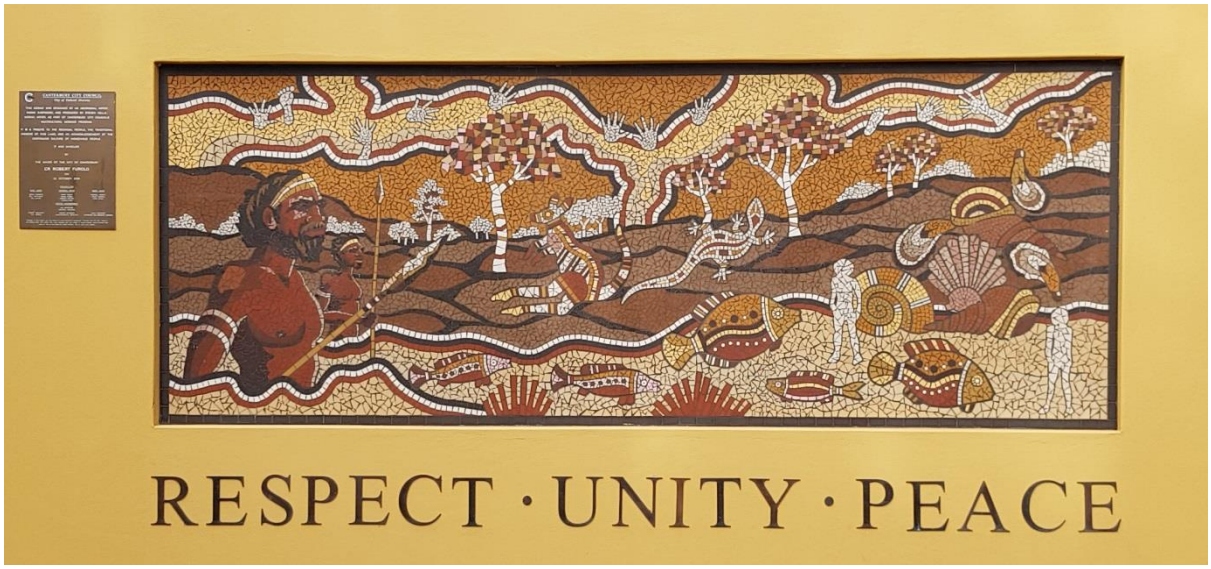
The Warren Artillery Camp

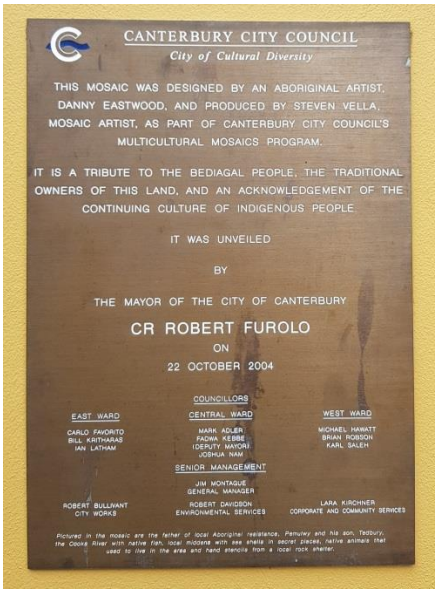
For Marrickville, war was a defining aspect of the twentieth century, with Addison Road Miitary Barracks a key military site from 1903 to 1975. Richardson's Lookout had a brief miitary life of its own when, in 1916, the estate was resumed as a military encampment and training ground for 7th Field Artillery Brigade, who were billeted at the nearby Warren mansion. More than 1,300 Aboriginal soldiers served during WW1. These include Edgar, David and Henry Bindoff of Petersham, the sons of Phoebe Alice Butler, an Aboriginal woman from Murramarang. Henry would be the only one to return home; Edgar was killed in September 1915 at Lone Pine, Gallipoli and his brother David was killed in action at Pozieres, France in July 2015.

Richardson's Lookout and the surrounding Warren Estate was purchased by Marrickville Council in 1919. In the 1920s, Marrickville Alderman, Warren Richardson led a public campaign to clean up the park, after it had been neglected for many years. The Lookout was named in his honour. In 1968 two pillars from the Warren mansion were installed in the Park to commemorate the history of this important site.

ATTACHMENT 5

Mosaic of Pemulwuy and son Tedbury – Gough Whitlam Park, Earlwood





CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL
City of Cultural Diversity

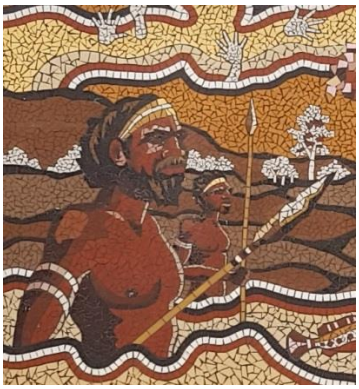
THIS MOSAIC WAS DESIGNED BY AN ABORIGINAL ARTIST, DANNY EASTWOOD, AND PRODUCED BY STEPHEN VELLA, MOSAIC ARTIST, AS PART OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL'S MULTICULTURAL MOSAICS PROGRAM.

IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE BEDIAGAL PEOPLE, THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THIS LAND, AND AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE CONTINUING CULTURE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.

IT WAS UNVEILED
BY
THE MAJOR OF THE CITY OF CANTERBURY
CR ROBERT FUROLO
ON
22 OCTOBER 2004.

Pictured in the mosaic are the father of local Aboriginal resistance, Pemulwuy and his son, Tedbury, the Cooks River with native fish, local middens with sea shells in secret places, native animals that used to live in the area and hand stencils from a local rock shelter.

Extract from mosaic's plate.





ATTACHMENT 6

Petition to establish a Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail

The signatures on the petition were collected at two events that were held in Marrickville during April and May 2018:

- Anzac Day Reflection held on 25 April 2018 in Richardson's Lookout – Marrickville Peace Park;
- National Sorry Day Walk along the Cooks River via a number of Indigenous Interpretive Sites on 26 May 2018.

A total of 60 signatures were collected on the petition at these events.

To protect the privacy of the signatories, a copy of the signed petition has not been included in this document.

Refer to first page of blank petition form below.

The covering letter with the signed petition attached was submitted to Inner West Council on 15 August 2018.

For more information relating to this petition, contact John Butcher on 02 9559 3406 or email jbutcher43@gmail.com.

Petition to Establish a Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail

Petition's purpose	To creatively showcase the history and culture of the local Aboriginal community along the Cooks River and to publicly acknowledge the role of Pemulwuy as "father of local Aboriginal resistance".
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge Inner West Council in conjunction with Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group (A&TSIRG) to designate the walk between the Aboriginal Interpretive Sites along the Cooks River parks in Marrickville as the Pemulwuy Trail and produce an information leaflet to explain the sites and the Aboriginal connection to the Cooks River (River of Goolay'yari).

First Name	Last Name	Address	Signature	Date

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦