



INNER WEST COUNCIL

Cooks River Valley Association Inc.
PO Box H150
HURLSTONE PARK NSW 2193

2nd November 2018

Dear Mr Butcher,

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

Firstly, please accept my apology for the delay in responding to your petition. As you may be aware, the Council has received several enquiries via a number of sources from the Cooks River Valley Association about this proposal, to which it has been responding over the last few weeks.

I thought it would be useful to reiterate that the Council is undertaking a wider piece of work which is relevant to this proposal. The Council has engaged Tocomwall Aboriginal Consultancy, an experienced and qualified consultant to undertake a critical investigation into the Gadigal and Wangal landscape.

The aim of this investigation is to build a wider and clearer understanding of the former landscape including the flora, the fauna, Aboriginal history, culture and heritage of the Inner West Local Government Area. The consultancy will deliver a critical investigation report, based on existing records and oral histories. The information you have provided will help to complement this wider piece of work.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of certain elements of the investigation, the completed report has been delayed until the end of November. Once this has been received and reviewed, the Council will use the content to guide its future work.

Alongside this, the Council is in the process of inviting applications to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working group. The deadline for applications is mid October and the Working group will meet, along with members of a number of other thematic working groups, for an induction in late November. Formal meetings of the Working group will commence in February 2019. The Working group will also play an integral role in guiding the Council's future work in this area.

The proposal put forward by the Association will be given full consideration as part of this overarching process. The Council will be in a better position to provide a fuller response on the proposal for a Pemulwuy Cooks River Trail once the Working group is established, in early to mid 2019.

Yours faithfully,

Gabrielle Rennard
Community Wellbeing Manager

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