

**Proposal to Name and Gazette Two Private Roads in Homeleigh Drive Estate,
Coonabarabran**

Attachment 1 – 3 x Written Submissions – Objections

From:
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:02 AM
To: Records Officer
Subject: Re: Doc ID 98982

Warrumbungle Shire Council

My family and I strongly object to the proposed name of "Biruu Gaba Road" for our arm of Homeleigh Drive. It is difficult to pronounce, difficult to spell and has no meaning for us, and it would be impractical. Imagine trying to give this address over the phone! We would prefer a more ordinary name, such as a local animal name. We would have been happy with "Echidna Close" as was first proposed for our part of the road. Some other suggestions would be "Gecko Road", "Pobblebonk Road", "Emu Road", or even "Dragon Road" or "Frog Road" as these are animals that we do see here. An alternative would be "Shawn's Creek Road".

Yours sincerely,



Re Doc ID 98982,

From :

To : info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au

Cc :

Sent : 22 August 2019 21:56:17

To Whom it May Concern,

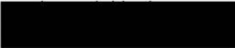
I am writing in connection with the proposed name change of our spur-road located at the western end of Homeleigh Drive. Originally our street address was simply "Lot 24, Homeleigh Drive", but then this morphed mysteriously to "51 Homeleigh Drive". Unfortunately this street number gives no indication of our actual whereabouts, as confirmed by a confused policeman who once stumbled up our driveway, commenting that the ambiguous numbering was "****ing stupid!".

So to its credit the Shire has sought to rectify this problem and recently we received a letter indicating that we would have a clear unambiguous sensible-sounding street address. I further noted that residents at the other end of Homeleigh Drive had been assigned an unmemorable, unspellable, double-barrelled alphabet-soup monstrosity of a street name. Not surprisingly, at least some of these residents objected to this ridiculous name, and I was a little irritated to see that this name has now been recycled onto our spur-road.

Irritation aside, I wonder if the Shire has considered the health and safety aspects of assigning unmemorable, unspellable, double-barrelled alphabet-soup street names. Imagine a serious emergency where one is trying to get the address information to emergency services in a timely manner, and then emergency services dispatchers have to forward the information to emergency crews who then have to interpret it. As an RFS volunteer I would not appreciate hearing an order during a serious crisis to "fall back to [gobbledygook]".

The irony of all of this street renaming, is that it is supposed to *reduce* the confusion-and-delay with using the former property Lot numbers, whereas this proposed name is actually worse and more confusing than the original simple clear Lot number. Should the Shire be determined to foist this ridiculous street name on us, and should it transpire sometime in the future that the use of this name results in confusion-and-delay to emergency services that lead to injury, death or property damage, I will ensure that the Shire and the individual perpetrators are held to account for their predictably dangerous choice.

It is to be hoped that common sense prevails and that a sensible easy-to-remember easy-to-spell choice is offered, such as the one originally proposed.



23/08/2019

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 28 August 2019 4:04 PM
To: Records Officer;
Subject: "Biruu Gaba" Road.

Warrumbungle Shire Council
Coonabarabran.

Dear

My husband and I strongly object to the new name for the western part of Homeleigh Drive, "Biruu Gaba Road", and to the way this issue has been handled by council staff.

We received two letters from the council about this matter. The first, dated 3/4/19, told us that the proposed new name for our part of the road was "Shawns Creek Road" which we would have been very happy with. The second letter was dated 30/7/19 and invited further submissions, as the two proposed road names had been changed; the name "Biruu Gaba", originally proposed for the other side of Homeleigh Drive, was now assigned to our part of the road. I immediately wrote a letter of objection, and my husband wrote one last week, before the cut off date for submissions on 23/8/19. In response, we both received only automated emails acknowledging our letters, but neither of us received any real response. I went in to talk to Mr [REDACTED] on 14/8/19 but he was on leave. I spoke instead to Mr [REDACTED] who merely told me they had received my objection and would consider it.

My husband went to the council today to discuss the matter with Mr [REDACTED], and I took part in the conversation on speakerphone. Apparently the decision to change the two road names was made by council before we even received the letter dated 30/7/19. This is hardly fair and it seems disingenuous to invite submissions on a decision which had already been made, so we have had no real choice over the matter. We did not object to the "Biruu Gaba" name after we received the first letter, as there was no suggestion that it would be given to our part of the road. If we had known there was a possibility that the names would be swapped, we would have immediately and strenuously objected to it. If the counsellors voted on this matter on the understanding that the community had been properly consulted about the name changes, they were misled and the vote is therefore invalid.

We think the name "Biruu Gaba" is unsuitable because of the "double u", which could easily be confused with "w" - just try spelling the name aloud! A double u is most unusual in our language, and I don't think I know of any other word which contains it. The two word name complicates matters. I grew up in a street called "The Postern" so I have an full understanding about the consequences of an unusual street name. Trying to explain the name to someone else was always tricky, and usually required long explanations about how the streets in the suburb (Castlecrag) were all named after parts of a castle like The Battlement, The Parapet, The Rampart, etc, by Walter Burley Griffin. If that didn't work we would try to explain that it was a name like "The Boulevard" or "The Avenue". Not many road names start with "The", so even trying to spell the name would be difficult for others to understand. We often received letters with the incorrect addresses, mostly "Postern St/Rd", and even " Postern Boulevard" came once. Some letters went astray, sometimes with undesirable consequences as my parents ran a medical practice from the house for many years. Later I lived in a street called Second Ave which was marvellously easy in contrast.

We have some concerns about the safety of "Biruu Gaba". The time wasted trying to convey the address to emergency services over the phone could waste valuable seconds and lead to a death, or the loss of a

property by fire. They might misunderstand the address and not arrive at all, like the letters we did not receive at The Postern. I understand that emergency services have access to a computer which gives them a drop down list of local roads, but one still has to explain that the name has two words, and spell part of it. Some emergency service workers might not have access to a computer; or example the RFS or an ambulance might need to be given an address while out on the road. Why choose an impractical difficult name instead of a practical sensible name? This is madness!

We would be happy with almost any other name as long as it is easy to spell, and is familiar enough for ordinary people to comprehend. We welcome an Aboriginal name. I am still unclear how to pronounce "biruu gaba" or what its meaning is. Mr [REDACTED] was not able to tell me what "Biruu Gaba" meant, but thought it might mean "distant mountain". Mr [REDACTED] told me today that "gaba" means "good", and that he thought that "biruu" meant "land" or "distant land".

Perhaps the road could be called "Shawns Creek Road" after all, as it is very suitable and is my preferred choice, or "Gaba Road" - this is short, easy to spell phonetically, easy to understand, and, if it does indeed mean good, it would suit our road, as it is a good place to live.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]