



PLACE NAMES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

The ACT Government has engaged with the community to help name parks in the suburbs of Campbell and Kingston and about a proposal to co-name the suburb of Spence.

THE CONVERSATION

We conducted a six week community engagement process for the three projects which began on 20 October and closed on 1 December 2022.

We invited the community to suggest names of female defence personnel (deceased) for a park in Campbell, which adjoins the shops at Blamey Place and White Crescent to the west.

We asked the community for its thoughts on a proposal to name a park on Trevillian Quay, Kingston to recognise Mr Alf Stafford MBE for his contribution to the community.

We sought community comment on a proposal to co-name the Belconnen suburb of Spence to include Catherine Helen Spence alongside William Guthrie Spence, after whom the suburb was originally named in 1972.

HOW WE ENGAGED

The consultation targeted a diverse audience through a variety of communication channels.

Following the [launch](#) of the engagement projects, ABC Radio Canberra, The Canberra Times, [City News](#), [Canberra Weekly](#), [the National Indigenous Times](#) and [PSNews.com.au](#) all published stories that promoted the engagement. We invited the community to get involved via the Directorate's [Facebook page](#) at the beginning and near the end of the engagement period. We also reached out to multiple local institutions, schools and community groups via email to invite submissions.

WHO WE ENGAGED

For Campbell we contacted the Australian War Memorial, the ACT Office for Women, the Soldier On organisation, the Campbell Community Association, the North Canberra Community Association, Campbell Primary School and St Thomas More Primary School. Posters were delivered to the primary schools and displayed on the local noticeboard. The Member for Kurrajong, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA met with constituents at the park after promoting the consultation on Facebook and provided a list of suggestions she collected.

For Kingston we reached out to the Kingston and Barton Residents Group and the Inner South Community Council and posters were placed at the Kingston Library and the community noticeboard at Green Square, Kingston. Mr Stafford's granddaughter was interviewed by presenter John Paul Janke on ABC Radio Canberra on Sunday 30 October about the proposal to honour her grandfather's name.

For Spence we contacted the Belconnen Community Council, a close relative of Mr W.G Spence and the Australian Workers' Union and displayed posters at the Spence IGA supermarket. Dr David Headon, of the ACT Place Names Advisory Committee, was interviewed on ABC Radio Canberra by presenter Georgia Styne on Monday 24 October 2022.



FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDERS

Campbell park consultation

Thirteen people made submissions through the website submission form which amounted to eight separate individual nominations.

Fifteen submissions were submitted by email. Due to some duplications of suggestions this amounted to thirteen new nominations. Twenty-one separate candidates were nominated in total consisting of nineteen people and two defence service dogs.

Due to family sensitivities around placenames nominations, the names of the people (and dogs) who were nominated will remain confidential. The ACT Place Names Advisory Committee will identify and consult the family of the preferred person/name in the coming weeks as part of the committee's assessment process.

The personal names of seventeen women and two men were nominated. The suggestions recognise fourteen Australian defence personnel including six nurses, one electrical engineer, a special operations agent, an artist and two social welfare workers.

Kingston park consultation

Forty-five people made submissions through the website submission form. Of the submissions received, 44 fully supported the proposal to name the park as Alf Stafford Park. One submission did not support the proposal, preferring the park to be named after a woman.

Spence co-naming consultation

Twenty-eight people made submissions through the website. Of the submissions received 27 supported the proposal to co-name Spence and one submission did not support the proposal.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We have assessed the twenty-one nominated names for the Campbell park against the selection criteria and submitted a shortlist to the ACT Place Names Advisory Committee (the committee) for consideration.

We have provided details of the high level of community support for the Kingston proposal, Alf Stafford Park, to the committee for consideration.

Following the strong community support received for the Spence proposal we have recommended the committee consider a possible amendment to the origin and significance of the suburb name to commemorate both Catherine Helen Spence and William Guthrie Spence.

After consideration, the committee will provide its advice on the three projects to Minister Mick Gentleman MLA, or his delegate. An announcement of the preferred names for the Campbell and Kingston parks, and the co-naming of Spence, will be made on the YourSay website and the ACT Planning website.

If approved, instruments to determine the two park names, and the co-naming of Spence, will be publicly notified on the ACT Legislation Register and tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly for six sitting days.



Key Timings

October 2022: 6-week community engagement for park in Campbell begins

Early December 2022: Community consultation ends

Late December 2022: Nominations being researched and prepared for consideration by the ACT Place Names Advisory Committee

January 2023: Listening report published, committee receives report for consideration

March 2023: ACT Place Names Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA, or his delegate, for consideration

May 2023: A disallowable instrument to determine each naming approval will be publicly notified on the ACT Legislation Register and tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly for six sitting days. The decisions will also be announced through the YourSay website and the ACT Planning website.

Late 2023/early 2024: Transport Canberra and City Services will install signs at the parks and in Spence.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Total number of views	Total number of visitors	Total feedback collected	Total No of contributors
1071	493	168	134
Number of visits Campbell 141 Kingston 249 Co-naming Spence 192	Peak Visitation Day Thursday 21 October 2022	Total time spent on website 16 Hours 6 Minutes	Referrals to site Social Media: 232 Direct: 174 Search Engine: 65 Websites: 38