

10.3. Changes to Precinct Committees

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the merger of the Harrison and Bennett Precinct Committees (now known as Harrison-Bennett Precinct) and the name change of Registry Precinct Committee (now known as Anzac Park Precinct). The report also details other potential mergers/boundary changes currently under consideration.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- On 25 July 2022, Council resolved that it recognises: (a) the principle that the question of mergers or amalgamations between Precincts or their dissolution are matters for the Precincts themselves to determine; and (b) that Council will provide administrative support for any such mergers, amalgamations, or dissolutions.
- Registry Precinct resolved to explore a name change in January 2023 to improve association with the local area. On the Precinct Committee's behalf, Council staff prepared an application to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), which determines the use of the word 'Anzac'. DVA approved the Registry Precinct Committee's application on 14 June 2023. The Precinct resolved to formally change its name to Anzac Park Precinct on 28 June 2023.
- Harrison-Bennett Precincts have formally merged. A trial merger was in operation from August 2020 when Bennett Precinct entered recess following the resignation of its office bearers. On 2 March 2023, following a seven-month consultation period, Harrison Precinct Committee resolved to formally merge with the Bennett Precinct area. The new name of Harrison-Bennett Precinct was resolved on 6 July 2023.
- This merger reduces the total number of Precinct areas to 23, with 16 active, and seven Committees remaining inactive - Anderson, Bradfield, Bridgeview, CBD, Hayes, Kurraba, and The Plateau.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council notes the amalgamation of Harrison and Bennett Precincts to form one precinct known as 'Harrison-Bennett Precinct' and the name change of Registry Precinct to 'Anzac Park Precinct'.

Background

The recommendations of the Precinct System Review were considered by the Council at its meeting of 25 July 2022. Council resolved that the question of mergers or amalgamations is a matter for the Precincts themselves to determine, and that Council will provide support for any such mergers.

There are currently 24 Precinct areas with seven Committees inactive. The inactive committees are Anderson, Bradfield, Bridgeview, CBD, Hayes, Kurraba, and The Plateau.

The most recent boundary change/merger occurred in early 2023 with the merger of Edward and Union Precinct areas into the current Euroka Precinct area. The Council was notified of this change on 27 February 2023, together with the procedure established to guide other Precinct Committees considering amalgamation with an adjacent inactive Precinct area/s. This procedure was designed in consultation with Precinct Committees considering mergers and the Combined Precincts Committee and communicated to all Precinct Committees. Council staff have provided one-on-one assistance with Precinct Committees proposing mergers or boundary alterations.

Report

In accordance with the Council resolution of 25 July 2022, staff have provided administrative support and guidance regarding the following changes to the Precinct System.

Registry Precinct Name Change (Anzac Park Precinct)

In January 2023, Registry Precinct resolved to explore a name change to Anzac Park Precinct as many members felt the current name “has no identification or significance for current residents and does not resonate” with the community as it “fails to reflect the area covered by our Precinct”.

Council staff assisted with the preparation of an application to the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), which determines the use of the word ‘Anzac’. DVA approved the Precinct Committee’s application on 14 June 2023. On 28 June 2023, the Precinct Committee formally resolved to change its name to Anzac Park Precinct.

The following internal administration changes are in progress, including the Precinct’s webpage on Council’s website, updating Council’s name and address register (NAR), adding a new customer to Council’s record-keeping system, and updating the Precincts area map.

Merger of Harrison/Bennett Precinct areas

Bennett Precinct went into recess in August 2020 following the resignation of its office bearers. In Late 2020, Harrison Precinct agreed to a trial merger of Harrison and Bennett Precinct Committees and has held joint committee meetings which have been promoted to both Precinct areas. The proposed merger was listed on each agenda between November 2022 and March 2023, enabling several opportunities for the community to discuss the

proposal. On 2 March 2023, Harrison Precinct Committees resolved to formally merge with the Bennett Precinct area.

In June/July 2023, consultation occurred with Council staff regarding new name options of local historical significance; ultimately none were pursued in favour of continuing with the current name for ease of association. On 6 July 2023, they formally resolved on Harrison-Bennett as the name of the new Precinct area.

The former Harrison Precinct office bearers remain in the interim until an Annual General Meeting is held.

Post-amalgamation administration is in progress (the same as noted for Anzac Park Precinct).

This merger reduces the total number of Precinct areas to 23, with 16 active, and seven Committees remaining inactive - Anderson, Bradfield, Bridgeview, CBD, Hayes, Kurraba, and The Plateau.

Other Proposed Mergers

At the time of preparing this report, Council is providing support to the following Precinct Committees:

Precinct	Proposed Change
Brightmore	Minor boundary adjustments (along Military Road) affecting: a) Harrison-Bennett Precinct b) Neutral Precinct
Neutral	Minor boundary adjustments (along Military Road) affecting Parks Precinct
Neutral	Merger with the inactive Hayes and Kurraba Precincts or reactivation of the inactive Precincts. Consultation to be undertaken by Council.

Consultation requirements

Community engagement is not required. Consultation occurred within each Precinct area as outlined in this report.

Financial/Resource Implications

There are no direct cost implications arising from the changes to the Precinct Committees.

Legislation

There are no legislative requirements, or considerations relevant to this matter.

ANZAC PARK PRECINCT



anzac_park_precinct.swd

HARRISON-BENNETT PRECINCT

