

29 May 2017

Neil Evers
Budawa Aboriginal Signage Group
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Our Ref: 2017/140502

Dear Mr Evers

Aboriginal Interpretive Signage

Thank you for your letter dated 27 April 2017 and the revised wording for an Aboriginal interpretive sign to be installed at Mona Vale. We are close to finalising the wording of the first sign and will soon be forwarding the draft text to Council's marketing team for editing and design.

Regarding the use of clan names, Council considers there to be too much uncertainty around the name Gai-mariagal for the following reasons:

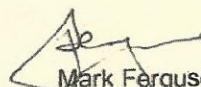
- Gai-mariagal does not appear in any of the historical records as either a clan or as an alternate/similar spelling or pronunciation.
- The suggestion that Gai-mariagal and Gaimaragal may be alternate spellings of the same clan name is unproven. The Gamaragal/Cammeraygal are a specific group. Furthermore, the map in Denis Foley's book (Repossession of Our Spirit) shows both Gai-mariagal and Cammeraygal further indicating that they are not the same but two distinct groups.
- There are historical records to indicate that the Cammeraygal lived on the 'northern shore of Port Jackson' however, there is no evidence to indicate that this clan area extended to the Northern Beaches.
- Wikipedia pages and websites without clear sources indicated are not able to be accepted as references.

We are therefore unable to approve the use of Gai-mariagal as a clan name on the Northern Beaches.

Thank you also for providing some photographs of a potential location for the sign near Mona Vale Library. We are currently looking into the suitability of this location and will let you know once we can confirm.

If you have any questions in the meantime please feel free to contact Andrew Pigott on 9942 2710.

Yours faithfully



Mark Ferguson
Chief Executive Officer