

File Ref:#E2023/92458

Mullumbimby

15 September, 2023

Subject: In Support of Retaining the Name "Hottentot Crescent"

Dear Byron Shire Council,

I am writing to express my support for retaining the name "Hottentot Crescent" for our street. It has recently come to my attention that there is a proposal to change the name of our street due to concerns about its historical connotations. I firmly believe that our street's name should remain as is.

My understanding is that our street name was chosen decades ago, after a tree, the Hottentot Bean tree (*Schotia Brachypetala*). Never in my time as a resident here, have I heard another person ever relate to the street name in regards to a racial slur. The proposal to change the name has been made by a local resident who does not reside in Hottentot Crescent, or indeed Mullumbimby. While I appreciate the concerns raised, it is essential to acknowledge that names can change in meaning and connotation over the years.

Altering the street name would greatly impact residents and the Council long term with endless administrative changes and potential financial costs. These resources could be better utilized for essential community projects and improvements.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Sincerely,

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
DOC NO:
RECD: 18 SEP 2023
FILE NO: F 209
ASSIGNEE: J. Adams

Mullumbimby

17/09/2023

Subject: Preserving the Name "Hottentot Crescent" - A Resident's Perspective

Dear Members of the Byron Shire Council,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today as a proud resident and homeowner of Hottentot Crescent since 2004. Over the years, I have grown deeply attached to our street's name, which beautifully celebrates the remarkable Hottentot Trees that grace our beloved Crescent. It is with a heavy heart that I address the recent proposal to change the name of our street, prompted by concerns about racial sensitivity.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize that I was genuinely taken aback when I learned of this request for a name change. In all my years here, I have never associated "Hottentot Crescent" with anything derogatory or offensive. To me, it has always represented a connection to the natural beauty that surrounds us, particularly the magnificent Hottentot Bean trees (*Schotia Brachypetala*) that line our street. These trees are a source of pride for our community and a testament to our commitment to preserving our environment.

In my view, if one searches for prejudice or offence in any name or phrase, they are likely to find it, even where it was never intended. The name "Hottentot Crescent" was chosen to celebrate the botanical richness of our area and should continue to do so without being burdened by unintended connotations. Renaming our street would not only strip away its unique character but also impose unnecessary costs and administrative complexities on both the council and residents.

Rather than dwelling on the past, I firmly believe that we should focus on celebrating the beauty and unity of our community. Hottentot Crescent has been a part of our local identity for many years, and it embodies the spirit of our region. Changing its name would be an erasure of our history and the unique character that sets our community apart.

I kindly implore the Byron Shire Council to consider the sentiments of long-standing residents like myself, who have cherished the name "Hottentot Crescent" for its connection to nature and the positive aspects of our community. Let us continue to celebrate its beauty and the botanical heritage it represents, rather than allowing it to be overshadowed by controversy.

Thank you for taking the time to read my heartfelt plea. I look forward to your decision on this matter and hope that we can preserve the name that has been a source of pride and identity for our community for so many years.

Warm regards,

Ref: # E 2023 / 92458

Feedback on proposed street name change

Submitted on	3 October 2023, 9:12AM
Receipt number	4
Related form version	1
Name	
Email	-
Provide your feedback here	I do not want the name changed. If it is changed it certainly needs to be in keeping with the names of the streets around me. ie -Australia Flora.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
DOC NO:.....
REC'D 14 SEP 2023
FILE NO: F209
ASSIGNEE: J. Armstrong

RECEIVED BY FRONT COUNTER
14 SEP 2023
BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

File Ref: #E2023/92458

Byron Shire Council

Email: jarmstrong@byron.nsw.gov.au or PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482**Comments on proposed renaming of Hottentot Crescent**

I/We: as resident/ landowner residing at (no of house)

Hottentot Crescent Mullumbimby

wish to provide my/our opinion in relation to the proposed re naming.

When I first saw the name 'Hottentot' I was a little horrified as yes it did have racist connotations.

When asking around about where "Hottentot Cresc" came from one neighbour informed me that all the street names in our area are the common names of the plants which were planted along differing roadsides i.e. Golden Penda, Agave etc. Turkestan etc. So apparently Hottentot is the common name for the trees along Hottentot Cresc which are currently in flower.

When I found this I was delighted and enjoyed the name without racist connotations. I tell anyone this story when they visit.

I agree however that for most people it could be offensive or uncomfortable even though I have grown rather fond of it myself.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED:

If signing on behalf of a company, please add your name and company title (for example, Director)

ACN/Company seal

DATE: 13/09/23

Contact details:

Home: ..

Mobile:

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL WITHIN 28 DAYS

Feedback on proposed street name change

Submitted on	26 September 2023, 11:35AM
Receipt number	3
Related form version	1

Name

Email

Provide your feedback here

I've recently moved from Hottentot St after living there for 10 years. I never heard a derogatory word about the name. The only discussions I was privy to concerned the beautiful street scape the trees provided. I'm sure offence can be taken if you try hard enough bit changing the name seems somewhat extreme.

Armstrong, Tracy

From:
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 4:44 PM
To: council; Armstrong, Tracy
Subject: Hottentot Residents thoughts on renaming

Hi Tracey,

we recently received a letter regarding the renaming of our home street, Hottentot Crescent from James Flockton.

My family and I are against renaming the street as we feel the unwarranted attention recently brought about has come from one-sided sources and doesn't reflect the name's true meaning.

Hottentot is the name of the plant/tree that adorns the crescent in almost all of our homes. In past Dutch terms, it was a word to describe an outgoing and colourful woman, and although it may have had sad connotations in Afrikaans culture, we do not live in Africa.

Worryingly this is an individual's call to change our street name to an African name. This I strongly disagree with. If anything, the area deserves a First Nations name more in keeping with our own history.

The disruptive nature not only affects our business, bank, and all personal details it also means having to teach our children our address all over again, which we feel is dangerous in case they ever felt they needed these details.

In closing, any reference to racism from past histories I am all for rectifying to help unite future generations, but I feel in this case it has been taken out of context and jumped on by a minority.

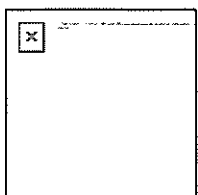
The general consensus I get from chatting with all our neighbours is they want Hottentot to stay. and
have sent out a letter to all of us to this narrative, and I back them wholly.

Thanks for reading

--

m.

w.



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Rec 12/9

File Ref: #E2023/92458

Byron Shire Council

Email: tarmstrong@byron.nsw.gov.au or PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482**Comments on proposed renaming of Hottentot Crescent**

I/We: as resident / landowner residing at (no of house)

Hottentot Crescent Mullumbimby

I wish to provide my/our opinion in relation to the proposed re naming.

In Australia, no one is called a "Hottentot"; in Australia only a tree is called a "Hottentot".

What we see with the petitioners is a case where migrants are trying to impart a grievance from their homeland (and then try to naturalise it in Australia - no more, no less).

Those who endorse a name change for the street will be revealed as farceurs. They will have created a situation where the street cannot be called "Hottentot Crescent", but will be well-known as "The Street Where the Hottentots Grow".

There is no case for acceding to the demands of the petitioners (or at least the instigators) by saying "You are welcome to our country and by the way, you may tell us what we must do in our own country".

Please also see the letter I sent earlier to both the Mayor and the General Manager. 300 is not many petitioners for a substantial change.

SIGNED:

If signing on behalf of a company, please add your name and company title (for example, Director)

ACN/Company seal

DATE: 15th Sept 2023

Contact details:

Home:

Mobile:

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
DOC NO:
REC'D 25 SEP 2023
FILE NO: F209
ASSIGNEE: T. ARMSTRONG

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL WITHIN 28 DAYS

File Ref: #E2023/92458

Byron Shire Council

Email: tarmstrong@byron.nsw.gov.au or PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Comments on proposed renaming of Hottentot Crescent

I/We: as resident / landowner residing at (no of house) _____ Hottentot Crescent Mullumbimby

wish to provide my/our opinion in relation to the proposed re naming.

*I strongly oppose to changing
the name of Hottentot Cres.*

*I live here since 25 years and
love the name and the
beautiful Hottentot Trees.*

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
DOC NO: _____
RECD 22 SEP 2023
FILE NO: F209
ASSIGNEE: T. ARMSTRONG

SIGNED: _____

If signing on behalf of a company, please add your name and company title (for example, Director)

ACN/Company seal

DATE: 22.9.23

Contact details:

Home: _____

Mobile:

RECEIVED BY FRONT COUNTER
22 SEP 2023
BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

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BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
DOC NO:
REC'D - 5 OCT 2023
FILE NO: <i>F209</i>
ASSIGNEE: <i>I. Armstrong</i>

File Ref: #E2023/92458

Byron Shire Council

Email: tarmstrong@byron.nsw.gov.au or PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Comments on proposed renaming of Hottentot Crescent

I/We: ~~as resident~~ / landowner residing at (no of house) _ _ Hottentot Crescent Mullumbimby

wish to provide ~~m~~/our opinion in relation to the proposed re naming.

The Streets of Chincogan View Estate
are all named after flowering plants/
trees.

We do not have a problem with the
name Hottentot Cres.

We think the name should stay the
same.

Hottentot Cres.

SIGNED:

If signing on behalf of a company, please add your name and company title (for example, Director)

ACN/Company seal

DATE: *3-10-23*

Contact details:

Home:

Mobile:

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL WITHIN 28 DAYS

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL WITHIN 28 DAYS

Armstrong, Tracy

From:
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 4:37 PM
To: Armstrong, Tracy
Subject: Hottentot resident

Hey Tracey,

I'm a Hottentot Crescent () resident and getting in touch in regard to renaming.
I believe this would be a real shame as it reflects the name of the local trees which have just bloomed on our street and are just stunning.

I believe the local council needs to respond to the petition and educate them on the meaning of the name.

If we do have to change it - we believe it should be an Aboriginal name, a word from Arakwal Bumberlin people as it is true to country and the local people of the area.

Thank you

--



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
DOC NO
RECD 12 SEP 2023
F209
FILE NO
ASSIGNEE D. Savage

Mullumbumby
MSW 2482
10th Sept '23

The General Manager
Byron Shire Council.
Sir

There has been, I understand, some surreptitious petitioning to change the name of Hottentot Crescent. I say "surreptitious" because neither I, nor as far as I can determine, others in the street, have been approached to sign any such petition - or rank discountery, I would venture to say.

The street, as you would know, is named after Hottentot trees that line it. It was not named for any derogatory or demeaning reason, and no one I have spoken to in the street was aware of any pejorative meaning for "Hottentot".

Whatever may be the case in a foreign country, "Hottentot" is not a term of opprobrium here. If you ever submit to the petition you will be seen as toadying to people who import a foreign "problem" and then try to naturalise it in Australia.

The petitioners reveal a lack of education, specifically as regards semantics, context and meaning.

Words, nouns specifically, have no innate meaning - think of, for instance "dope" as meaning variously "fool", "drugs", "medication". Context determines meaning.

1 The petitioners vacuously assume that the street name (as used here) is an African pejorative. In their context, it is no such thing - it is plainly and simply the name of a tree.

Since the street is not named for a foreign usage, it would be boofheadedness in the extreme to replace the name with a foreign word. It would be a mark of intelligence and respect to use an Australian term, a local historical figure, say, or even an aboriginal word. There is a precedent for a local name - "Larenty Court" in The Yellowwood estate.

A former Councillor once said to me that Bryer Shire has too many people with far too much time on their hands, and that as a result they find "causes" to pursue.

Here we have that exactly, made "would-beeived flesh"

Yours faithfully

P.S. If the street name is changed, an obvious problem remains - what is to be done with the Hottentots? If they remain people may very well say, "I live in the street where the Hottentots grow". O.S. is Council so flustered that it can afford to remove the Hottentots and replace them with more "suitable" trees? R

File Ref: #E2023/92458

Byron Shire Council

Email: tarmstrong@byron.nsw.gov.au or PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482

12 SEP 2023

F209

D Savage

Comments on proposed renaming of Hottentot Crescent

I/We: as resident / landowner residing at (no of house) _____ Hottentot Crescent Mullumbimby

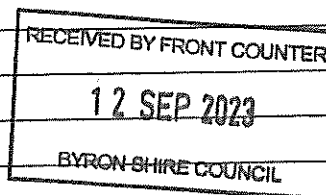
wish to provide my/our opinion in relation to the proposed re naming.

We agree that the name "Hottentot" Crescent should be changed.

The word "hottentot" is now deemed to be offensive.

The original street name related to the red flowering street trees () which are not Australian natives.

The new name could be native flora, or a local Aboriginal word.



SIGNED:

If signing on behalf of a company, please add your name and company title (for example, Director)

ACN/Company seal

DATE: 11-9-23

Contact details:

Home:

Mobile:

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL WITHIN 28 DAYS

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL
DCC NO:
RECD 13 SEP 2023
FILE NO: F209
ASSIGNEE: J. Armstrong

File Ref: #E2023/92458

Byron Shire Council

Email: tarmstrong@byron.nsw.gov.au or PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Comments on proposed renaming of Hottentot Crescent

I/We: as resident / landowner residing at (no of house) Hottentot Crescent Mullumbimby

wish to provide my/our opinion in relation to the proposed re naming.

We are good with changing the street name if it is a derogatory term in any language or country.

However object to Khoisan for 2 reasons:

The name is uncommon and you would have to spell it all the time

And we would rather see a first nation or Australian name.

Reflecting some great first nation people or Australian flora themes as suggested by Council to stay with the surrounding theme.

SIGNED:

If signing on behalf of a company, please add your name and company title (for example, Director)

ACN/Company seal

DATE: 11.9.23

Contact details:

Home:

Mobile:

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Feedback on proposed street name change

Submitted on 13 October 2023, 4:58PM

Receipt number 5

Related form version 1

Name

Email

Provide your feedback here

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the proposal to change this street name.

The term Hottentot is widely considered racially offensive.

While this might not have been the case at the time of the original street naming, this is no justification for it to remain. Language is constantly evolving: many expressions that were previously considered obscene are now in commonplace usage while conversely various formerly everyday terms are now unable to even be printed.

The name Hottentot was originally given to the Khoikhoi peoples of Africa in the mid 17th century and is thought to originate from the Dutch verb 'to stutter'. This was to reflect the 'click consonants' in the Khoi languages, which the Dutch felt resembled a stutter or stammer. The Eurocentric ridiculing of unfamiliar language sounds are now rightly considered outdated and offensive: we no longer refer, for example, to people of Chinese ancestry by derogatory names intended to mimic their language.

That the Khoikhoi people have arguably less political clout than some other racial or cultural groups might have should not be a consideration to disregard the origins and continued implications of this slur. Even if only a comparatively small percentage of the population is made to feel shame and indignity at hearing this name, this should absolutely override the majority of people for whom this name has no or little connotations. The term is also strongly evocative of Sarah Baartman who was kidnapped from Africa and paraded naked around Europe in early 1800s while exhibited in 'freak shows'. Sarah was given the moniker 'The Hottentot Venus' by the European viewers who deemed her non-human and she died at the age of 26 after a lifetime of degradation, humiliations, and frequent sexual assaults.

This is hardly a legacy we wish to uphold and endorse in a welcoming, inclusive environment such as Byron Shire.

After its initial usage, the term Hottentot came to apply to anyone with darker skin from the African continent* and in doing so, continues to impact upon all those bearing a non-European skin.

While this history may not be well known in Australia now, times and societal norms change very quickly, especially in the era of the internet. Less than two decades ago there was an outrageously offensive name remaining on a stadium in Toowoomba, Queensland which a court declared in 2004 was non-discriminatory and essentially perfectly fine. This is despite the offending word not being able to be even printed or publicly uttered in USA at the time. Three years later the sign was suddenly taken down.

This is the present reality: things that may have been considered 'perfectly fine', 'just a joke' or indeed 'a term of affection'(!) at one time can very quickly be shamed, pilloried or 'cancelled'.

Byron Shire Council now has an opportunity to address this head-on, by virtue of this proposal and it would be heart-warming for us to take this step to be on the right side of history.

Feedback on proposed street name change

Submitted on	23 September 2023, 7:27AM
Receipt number	1
Related form version	1

Name

Email

Provide your feedback here

About the proposal to change the name of Hottentot Crescent.

I live on it so I reckon I've as much right as any to express my 2c worth!

To call something Hottentot is like naming it the "n word". It's an offensive and derogatory and racist word.

One argument against the name change is to say that there's a tree also called Hottentot? Well - that maybe true. But where do you think the tree got the name!!?

It's the same derivation - it's a name that comes from a time and place rooted in terrible persecution and discrimination.

If we want to name it after a tree we could find out what the Bunjalung name for the tree is and call it that.... Or apparently it's also called a drunk parrot tree. I could go along with that!

"Decolonization" is a bit of long winded way of saying that some historical bits of the world are terrible, and it's ok to acknowledge that do what we can to mitigate some of the impacts of that. Some of the labels and language still in use come from that terrible history, and one of the things we can do is acknowledge that and change our language a bit, because for some people hearing and seeing those words reminds them in horrible ways about that terrible past.

The "disruption" of changing a street name is hardly a big price to pay to end up with a street name that's not rooted in discrimination and persecution.

I've changed my address many many many times over my life. It's really not that big a deal. You can use mail forwarding at the post office for a minimal price and each bit of mail you get you just let them know of the street name change. It's a bit of a pain of admin to do, but not hard.

Showing that we can move forward and learn from history and show some respect for all humans? Now, to me, that's something worth spending a little on.

Feedback on proposed street name change

Submitted on	23 September 2023, 7:30AM
Receipt number	2
Related form version	1

Name

Email

Provide your feedback here

A racial slur is a racial slur even if a tree is named after it.

As much as I loved the sound of the name, it has to go.

Drunk parrot st?
Hoolytoot st?

Let's just make sure it's acceptable to anyone who reads it and at the moment it's not.