

Have your say – Naming an existing bridge over the M1 Pacific Motorway, Mount White

Transport for NSW is seeking support following a request to name a bridge over the M1 Pacific Motorway in recognition of the late Mr Ray Wedgwood, for his significant contributions made to the transport industry and community over his lifetime as a bridge engineer.

Ray Wedgwood had a distinguished career as a bridge engineer in the state's road agency and rose to the esteemed position of Chief Bridge Engineer. He retired in 2004.

Ray lived with his parents in Bellingen and attended Coffs Harbour High School, completing his Leaving Certificate in 1958. He gained a Department of Main Roads cadetship to Sydney University and moved to Sydney in 1959.

Ray's impressive career included his direct involvement in several large structures including Sheahan Bridge in Gundagai, Macarthur Bridge at Camden, Captain Cook Bridge at Taren Point, Glebe Island (Anzac Bridge) and most significantly, a curved bridge (identified as B250) over the M1 Pacific Motorway at Mount White interchange, which was Ray's first bridge design at just 22 years of age.

Ray was regarded by family, friends and colleagues as a highly skilled, respected and popular bridge engineer. He was well-known in academic, civil engineering consulting and bridge construction circles and was a key figure on various Austroads and Australian Standards committees until his passing in March 2020.

Before naming infrastructure, Transport carries out a comprehensive community consultation process, which includes sourcing feedback.

The community is invited to provide comments and feedback on the proposed bridge name, '*Ray Wedgwood Bridge*' and suggest any other names that have relevance to this bridge.

Naming the bridge

Naming bridges provides a useful navigational reference for motorists and emergency services and allows the community to recognise and celebrate cultural, historical and social connections in the region.

The NSW Geographical Names Board recommends the *Guidelines for the determination of place names* www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/ be used when naming bridges.

While considering the naming selection criteria, it's important to acknowledge the site's Aboriginal significance. The bridge is located within a landscape rich with Aboriginal cultural heritage and history. Sandstone engravings, shelters containing ochre art and axe grinding grooves are present in the immediate and surrounding landscape. Many of the engravings are learning/teaching sites and associated with initiation and other ceremonial practices. Furthermore, the Mount White and Calga landforms are especially significant and gender specific sites with ceremonial purposes.

Considering its connection to the surrounding landscape, the bridge's future name could also include wording in Aboriginal language and have meaning which relates to the significance of the many heritage sites of the area.

How can you give feedback?

You are invited to provide feedback by **5pm** on **Monday 21 March 2022** via email at CSEHunter@rms.nsw.gov.au or by mail to: Transport for NSW, Locked Bag 2030 Newcastle NSW 2300.

We will carefully consider your feedback and continue to keep you updated as the bridge naming process progresses.

For more information, visit <http://nswroads.work/mtwhitebridgenaming>



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 02 4908 7613.