

Janet Mead Lane

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 18 February 2025

Infrastructure and Public
Works Committee

Program Contact:

Mark Goudge, Associate Director
Infrastructure

Approving Officer:

Tom McCready, Director City
Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 28 May 2024, Council resolved to ask the Administration to prepare a report looking into the possible naming of a road after Sister Janet Mead. The Administration has investigated the matter and proposes that Council assign the name 'Janet Mead Lane' to the unnamed private road opposite the house where Sister Janet ran the 'Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons' (along with Sister Anne Gregory).

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 25 February 2025 for consideration

THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves, subject to no objections being received through consultation, assigning the name 'Janet Mead Lane' to the private road lettered 'A' and 'B' on Filed Plan 182506 as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee held on 18 February 2025).
-

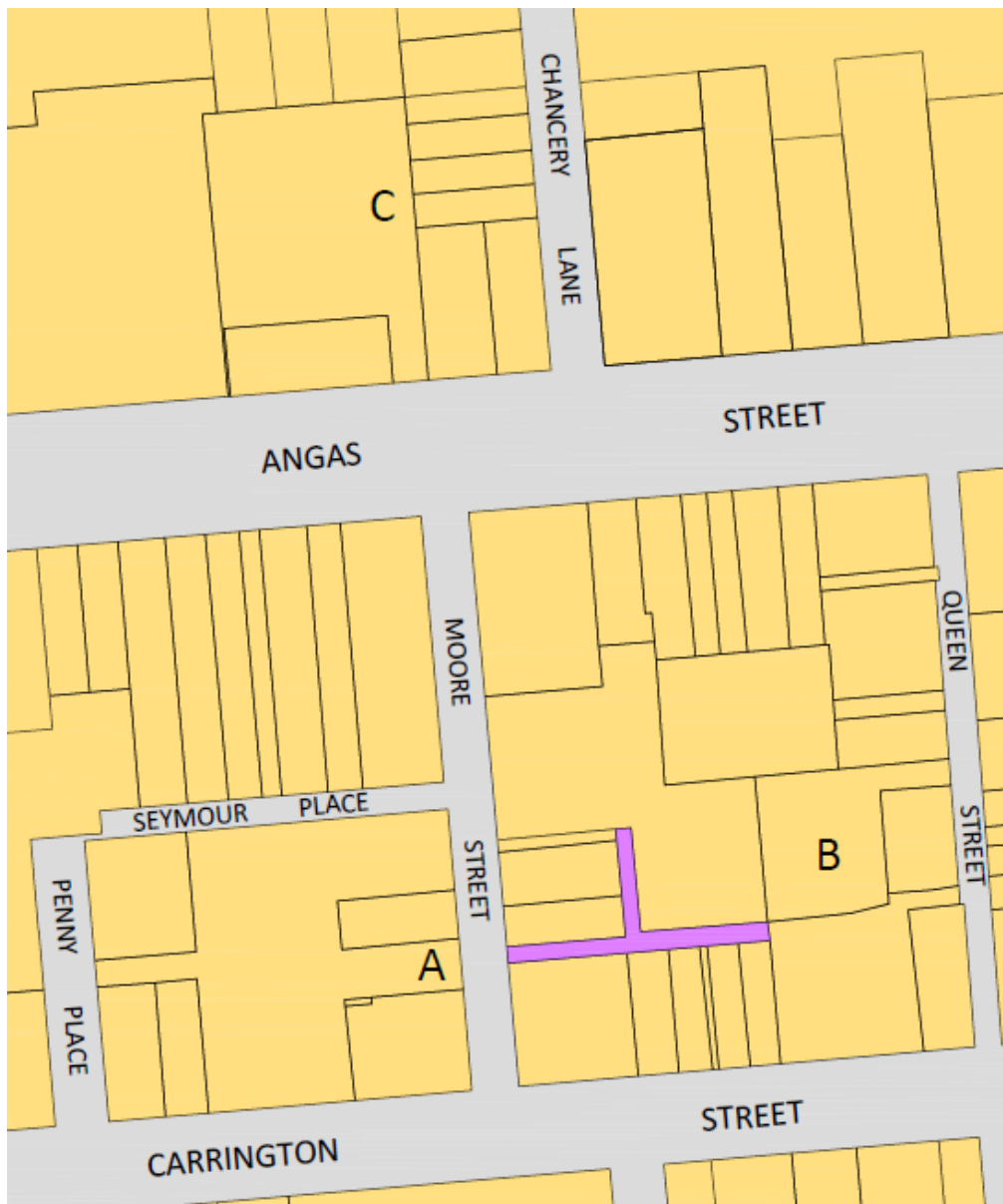
IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community
Policy	The name 'Janet Mead Lane' complies with the 'Naming Policy for Roads'
Consultation	Subject to Council adopting the recommendation of this Report, the Administration will consult with representatives from Sister Janet Mead's family, along with the owners of land adjoining the private road that is proposed to be named (in accordance with Council's 'Naming Policy for Roads').
Resource	Minimal resources will be required to consider (and adopt) the request to assign the name 'Janet Mead Lane'.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	A council may assign a name to a private road pursuant to section 219 of the <i>Local Government Act 1999 (SA)</i> .
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report
24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
24/25 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

1. On 28 May 2024 Council resolved that it:
“Asks the Administration to prepare a report consistent with Council Policy on the possible naming of a street in the City of Adelaide after the late Sister Janet Mead to honour her contribution to our community, including her tireless work to assist the homeless”.
2. A short biography of Sister Janet Mead can be found at [Link 1](#).
3. As discussed in the biography, Sister Janet Mead established the ‘Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons’ (the ‘Day Centre’) in 1985, along with Sister Anne Gregory. The Day Centre was located in an old house at 31 Moore Street, which is in the location lettered ‘A’ on the map below. The house has since been demolished.

Image 1



4. In 1993 the Day Centre moved from its premises at 31 Moore Street to premises located on Queen Street (shown lettered ‘B’ on the map above). The Centre continues to serve the community, ensuring that Sister Janet Mead’s legacy lives on.
5. The land coloured purple on the map above is a private road (the ‘Road’). The Road is part of a deceased estate dating back to the late 1800’s. There are over 100 such private roads in the City of Adelaide. The Road, which is shown in the Google image below, is unnamed.



6. It is considered fitting that the Road should be named after Sister Janet Mead given its proximity to the original (and existing) location of the Day Centre.
7. The proximity of St Aloysius College (lettered 'C' on the map above) is also relevant given Sister Janet Mead's life-long association with that school.
8. In relation to what name should be assigned to honour Sister Janet Mead, it is important that the name complies with Council's 'Naming Policy for Roads' (the 'Policy'), noting that:
 - 8.1. The Policy (Section 2) discourages changing the name of roads, necessitating the need to find an unnamed road to assign a name to. This task was made somewhat easier as a consequence of Council amending the Policy (on 24 September 2024) to allow 'minor' roads (which there are many of) to also be named.
 - 8.2. The Policy states that, as a guide, *'Two road names should generally be assigned to a 'T' shaped road, as the 'T' intersection is considered to be the 'logical start or end point' of one road.'* Notwithstanding this policy statement, the north-south portion of the Road is only 23 metres long, which is not considered sufficient to warrant a separate name being assigned.
 - 8.3. The Policy provides a range of suffixes to choose from. The suffix of 'Lane' is considered most appropriate, being defined in the Policy (and associated links) as *'a narrow way between walls, buildings or a narrow country or city roadway'*.
 - 8.4. The Policy states that the name assigned to a road may include *'People who have made a significant contribution to the betterment of the City of Adelaide and/or its community.'* Sister Janet Mead comfortably fits this description.
 - 8.5. The Policy states that, when naming roads after people:
 - 8.5.1. *'the name of living persons should be avoided, being used only in exceptional circumstances'*. Sister Janet Mead died on 26 January 2022.
 - 8.5.2. *'given name or initials will only be included with a family name where it is essential to identify an individual or where it is necessary to avoid ambiguity'*. In this instance it is considered appropriate to include the given name 'Janet' in the name proposed to be assigned given the relative commonality of the name 'Mead'.
 - 8.6. The Policy is silent in relation to the use of titles or honorifics in a person's name (when naming a road after a person, however):
 - 8.6.1. Whilst not precluded by either the Policy or the relevant Australian Standard (AS/NZS 4819:2011 – Rural and Urban addressing), it is not accepted practice in Australia to include titles or honorifics in a person's name. A relatively recent exception to this was the assigning of the name 'Sir Donald Bradman Drive'. Exceptions from much earlier include King William

Street, Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue, Sir Edwin Smith Avenue, St Johns Street and St Lukes Place.

- 8.6.2. It is worth noting that section 4.8 of the 'Principles for the Consistent Use of Place Names', a national guideline used for place-naming, states that:

'Titles are added to the beginning of a person's name to signify respect, a hereditary entitlement, an official position or a professional/academic qualification. Letters or abbreviations after a person's name signifying that the individual holds a position, office or honour are known as postnominals. Neither titles nor postnominals should form part of an official place name'.

9. Noting the proximity of the Day Centre and links to St Aloysius College the unnamed road would be a suitable location, and 'Janet Mead Lane' is considered to be the most appropriate name to assign to the Road.
10. The Road can be formally identified as the land lettered 'A' and 'B' in Filed Plan 182506, as contained in **Attachment A**.

Next Steps

11. Subject to Council approval, the Administration will consult with representatives from Sister Janet Mead's family, along with the owners of land adjoining the private road that is proposed to be named (in accordance with Council's 'Naming Policy for Roads'). If no objections are received to the proposed naming, the Administration will, as required under section 219 of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*:
- 11.1. Notify the Registrar-General, Surveyor-General and Valuer-General of Council's decision to assign the name; and
- 11.2. Give 'public notice' of Council's decision to assign the name via notices in the Government Gazette, The Advertiser and Council's website.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – Short biography of Sister Janet Mead

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Filed Plan 182506 - showing the private road that is proposed to be named 'Janet Mead Lane'

- END OF REPORT -