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Mr Andrew Scott
Land and Infrastructure Officer
City of Busselton
38 Peel Terrace
BUSSELTON WA 6280

Dear Mr Scott,

I am writing to you in response to your request made on the 13th of May for four names of Nyungar language origin that are acceptable to the Nyungar community for the naming of local roads for the new section of the 'Vasse Bypass' and the Vasse-Yallingup Siding Road.

In relation to the request that 'Windelup' be considered for one of the names, archival research did not reveal any additional information on this name other than the article you provided us (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/147652218>). The Traditional Owners consulted were not able to confirm that this is the local Nyungar name for Vasse. Instead the name *Undalup* (sp. Bussell 1930: 12) is used by the Traditional Owners for the Vasse area, the name deriving from the warrior *Undal* (ibid).

After conducting literary research and consultation with Traditional Owners from the Vasse region the following names are put forward:

- *Ngawanan*. In 1930 Mr Alfred John Bussell recorded the Busselton Nyungars using the word *Ngawanan* meaning Duck (Bussell 1930: 13). Traditional Owner Mrs V. Webb (deceased) stated in a report for CALM in 2000 that her great grandmother lived and camped around Wonnerup and recalled collecting duck eggs from the Vasse Estuary, "...only ever tak[ing] one egg from each nest so as not to disturb the birds breeding" (Elsco 2000: 48). Mrs Webb's son, Mr Wayne Webb, confirmed this.
- *Yebble* or *Yebbul*. The tribal name of Mr Samuel Isaacs who was a Nyungar man born along the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge in 1845 (Kinsella 1987: 1). After being raised by Mrs Ann Dawson, Mr Isaacs returned to his family and travelled along seasonal paths from Vasse to Augusta (ibid). Mr Isaacs is predominately remembered for his part in rescuing survivors from the shipwrecked *Georgette* at Calgardup Bay in 1879 (ibid: 2). A number of his descendants continue to live in the South-West, particularly in Busselton.
- *Boolaninda*. In 1938 Mrs Filumena Terry recorded a legend of the Willy Wagtail and the Carpet Snake which was recorded in song and told to him by local Nyungars (Terry 1938). *Boolaninda*, meaning longtail, was a great chief when *Meeka* (the moon) was young. *Boolaninda* was a great tribal dancer and a fearless and friendly leader and was described as *ngwirri* or beautiful (ibid). During a great corroboree *Boolaninda*'s enemy *Warkle* planned to spear him, however a medicine man turned *Warkle* into a carpet snake (ibid). When *Boolaninda* was old and died his spirit was turned into the Willy Wagtail,

“the little black and white bird who dances so sweetly and is always kind and loved by everyone” (ibid).

- ‘[* to be supplied by Mr Wayne Webb by the 15th July)’. Also known as Dodder Laurel or Devil’s Web/ Devil’s Twine (*Cassytha racemosa*). This vine is traditionally used by Nyungars as netting to catch fish (Goode 2010: 71). In a report for CALM in 2000 Mr G. Webb (deceased) reported that at the Vasse Estuary Nyungars would, “use the Devil’s Web, which is a thick native creeper that grows high up in the paperbark trees, and put it across a shallow part of the river in a thick mat, densely packed from the bottom to the water surface to form a long net or trap. They would build the trap right across the river each day when the tide had come in and the fish had moved up the river. When the trap was made, some of the people would go on upstream and scare the schools of fish back down the river and into the trap of Devil’s Web where the others waiting would collect the struggling fish” (Elscoth 2000: 49).
- Additionally, Alfred Bussell recorded a number of other local words from the Nyungars of the Busselton or *Undalup* (Bussell 1930: 12) area which could be appropriate for road names. They are:
 - *Bearuck* = Summer
 - *Bujee* = Sleep
 - *Walger* = Eagle
 - *Wattarn* = Ocean
 - *Meeker* = Moon
 - *Jeralitch* = North
 - *Jilyara* = Bee (Bussell 1930: 12-16).

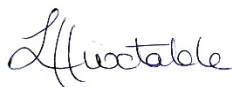
We have consulted with Wardandi Traditional Owners and representatives of the South West Boojarah Native Title Claim group, Mr Wayne Webb, Dr Robert Isaacs (OAM) and Mr Jack Hill, who endorse the aforementioned names.

In addition we have also referred to the Landgate Policies and Standards for Geographical Naming in Western Australia, version 1, 2015, as requested. The aforementioned names comply with these standards.

If you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact our office.

I thank you for allowing myself and my colleges to be involved in such a project.

Kind regards,



Louise Huxtable
Consulting Anthropologist

Reference List

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- Goode, B. 2010, 'An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Assessment for the Ellensbrook Catchment', report prepared for the National Trust of Australia and the Department of Environment and Conservation, August 2010.
- Hammond, J.E. (n.d.), *Vocabulary of the South West Aborigines*, Department of Land Administration, Perth (typescript).
- Kinsella, J. (1987), *Map of Nyungar tracks and names*. Unpublished.
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