

Nomenclature Policy

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Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999, Development Act 1993

BACKGROUND

This policy enables a systematic approach to be taken with the naming of proposed streets in land division applications at an early stage.

Copies of the Policy Statement are available for public distribution; and the Policy is to be reviewed at least biennially by Council, to ensure its continuing currency.

THE NAMING OF ROADS, STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES – POLICY STATEMENT

The Local Government Act 1999, Sec 219, enables a local nomenclature – that is, a system of naming roads, places etc., thus ‘...*Council may assign a name to a public or private road, or to a public place, or change the name of a public or private road, or of a public place.*’ The Act further requires that Council ‘...*must immediately notify the Registrar-General, the Surveyor-General and the Valuer-General of the assignment of a name, or a change of name...*’, enabling the names to be recorded on land certificates of title, the public maps, etc., and must, on their request ‘...*provide information about the names of roads and public places in the Council’s area.*’ Due ‘*public notice must be given of a resolution assigning or changing a name...*’ to the wider community by Council.

PRACTICALITIES OF POLICY

For practical purposes, as well as notifying all local property owners and occupiers, such notice involves a range of government authorities and public utilities including:- Australia Post, Australian and State Electoral, ETSA, Water and Telstra Corporations, Police and Ambulance services, local Medical Centres, Metropolitan and Country Fire Services, State ‘Environment’ and ‘Planning’ Departments, local surveying consultants, real estate agents, etc.

New residential land divisions creating new streets need naming during the statutory approvals process. Although most streets, roads and places in urban areas, such as Clare, Riverton, Saddleworth, Auburn, Mintaro, Tarlee, Watervale, Rhynie, Manoora, Marrabel, Sevenhill, Stockport, Waterloo, Armagh and Penwortham; have been named, a small number of those in rural areas have not.

Of these, virtually all were delineated by 19th century government surveys and, in consequence, have been identified ever since for administrative purposes as “Government Road”, for want of another name. In some instances, Councils of the day have allocated family names of Mayors and Town Clerks to streets. However, in the absence of systematic Council naming policy, the continuing creation of public streets in the development of urban subdivisions tends to be overlooked.

In this age of rapid communication and transport, there is a need for the specific identification of all public ways in a systematic manner at the local level. Such need is highlighted by police, medical and fire emergencies. National recognition of the need is contained in guidelines for the systematic addressing of rural properties. A State perspective is provided in a Geographical Names advisory policy seeking to relate the naming of places to their European or Aboriginal heritage.

Accordingly, as a matter of Council **policy**, all proposals for giving a name to, or altering the name of, any street, road or place will be assessed by Council on their merit as to their conformity with the following principle and selection criteria. Formal adoption by Council and implementation will follow.

OBJECTIVE

The policy **objective** is the establishment of a local nomenclature, i.e. a system for the naming (or re-naming) of all existing and future streets, roads and other public places in the Council area.

PRINCIPLE

The **principle** on which this policy for naming streets, roads, places, etc., is based is:-

- The selected name of every street, road or other public place should reflect the European or Aboriginal history/heritage of the local community of interest or place to be named. For example: Gleeson Street, White Hut Road, Old North Road, Newton Long Drive, Christison Avenue, Horrocks Road, Torrens Road, Hannaford Avenue, Saddle Street, Port Road, Ngadjuri Lodge, etc.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection criteria for the preferred names of streets, roads and other public places throughout the whole district may include:-

- The family or surname of former Mayors, Chairmen, Councillors, Town or District Clerks with acknowledged records of meritorious service to local government. For example, Newton Long Drive, Lennon Street, etc.
- The family or surname of persons or families with acknowledged records of meritorious service at a regional, state, national or international level and of local origins. For example: Melrose Avenue, Geddes Avenue, Dennis Road, etc.
- The family or surname of persons or families with acknowledged records of meritorious services to their local community in various spheres of endeavour. For example: Pattullo Avenue (Health), Christison Avenue (Philanthropy).
- The family or surname of pioneering families with generations of association with a particularly locality. For example: Hackett Road (Sevenhill), Morrison Road (Penwortham).
- The family or surname of persons on active service who 'paid the supreme sacrifice' recorded on local war memorials.
- Generally recognised locality and district destinations where such names are recorded from the original 19th century government surveys. For example: Armagh, White Hut, Donnybrook, Tothill Ranges, Emuville (near Black Springs), Navan.
- Locally recognised names of customary usage which relate to local heritage. For example: White Hut, Emu Flat, Benny's Hill.
- The names of 19th century subdivisions in their immediate locality. For example: Springs Township, Gillentown, Stanley Flat, Hilltown.

Proposed names of streets, roads and places will:-

- Avoid the duplication of names or similar sounding names within each of the separate communities of interest (but conversely, may be proposed in each). For example, Main North Road, Gilbert Street.
- Avoid the use of fanciful sales names and the given (Christian) names of individual persons. For example: Golfview Heights, Woods Court, Jim Court.
- Avoid the use of numbers. For example: Seventh Street.
- Avoid changing existing names allocated pre-World War II (despite the prevalent use of given/Christian names and numbers), as local usage is firmly established.
- Avoid name change in response to quasi-aesthetic values where the existing name is of a distinctive and long-established customary usage. For example: changing White Hut Road because there is no longer a hut there, ditto for Slaughterhouse Road, despite one day possibly being bitumen sealed Back Track Road would still retain the name Back Track Road, Boundary Road even though this relates to former Council boundaries, etc.
- Be deferred in their effect for at least a year where the name change may impact on the needs of business or other enterprises in terms of their signage, stationery and other needs for identifying their location.
- If Aboriginal words are used, following on consultation with the Ngadjuri People, they must be representative of the vocabulary; the meaning of the selected word must be appropriate for the intended use. For example, Ngadjuri Lodge.
- Not allocate a name to public road reserves not open to normal traffic, by virtue of being rented to adjoining landholders for agricultural or other business purposes.
- Avoid 's' which implies ownership. For example: Hackett's Road would become Hackett Road.

CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Proposals for the name on streets, roads and places may be referred for advice to community groups and persons possessing a wide knowledge of the history/heritage of a locality. For example: Clare Regional History Group, local branches of the National Trust, Mt Horrocks Historical Society, acknowledged local historians or other persons with recognised special interests.
- If Council deems such appropriate, proposals for names may be sought from the local and wider community through local news media, direct personal contact, etc.
- To avoid confusion, proposals involving roads crossing the Council boundary, immediately adjoining it or otherwise of potential interest to neighbouring Councils, will be referred for their comment prior to any naming decision by Council. The Local Government Act s.219 (2) requires Council to '... give the adjoining Council at least two months notice of the proposed change; and consider any representations made by the adjoining Council...'
- To avoid confusion, all street and road names will have tangible terminal points at recognizable intersections/junctions or destination. Where appropriate, Main Roads or right-of-way streets will serve as terminal points for other road names. For example, the northern portion of Warena Road originally was part of Stanley Street, when the terminal point was the former railway crossing, which now no longer exists; Young Street/Young Place, separated by Main North Road, Wright Street; and Wright Place, separated by non-trafficable piece of terrain (cliff face).

IMPLEMENTATION

- A Public Register of all existing and proposed names of streets, roads and places shall be established and maintained to record the origins of each such name; the Register will be available for public inspection without charge.
- A standard Council requirement for all new land division applications shall be the naming of all proposed streets, roads and places in the survey plan of division, as chosen from a Register listing provided by Council. Developers and surveyors are encouraged to consult with Council's Development Infrastructure and Environmental staff during the design stage of each land division.
- Every proposal for the naming of streets, roads and places will be assessed as to conformity with the principle and criteria for selection, with adoption or rejection to follow.
- All statutory and public authorities, property owners/occupiers and others with an interest in the streets, roads and places will be notified of the name, its rationale, etc.
- All named streets, roads and places, in both rural and urban areas, will be identified by appropriate signage in accordance with Australian Standard; such may include the former name in smaller letters.
- For example: ST GEORGE TERRACE
 Formerly Burch Road

DEFINITION OF TERMS (from the *Macquarie* and *Concise Oxford* Dictionaries):

Street a public way or road, paved or unpaved, in a town, or city, sometimes

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	including a pavement(s), and having houses, shops, or the like, on one side or both sides.
Road	a way, usually open to the public for the passage of vehicles, persons, animals; a road generally connects localities some distance apart.
Lane	a narrow way or passage between hedges, fences, walls or houses.
Court	an open space wholly or partly enclosed by a wall, buildings, etc.... a short street.
Crescent	a curved street... shaped like the moon in its first quarter.
Avenue	a roadway with trees or other objects at regular intervals; a broad street.
Boulevard	a broad street, especially with rows of trees along it.
Place	a short street, a court, etc. ... and area, especially one regarded as an entity and identifiable by name, used for habitation, as a city, town or village.
Close	an enclosure about or beside a building, cathedral, etc. ... a narrow entry or alley, or a courtyard to which it leads; a cul-de-sac.
Way	a path or course leading from one part to another ... a road, route, passage, or channel (usually used in combination, eg. a roadway).
Drive	a road used for driving, especially a private access road to a private house.
Terrace	a raised level space, natural or artificial, especially for walking or standing ... row of housing along the top or face of a slope.
Esplanade	any open level space serving for public walks or drives, especially one by the sea.
Promenade	an area suitable for leisurely walking, especially one along the seafront at a resort, esplanade.
Grove	a small wood or plantation of trees – i.e. <u>not a term for identifying/naming a road or street.</u>