

Place Naming Policy

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1 Preamble

The contents of and the commitments that council makes in this policy are not intended to be and should not be interpreted to be any more than a statement of the City of Onkaparinga's (the council's) general position in relation to those matters, and to facilitate its aspirations wherever it is reasonable to do so.

2 Policy purpose

The purpose of this policy is to fulfil the council's statutory obligations under section 219 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act).

A council has the power under the Act to assign a name to, or change the name of:

- a public road
- a private road
- a public place

Section 219 requires councils to prepare and adopt a policy relating to the assigning of, or changes to the name of a public road, private road or a public place (including reserves).

Generally, public places are named after a prominent adjoining street, locality indicator or a suburb. This provides an easy and practical reference for the local community, users and emergency services.

Occasionally council receives requests from members of the public to name public places in memory of relatives, community members, previous land owners, historical figures and the like.

The purpose of this policy is to outline the principles to be observed in the naming of public places within the provisions of the Act.

This policy will be read in conjunction with the companion 'Place Naming Procedure'.

Council will follow this policy in cases where the Act requires that the council must follow its place naming policy.

It is acknowledged that any legislative requirement which affects council will take precedence over council's policies and procedures.

3 Scope

This policy applies to the naming of a public place, including parks, reserves, gardens and buildings.

This policy excludes the naming of:

- roads which is covered in our Road Naming Policy
- places outside of the definition of 'public place' in section 4, such as suburbs, towns, mountains, rivers and beaches which are the responsibility of the state government. More information is available on their website: www.sa.gov.au

- items such as playgrounds, bench seats and trees. While these items will not be formally named they may carry a plaque or similar (refer to our Plaques, Memorials and Military Memorials Procedure).

4 Definitions

Place The *Geographical Names Act 1991* governs the naming of places in South Australia. It defines a place as any area, region, locality, or any geographical or topographical feature, and includes any building or feature that is, or likely to be, of public or historical interest.

Public place The *Local Government Act 1999* defines as 'a place to which the public has access, but does not include any part of a community parcel divided by a plan of community division under the *Community Titles Act 1996*' (*Local Government Act 1999, section 4*). A public place includes council owned or managed land, buildings and open space such as parks and reserves, but does not include suburbs, townships, roads, rivers or beaches.

5 Strategic context

Our Onkaparinge 2035 identifies that we are a city with a long, rich and diverse cultural heritage. The naming of public places provides an opportunity to recognise and promote the heritage of our region and its people.

- People - vibrant and resilient
 - Objective 3: A diverse city that celebrates cultural expression, respecting past and embracing future.
- Place - liveable, connected and green
 - Desired outcome: Places of particular importance in local Aboriginal culture are recognised and their cultural significance is respected.

6 Policy

Council's role is to provide names for public places (including parks, reserves and buildings) in a number of circumstances including:

- the naming of new public places that vest in the council's ownership as a result of new land divisions (sub-divisions)
- the naming of public places that were previously unnamed
- renaming of public places upon request and subsequent investigation (noting that renaming a public place is to be avoided where possible).

Prior to commencing the place naming process council will:

- ensure that the public place meets the definition of a public place (refer section 4), and

- (for parks, reserves and gardens) give consideration to relevant strategic directions to determine the current and planned future use of the public place.

The selected name for a public place should relate to:

- the Aboriginal or European history of the area, or
- the heritage of the locality or place, or
- the topography or physical attributes of the locality or place to be named.

In the naming and renaming of public places, the following principles will be observed:

6.1 Uniqueness

Most public places will have only one name (except when it is resolved that dual naming is appropriate).

A place name will be unique within an official suburb or rural locality.

Similar sounding names (eg Hale, Hayel or Hail) within a suburb or locality will be avoided where possible.

If possible, duplication of names in proximity to an adjacent suburb or locality will also be avoided. However, public places crossing council boundaries should have a single and unique name.

6.2 Name sources

Preference should be given to any recognised/existing name for the public place. Where there is no recognised name a proposed name (or names) should be identified from an appropriate source. Sources for place names may include:

- Aboriginal names taken from the local Aboriginal language
- early explorers, pioneers, and settlers
- eminent persons
- local history
- thematic names such as flora, fauna, nautical etc
- war/casualty lists
- commemorative names
- a person who has made a significant contribution to the local community
- the topography or physical attributes of the locality
- those that reflect the historical, social, cultural and geographical significance or cultural diversity of the City of Onkaparinga.

Names will be selected so as to be appropriate to the physical, historical or cultural character of the area concerned.

The origin of each name will be clearly stated and recorded as part of the council's records.

Kaurna Warra Karrpanthi will be consulted when choosing Aboriginal names or using words from relevant Aboriginal languages.

6.3 Dual naming

Dual names may be assigned to a public place where there is a geographical and topographical feature that has both a traditional Aboriginal name and an existing European name.

When assigning or recording a name to a previously unrecorded natural feature that has an unrecorded European name in local usage, every effort will be made to determine if an Aboriginal name exists for that feature and a dual name will be assigned or recorded. If there is no known European name in local usage then it is preferred that only the traditional Aboriginal name (if found) be assigned to that particular topographical feature.

6.4 Propriety

Names, which are characterised as follows, will not be used:

- offensive or likely to give offence
- out of place, absurd, unsuitable, inharmonious, conflicting, contradictory
- commercial or company*.

* *Applications for the commercial naming of a public place will be assessed separately from this Policy, on its merits and will be tabled for Council's consideration and determination.*

6.5 Retaining existing names

Where a public place already has a recognised name, the preference will be to retain the existing name and not to rename it. An exception will be where the existing name is no longer deemed appropriate or is in conflict with this policy e.g. in terms of uniqueness (refer 6.1), propriety (refer 6.4) etc.

6.6 Spelling

Where it is intended that a public place have the same name as a road or feature with an approved name, particular care will be taken to ensure that the correct spelling of the official place name is adopted as shown in the Government Gazette.

Where the spelling of names has been changed by long established local usage, unless there is a particular request by the local community to retain the original name, the spelling that is sanctioned by general usage should be adopted.

Generally place and reserve names proposed or approved will not contain abbreviations e.g. the 'Creek' in Wallaby Creek Reserve must not be abbreviated. There are, however, three exceptions:

- initials can be used in place of a person's given names e.g. P.G. Dawson Reserve
- 'St' will always be used in place of 'Saint'
- it is acceptable to use 'Mt' for 'Mount'.

6.7 Form

The apostrophe mark ` will be omitted in the possessive case e.g. Smith's Reserve will be Smiths Reserve.

Names will avoid the use of the possessive `s' unless the euphony becomes harsh e.g. Devil Elbow Reserve.

The use of hyphens will be avoided. However, hyphens may be used when naming a public place after a person with a hyphenated name.

Dual names will be separated by a slash or stroke / to clearly define the two names. Dual names including an Aboriginal name will always list the Aboriginal name first e.g. Mukutilla/John Lawrie Reserve.

Punctuation can be used where appropriate e.g. P.G. Dawson Reserve.

6.8 Community engagement

Community engagement should be undertaken on a place naming proposal, and will include consideration of the following:

- Seeking input from the local community and/or communities of interest on known and potential names for the public place
- Notification to residents/property owners within 300 metres of the public place (for local parks, reserves and gardens) and within 500 metres of the public place (for district or regional parks or reserves)
- For district or regional parks or reserves notification via social media and in a local newspaper
- Seeking feedback from identified stakeholders on any appropriate place name proposals
- Advising stakeholders of the outcome of the place naming process.

6.9 Public notice of name assignment or change

Council will give public notice of approved assigning or changing the name of a public place. This will be by publication in the Government Gazette and may also include a notice in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State, or as required under the Act.

The public notice will include the date that the new name takes effect and notice will also be published on council's website www.onkaparingacity.com

6.10 Date of Effect for New Names or Name Changes

The date of effect of the new or changed public place name should be determined at the time of the decision to assign the name so as to allow sufficient time for all stakeholders to make arrangements to ensure a smooth transition.

7 Place name signage

Council will ensure that the public place naming signage is in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and council’s City Wide Signage Guidelines. Signage denoting the approved name will be erected as soon as practical following the implementation date of the naming proposal.

8 Relevant legislation and references

[Local Government Act 1999](#)

[Geographical Names Guidelines](#)

9 Further information

This policy is available for inspection, during business hours at:
City of Onkaparinga, Ramsay Place, NOARLUNGA CENTRE SA 5168.

It is also available for inspection, downloading or printing from our website
www.onkaparingacity.com.au

10 Document control

Author (to whom changes are to be recommended):		
Position	Name	
Team Leader Engagement and Grants	Dale Sutton	
Stakeholders (audience – engagement groups):		
Elected members General communities State Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (Land Services Group) • Registrar-General • Surveyor-General • Valuer-General Emergency services Australia Post Utilities		
Reviewed by:		
Position	Name	Date reviewed
Team Leader Engagement and Grants	Dale Sutton	July 2018
Approved by (document owner):		

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Position / Group	Name	Approval date	Approval ECM number
Manager Strategic Futures	Daniel Jellings	DD/MM/YYYY	Doc Set 2283891
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Current version number	Release date	Review cycle	
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Date	Author	Version	Nature of change
15 November 2011	Fiona Dallimore	V1.0	Original policy
10 November 2017	Dale Sutton	V2.0	Minor updates to incorporate legislated change
Related documents: (internal documents that need to be reviewed when this document is amended)			
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Place Naming Procedure			ECM 3620409
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Published location			Original in ECM
Onkanet (policy and procedures page) Public website			Doc Set 2283891

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