



Naming rules for places in Victoria - Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities - 2016

Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016 (naming rules) sets out step-by-step information on naming, renaming or changing the boundaries of roads, features and localities in Victoria. It replaces the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 Version 2.

These naming rules are the statutory requirements allowed for under the Geographic Place Names Act 1998; they are therefore mandatory for all naming authorities in Victoria – councils, government departments and authorities – and include all government-owned or administered roads, features (natural or otherwise) and localities.

When a road or feature is not owned or maintained by a government department or authority (such as some cultural centres, sporting centres, education facilities or aged care facilities) the private owners are strongly encouraged to adopt the principles, requirements and procedures detailed in these naming rules. To ensure VICNAMES – the Register of Geographic Names (the state's authoritative place names register) accurately reflects the status of named roads and features in Victoria, the names of these privately owned roads and features are recorded and these names are also available in Vicmap (the state's authoritative spatial database).

Appropriate naming is essential to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services in Victoria. The naming rules are based on national standards and policies. They provide a strong basis for standardised and unambiguous naming procedures across the state. They have been developed through detailed consultation with councils, government departments, emergency agencies and public service providers.

These naming rules have been developed to be inclusive to all Victorians.

Geographic names must not risk public and operational safety for emergency response, or cause confusion for transport, communication, and mail services. Many emergency response and other public service providers (such as mail) are determined by locality boundaries or road extents, so proposals must ensure that operations will not be adversely affected.

Emergency response and public service providers rely on road names being officially registered and sign posted. This ensures that a road's location and extent is uniquely identified in the Victorian Government's spatial databases, and is therefore accessible on the majority of relevant organisational and public mapping products.

These naming rules are aligned with national principles around the consistent use of place names within Australia, including the Permanent Committee on Place Names – [Principles for the consistent use of place names](http://www.icsm.gov.au/publications/index.html) (www.icsm.gov.au/publications/index.html), AS/NZS4819:2011 Rural and urban

addressing and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names' publications. The Office of Geographic Names (OGN) works closely with jurisdictions across Australia to achieve consistency in naming.

A link to these guidelines can be found on The Geographic Place Names Website - [Guidelines for naming or proposing to name or rename a place](#)