



A Guide to Naming Roads

The *Local Government Act 1989* provides Council the power to approve, assign or change the name of a road. Council in exercising this power must act in accordance with the guidelines provided for under the *Geographical Place Names Act 1998*.

Developers and the general public are welcome to submit place/road naming proposals to Council for consideration. The following guidelines, based on the *Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010* (Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning), apply to these proposals:

Language

- Geographic names, except when they are proper nouns, must be written in standard Australian English or a recognised format of an Australian Indigenous language local to the area of the feature, locality or road.
- Geographic names should be easy to pronounce, spell and write, and preferably not exceed three words (including feature or road type) and/or 25 characters.
- Diacritical marks (symbols such as ´, ¸ or ¨) will be omitted from names drawn from languages that use such marks.
- The term ‘The’ is not a suitable prefix in the naming of any road
- An apostrophe must be deleted from geographic names written with a final’s, and the possessives should not be included in the first instance.
- Abbreviations, e.g. Mt in place of Mount, are not allowed. An exception applies to the use of the honorific Saint.
- Names starting with Mc or Mac must not have a space included between the Mc or Mac and the rest of the name.

Linking the name to the place

Names should have a sense of connection with the area. This could relate to things such as indigenous culture and occupation of the land, local flora and fauna, European exploration and settlement, local geography and geology, significant events or the cultural diversity of industrial/mineral/agricultural production.

Ensuring public safety

Road names must not risk public safety or operational safety for emergency response, or cause confusion for transport, communication and mail services.

Commemorative names

Naming often commemorates an event, person or place. The names of people who are still alive should be avoided because community attitudes and opinions can change over time.

Where the names of deceased persons are being considered for naming of a road, place or feature, the person being commemorated should have had a direct and long term association with the feature or have made a significant contribution to the area or region. For example:

- Early or long time settler (20 + years);
- Developer or restorer of the feature or place;
- Donor of the land to the community;





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- Advocate and active protector of the land or feature for public benefit.

A commemorative name applied to a locality or road should use only the surname of a person, not a first or given names. A commemorative name applied to a feature can use the first name and surname of a person; although, it is preferred that only the surname is used. The initials of a given name are not to be used in any instances.

Commercial and Business names

Naming authorities should not name places after commercial businesses, trade names or nonprofit organisations.

Non-discriminatory names

Place names must not cause offence on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexuality or gender.

Recognition and use of Indigenous Australian names

The use of traditional Indigenous Australian names is encouraged for features, localities and roads, subject to agreement from the relevant Indigenous communities.

Duplication

Place names must not be duplicated. Duplicates are considered to be two (or more) names within close proximity, and those which are identical or have similar spelling or pronunciation. Duplication is not allowed within the one locality or within the following distances:

- metropolitan urban area, within 5 kilometres;
- regional urban area, within 15 kilometres;
- rural or remote area, within 30 kilometres.

To check for duplicate and phonetically similar names go to VICNAMES at <http://maps.land.vic.gov.au/lassi/VicnamesUI.jsp>

Road Naming

- Use of the definite article 'the' is not acceptable for sole use as a road name (e.g. it is not acceptable to name a road The Avenue).
- Road types are not to be used in the formation of a road name, for example Back Street Road or Boulevard Street.
- The use of numerals is not acceptable for a road name, either in full alphabetised or numeric format (i.e. neither Four, Fourth, 4 nor 4th are acceptable). This is because of the possible confusion between the road name and the address number.
- Upper, lower, little, old or new and the cardinal directions north, south, east and west are not to be used as part of a road name. The only exceptions are:
 - when the name is derived from a local feature such as 'little hut' or 'old gum';
 - when the name is derived from a locality name that uses a cardinal direction.
- Destination-to-destination names, e.g. Melbourne–Geelong Road, are not acceptable. This is because there are too many possible aliases available (i.e. Melbourne Road, Geelong Road, Geelong–Melbourne Road and perhaps even a local name such as High Street where the road runs through a township); therefore, a single name is preferred.
- Hyphens and the word 'and' are not to be used.





Road & Place Naming

- Bridges will be named for identification purposes only and signage will only be installed on newly (re)constructed bridges to indicate the name of the waterway.

Road Name Change

The proposal must be made based on public safety and/or emergency response concerns for consideration to take place.

Consultation is a key component in the process of naming and renaming geographic features, localities and roads. The naming authority must determine community support for a proposal, the statistics related to letters of support and objection are important to consider.

Obstructed or altered roads

If the course of a road is obstructed, a new unique name is to be applied to one end of the road. This is particularly important when an emergency service vehicle cannot navigate the entire course of the road from one end to the other.

Audit of road names in plans of subdivision

The Office of Geographic Names may audit roads named in plans of subdivision. If a road name fails to comply with the guidelines, the Office of Geographic Names will recommend that it be renamed, either through a revised plan (depending on the status of the plan) or a proposal to the Office of Geographic Names.

Proposals

Developers and the general public are welcome to submit place/road naming proposals to Council for consideration. The Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 provides a helpful checklist:

- [Quick reference guide for land surveyors - road naming](#)
- [Checklists](#)

General enquiries may be directed in writing to:

South Gippsland Shire Council
9 Smith Street
Leongatha Vic 3953

or email: council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

The Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 provides further detail on naming conventions. Further information on Geographic Place Names is available at Land Victoria's VICNAMES website - www.dse.vic.gov.au/namingplaces

