

Naming rules for places in Victoria

Statutory requirements for naming roads, features, and localities

The naming rules provided for under s.5 of the Geographic Place Names Guidelines 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.

Appropriate naming is essential to identify locations for providing emergency services 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, AND emergency response / public service providers.

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 (eg. GPS units, Google Maps etc).

A link to these guidelines can be found on the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and planning website – Geographic Place Names – [Guidelines for naming or proposing to name or rename a place.](#)