

<b>PLACE NAMING POLICY</b>	
Council Policy	
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## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy outlines Council's procedures and considerations for the naming of a public place within the Council area, including parks, reserves, gardens and buildings.

## 2. PURPOSE

### 2.1 Purpose

This policy meets the requirement under Section 219 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act), and outlines the principles to be observed in the naming of public places, where Council has the power to assign a name to or change the name of a public place.

### 2.2 Scope

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

2.2.2 This Policy does not apply to:

- a) naming of roads which is covered in the Street Naming Policy.
- b) Places outside of the definition of 'public place', such as suburbs, towns, mountains, rivers and beaches which are the responsibility of the State Government.
- c) Memorial items such as bench seats and trees, which are covered by the Donations and Memorials on Local Government Land Policy.

### 2.3 Strategic Reference

#### 1. Community

1.1 We are resilient, inclusive, safe and a vibrant community where people feel proud to live.

#### 5. Governance and Financial Sustainability

5.1 We are inclusive, engaged and open.

### 2.4 Definitions

**Place** : the Geographical Names Act 1991 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 a public place 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'. 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.

## 3. PRINCIPLES

### 3.1 Process

3.1.1 Council provides names for public places in circumstances including:

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

**3.1.2** Prior to commencing the place naming process council will (for parks, reserves and gardens) give consideration to the current and planned future use of the public place.

**3.1.3** The selected name for a public place should relate to:

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

## **3.2 Uniqueness**

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

**3.2.2** A place name will be unique within the Council area.

**3.2.3** Similar sounding names (eg Hale or Hail) will be avoided where possible.

## **3.3 Name sources**

**3.3.1** Preference should be given to any recognised/existing name for the public place. Where there is no recognised name a proposed name(s) should be identified from an appropriate source, including:

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

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

**3.3.3** The origin of each name will be clearly stated and recorded as part of the Council records.

**3.3.4** Barngarla and Nukunu will be consulted when choosing Aboriginal names in their respective native title areas, or using words from relevant Aboriginal languages.

## **3.4 Dual naming**

**3.4.1** 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.

- 3.4.2** When assigning a name to a previously unrecorded natural feature that has an unrecorded European name in use, every effort will be made to determine if an Aboriginal name exists for that feature and a dual name will be assigned. If there is no known European name in use, then it is preferred that only the traditional Aboriginal name (if found) be assigned.

### **3.5 Propriety**

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

- a) offensive or likely to give offence
- b) out of place, absurd, unsuitable, inharmonious, conflicting, contradictory
- c) commercial or company (unless a sponsorship arrangement for a building).

### **3.6 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.

### **3.7 Spelling**

- 3.7.1** Where it is intended that a public place have the same name as a road or feature, particular care will be taken to ensure that the correct spelling of the official place name is adopted as shown in the Government Gazette.
- 3.7.2** Where the spelling of names has changed by long established local use, unless there is a particular request by the community to retain the original name, the spelling that is sanctioned by general use should be adopted.
- 3.7.3** Generally place and reserve names proposed or approved will not contain abbreviations, noting the following exceptions:
- a) initials can be used in place of given names e.g. L.G. Richies Centre
  - b) 'St' will always be used in place of 'Saint'
  - c) it is acceptable to use 'Mt' for 'Mount'.

### **3.8 Form**

- 3.8.1** The apostrophe mark ' will be omitted in the possessive case.
- 3.8.2** The use of hyphens will be avoided, but may be used when naming a public place after a person with a hyphenated name.
- 3.8.3** Dual names will be separated by a slash "/" to clearly define the two names. Dual names will always list the Aboriginal name first.
- 3.8.4** Punctuation can be used where appropriate.

### **3.9 Community engagement**

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

- a) Seeking input from the community on known and potential names.
- b) For regional parks notification via social media and in a local newspaper
- c) Seeking feedback from identified stakeholders on any appropriate names

- d) Advising stakeholders of the outcome of the place naming process.

### **3.10 Public notice of name assignment or change**

Council will give public notice of approved assigning or changing the name of a public place by publication on the Council website, in the Government Gazette and as required under the Act, including the date that the new name takes effect.

### **3.11 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 to allow sufficient time for all stakeholders to make arrangements to ensure a smooth transition.

### **3.12 Place name signage**

Council will ensure that the naming signage is in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and Council's Style Guide. Signage denoting the approved name will be erected as soon as practical following the date of effect.

## **4. RESPONSIBILITY & REVIEW**

### **4.1 Responsible Officer**

Director City Services

### **4.2 Availability**

This Policy will be available on Council's website.

### **4.3 Review**

This Policy will be reviewed within 12 months of a General Election for Local Government, or as required to meet other obligations.

## **5. REFERENCES**

### **5.1 Legislation**

Geographical Names Act 1991  
Local Government Act 1999

### **5.2 Other References**

Donations and Memorials on Local Government Land Policy  
Street Names Policy