

# NAMING POLICY FOR ROADS

*Date this document was adopted*

*legislative*

**PURPOSE** Section 219(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* gives a council the power to assign a name to, or change the name of:-

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

Section 219(5) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* requires a council to prepare and adopt a policy relating to the assigning of names to *public roads*, *private roads* and *public places*. The purpose of this Policy is to meet Council's legislative requirements in relation to *public roads* and *private roads*.

**STATEMENT** The assigning of a name to (or the changing of a name of) *public roads* and *private roads* will be in accordance with the following policy positions:

**1. *Public roads or private roads that Council may assign a name to***

Pursuant to section 219(1a) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*, Council will assign names to all *public roads* created by land division.

Council will assign names to:

- all formed *public roads*
- all unformed *public roads* that are used by vehicles, pedestrians or both.

Council may assign names to other *public roads* if it considers it appropriate to do so.

Council may assign names to *private roads* if it considers it appropriate to do so. This may include *private roads* within hospitals, universities and retirement villages.

The owners of *private roads* are not obliged to seek Council approval for naming their roads. However, they should be encouraged to select a name that complies with this Policy and is endorsed by Council, noting that Council has the power to change the name of a *private road* if it considers it appropriate to do so (refer to paragraph 2).

**2. *Public roads or private roads that Council may change the name of***

Council may change the name of a *public road* or *private road* if it considers it appropriate to do so, however it is a widely accepted principle that road names are supposed to be enduring and should only be changed if necessary.

The City of Adelaide has its own unique history - including in relation to the naming of its roads - and it is important that this history is respected.

The City of Adelaide acknowledges the Kurna people as the Traditional Owners of the Country where the city of Adelaide is situated, and pays its respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

The major streets of Adelaide, as delineated on Colonel Light's original plan, were named by a Street Naming Committee on 23 May 1837. Most were named after persons instrumental in the foundation of the colony.

Thereafter any person who subdivided a piece of land and established a new street had the privilege of naming the thoroughfare, with the result that, in the absence of official control, the derivation of many of the less important street names became lost in obscurity.

For those street names whose origin is known, there are a range of themes for the names that were chosen. For example:-

- Eliza Street was named after the wife of David Randall, who subdivided two Town Acres (through which the street passes).
- York Lane was named after the York Hotel, which once existed on the south-east corner of Rundle Street and Pulteney Street.

A document named 'Nomenclature of the streets of Adelaide and North Adelaide' ([https://published.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/placenamesofsouthaustralia/Streets\\_of\\_Adelaide\\_and\\_Nth\\_Adelaide.pdf](https://published.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/placenamesofsouthaustralia/Streets_of_Adelaide_and_Nth_Adelaide.pdf)) documents the origins of many of the street names in Adelaide.

Most of the principles outlined in section 3 of this Policy are from AS/NZS 4819:2011 – "Rural and urban addressing". However, almost all the road names in the City of Adelaide were assigned prior to the introduction of AS/NZS 4819:2011. As a consequence, in many instances the names assigned in the City of Adelaide do not comply with AS/NZS 4819:2011 (and therefore this Policy). Notwithstanding this, for reasons outlined above (in relation to Adelaide's unique history) the policy principles outlined in section 3 are not intended to be applied retrospectively to remedy those road names. One exception is when the name of a road is causing confusion to the public and first responders in which case Council may change the name.

### **3. Principles to be observed when assigning a name to (or changing the name of) a *public road or private road***

#### **3.1 Extent of a length of road (for naming purposes)**

A length of road, for naming purposes, must have logical start and end points. This can be subjective, but as a guide:

- A single road name should generally be assigned to "L" shaped roads and "U" shaped roads, because a 90-degree bend in a road is not considered to be the 'logical start or end point' of that road.
- Two road names should generally be assigned to a "T" shaped road, as the "T" intersection is considered to be the 'logical start or end point' of one road.
- When a road crosses a more significant road (in terms of width or traffic volumes), different names should generally be assigned to the portions either side of the more significant road, because the more significant road

is considered to be the 'logical start or end point' of the less significant road in most circumstances.

### 3.2 Source

Every road name shall consist of a 'name' (e.g. Currie, Grenfell) followed by a 'type' (e.g. Street, Road, Lane). Sources for the 'name' element can be anything, but may include:

- Aboriginal names taken from the Kurna language
- Eminent people who have a strong connection with the City of Adelaide
- People who have made a significant contribution to the betterment of the City of Adelaide and/or its community
- Local history

### 3.3 Length of road name

The length of a road name should be shorter, rather than longer, especially where the road itself is short.

### 3.4 Uniqueness

A single length of road shall have only one name. Notwithstanding, as discussed in section 2, there is no intent to change existing instances of road names that are inconsistent with this policy position, the most obvious example being where "a single length of road" either side of King William Street has different names.

A named road shall include only one section navigable by vehicles. Unconnected navigable sections, such as when separated by an unbridged stream, pedestrian segment, railing (or other traffic blocking infrastructure) etc. shall be assigned separate names.

The name element of a road name, regardless of any difference in the road 'type', shall not be:-

- the same as an existing road name; or
- similar in spelling to an existing road name; or
- similar in sound to an existing road name.

in the City of Adelaide (and preferably not in the State either).

### 3.5 Propriety

Road names within the following categories will not be used:-

- names that are offensive, racist, derogatory or demeaning.
- names that are incongruous (out of place).
- names that are associated with a current business, company or commercial enterprise.

If a road is proposed to be named after a person:-

- The name of living persons should be avoided, being used only in exceptional circumstances.

- A given name or initials will only be included with a family name where it is essential to identify an individual or where it is necessary to avoid ambiguity.
- A balance between genders should be sought (for names assigned following adoption of this Policy).

### **3.6 Spelling**

Road names should be easily pronounced and spelt and should be easily understood when written or in a conversation; however, in the case of Kurna names it is accepted that a name which may appear at first to be complex will, over time, become familiar and easy to use within the community.

Where a road name is derived from Kurna language it shall comply with the written form as approved by the Kurna community.

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

Where the spelling of a road name 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 will be adopted.

Road names will not contain abbreviations e.g. the "Creek" in "Wallaby Creek Road" must not be abbreviated. There are, however, two exceptions, "St" will always be used in place of "Saint" and it is acceptable to use "Mt" for "Mount".

The apostrophe mark in road names will be omitted in the possessive case e.g. "Smith's Road" will be "Smiths Road".

Road names will avoid the use of the possessive "s" unless the euphony becomes harsh e.g. "Devil Elbow".

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

A road name shall only use characters from the standard alphabet. Special characters (e.g. @, &, !) shall not be used.

A road name shall not contain Arabic numerals (e.g. '3' or '4<sup>th</sup>) or Roman numerals. Where numbers are used they will be written in full (e.g. Fifth Avenue, Ten Mile Road).

A road name shall have the same spelling as any name from which it is derived (e.g. McDonnell and McDonnell Road, not McDonnell and MacDonnell Road).

### **3.7 Form**

A road name should not include a preposition (e.g. Avenue of the Allies).

A road name shall not include qualifying terminology, a cardinal indicator, or a similar *prefix* (e.g. Upper, New, North, South) unless the road name is derived from a name which includes it.

Similarly, a directional or similar device shall not be used as a *suffix* to uniquely define road extremities (e.g. White Road East and White Road West).

Notwithstanding, where an existing road with a single road name is subsequently bisected as a result of traffic management planning or some other reason, it may be appropriate to delineate each half of the road by the addition of a compass point *suffix* for the purposes of assisting with locating the appropriate part of the road.

Unduly long road names and road names composed of two or more words should be avoided, noting that some roads require a two-word name because of their geographic relationship e.g. Proof Range Road.

### 3.8 Type

As discussed in paragraph 3.1, every road name shall consist of a 'name' (e.g. Currie, Grenfell) followed by a 'type' (e.g. Street, Road). The 'type' shall be selected from Appendix A in AS/NZS 4819:2011 and shall convey the function and characteristics of the Road as described in the Appendix.

## 4. Consultation

Council will consult with the owners of land adjoining a *public road* or *private road* when it proposes to assign a name to, or change the name of, the road. Broader consultation should be considered if the road name being assigned or changed is for a major road or if the name being proposed could be considered contentious.

Council will consult the local Kurna community when choosing Kurna names or using words from the Kurna language.

Council will consult with the owner of a *private road* (where identifiable after reasonable enquiries) if it proposes to assign a name to, or change the name of, the road.

Pursuant to section 219(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*, if Council proposes to change the name of a *public road* that runs into the area of an adjoining council, Council must give the adjoining council at least two months' notice of the proposed change and consider any representations made by the adjoining council in response to the notice.

A council's powers to assign a name to, or change the name of, a *public road* pursuant to section 219(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* does not apply to roads that are vested in or under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways. Rather, the Commissioner of Highways has the power to name these roads (pursuant to section 26(6) of the *Highways Act 1926 (SA)*). Notwithstanding this, there

are no roads that are under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways in the City of Adelaide because section 2 of the *Highways Act 1926 (SA)* states that the Act does not apply to the City of Adelaide.

Notwithstanding this, Council will consult with the Commissioner of Highways on any proposal to assign a name to (or change the name of) a public road that runs into the area of an adjoining council in circumstances where the road in the adjoining council area is under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways.

#### **5. Notification**

Pursuant to section 219(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*, Council must notify the Registrar-General, Surveyor-General and Valuer-General if it assigns a name to, or changes the name of, a *public road* or *private road*. The use of the single established email contact ([AGD.Addressing@sa.gov.au](mailto:AGD.Addressing@sa.gov.au)) for this notification will suffice as this information is then processed through the Address Road Integrated Database (ARID) for incorporation into the data maintained by the three Generals.

Pursuant to section 219(4) of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*, Council must give *public notice* (as defined in the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*) of a decision to assign a name to, or change the name of, a *public road* or *private road*.

#### **6. Date of effect of assigned or changed road name**

The date of effect of the new or changed road name will 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. The date of effect will be determined after considering:

- with respect to changing the name of a road, the impact on existing property owners, residents, tenants and occupiers. For example, the time required to advise relevant parties to change letterhead, stationery and advertising references;
- potential confusion for people using maps and street directories that effectively become out of date; and
- the desire of some developers to sell property 'off the plan' and the opportunity for new owners to know their future address at an early stage.

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#### **OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS**

##### **Related documents**

- AS/NZS 4819:2011 – "Rural and urban addressing"
- Local Government Association - "Model policy for the selection of road names".

##### **Relevant legislation**

- *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*
  - *Geographic Names Act 1991 (SA)*
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**GLOSSARY** Throughout this document, the below terms have been used and are defined as:

**public road** – as defined in the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*

**private road** – as defined in the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

As part of Council's commitment to deliver the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan, services to the community and the provision of transparent information, all policy documents are reviewed as per legislative requirements or when there is no such provision a risk assessment approach is taken to guide the review timeframe.

This Policy document will be reviewed every 5 years unless legislative or operational change occurs beforehand. The next review is required in 2029.

**Review history:**

Trim Reference	Authorising Body	Date/ Decision ID	Description of Edits
ACC2003/14524	City Projects Committee	13/06/2000	Original Policy

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