

Policy

Naming of parks, reserves and facilities

Responsible Manager (Title)	Open Spaces & Facilities		
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Document(s) this policy Supersedes	V3.0 – 11/12/2018 – 15.217/18		
Community Plan Linkage	1 Society		
	1.1 We will have proud and inviting communities		
	1.1.2 Respect the heritage of the region by highlighting and enhancing our unique characteristics		

1 Purpose

To provide guidelines for the naming of parks, reserves and facilities under Council control as Crown Land Manager or as freehold owner.

2 Definitions

NSW – New South Wales

GNB – Geographical Names Board

3 Background/legislative requirements

- 3.1** The Geographical Names Act, 1966, empowers the Geographical Names Board (GNB) to assign names to places, to investigate and determine the form, spelling, meaning, pronunciation, origin and history of any historical name, and the application of such names to a position, extent or otherwise.
- 3.2** Council's [Road and Street Naming Policy](#) provides policy structure for the naming of roads, the policy includes lists that may provide suitable names for parks, reserves and facilities.

4 Policy statement

Consideration should be given to commercial opportunities with regards to the naming of facilities located in parks and reserves which are under Council control as Crown Land Manager or as freehold

owner. Commercial opportunities could include sponsorship, signage or other economic benefit in exchange to the naming of a facility.

Council has adopted the following guidelines for the naming of Parks and Reserves under the control of Council.

4.1 The recommended names for parks and reserves include:

- Aboriginal names of significance to the area, subject to the prior approval of the relevant local Aboriginal Land Council and Council's Aboriginal Consultative Committee.
- Native flora and fauna, generally using the common name and excluding lengthy or complex scientific names.
- Commemorative names are those that commemorate a person, event or place. The person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the area around the geographic feature or locality. When such a name is applied, it shall be given posthumously, at least one year after the decease of a person. Ownership of land is not in itself grounds for the application of an owner's name. Names of persons holding office shall not be used. *(extracted from the GNB place names, naming, geographical, policy)*
- War casualty lists.
- Names of early river pilots and historical river boats.

4.2 In the following areas, preference will be given to the following names:

- Grafton: Native flora
- Grafton CBD area: a list of pioneer family names and prominent citizens (lists are available from Council)
- Maclean: Scottish themes, ferry or shipping names, thematic history of the area, Yaegl language names as approved by the Aboriginal Land Council and/or Council's Aboriginal Consultative Committee
- South Grafton: Early vessels which plied the Clarence (lists are available from Council)
- Yamba: Early ships/river boats, captains, pilots and maritime themes
- Woombah: Native flora and fauna

4.3 Names should be appropriate to the physical, historical or cultural character of the area concerned.

4.4 The origin of each name should be clearly stated and subsequently recorded.

4.5 The relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council and Council's Aboriginal Consultative Committee should be consulted when choosing Aboriginal names, unless the name is selected from an agreed list provided by Council.

4.6 If the proposal involves the naming of **part** of a formally named park or reserve, Council will consider a local informal naming that meets the above criteria. An informal name will not be considered for the whole of a park or reserve.

5 Implementation

- 5.1 An application must be submitted online via the NSW Place and Road Naming Proposal System here:
https://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/place_naming/nsw_place_and_road_naming_proposal_system
- 5.2 All applications will be processed as follows:
- a. The application will be forwarded from the GNB to Council for endorsement.
 - b. The application will be initially assessed by Council's Open Spaces & Facilities Section against the guidelines provided in this policy and the Geographical Names Board of NSW Policy Place Naming published by the GNB.
 - c. The applicant will be advised if the proposal is deemed inappropriate.
 - d. If deemed appropriate, Council's Open Spaces and Facilities Section will submit the application to Council for approval in principle and, if the park, reserve or facility is on Crown land under the control of Council, advise the State Government Department administering the Crown Land Management Act of the name.
 - e. The applicant will be advised if the proposal is not approved in principle by Council or by the relevant State Government Department.
 - f. If approved in principle by Council, an application will be submitted by Council's Open Spaces and Facilities Section to the GNB.
 - g. If approved by the GNB, the proposal will be advertised in the local press, for public comment.
 - h. Submissions may be made to the GNB, which may seek comment from Council on those submissions.
 - i. The GNB will determine the application and, if approved, will publish the approved name in the Government Gazette.
 - j. After publication in the gazette Council will advise the applicant and update records of the name.
 - k. If Council is advised that the application was not approved, Council's Open Spaces and Facilities Section will advise the applicant.

6 Related Documents

Geographical Names Board of NSW Policy, Place Naming (July 2019)

7 Attachments

GNB, Naming a Place Fact Sheet

GNB, Commemorative Naming Fact Sheet