

POLICY NAME

Naming of Parks and Reserves

POLICY NUMBER

P 002

DATE ADOPTED

30 July 2012

COUNCIL MINUTE NUMBER

PRC 49

ECM NUMBER

4269435

POLICY TYPE

Council

REVIEW DATE

April 2020

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT

Parks

RELATED DOCUMENTS

-

Purpose

Provide consistent guidelines for Council and the community when considering the allocation of names to parks and reserves across the City.

To ensure that park and reserve names are appropriate and have local or historical significance

To adopt the Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB) guidelines for the determination of placenames and commemorative naming.

Policy Statement

The Geographical Names Act 1966, empowers the Geographical Names Board (GNB) to assign names to places, investigate and determine the form, spelling, meaning, pronunciation, origin and history of any geographical name to apply names with regard to position, extent or otherwise.

Should a community group wish to have a park or reserve named, a report will be presented to Council for consideration. Following Council's endorsement, Council officers will prepare the relevant documentation for the consideration of the GNB.

If approved by the GNB, any signage, plaque, structure or naming ceremony will generally be at the applicant's expense, however this is at the discretion of Council and subject to final Council approval.

Scope

This policy applies to Councillors, staff and members of the community.

POLICY:

Overview

The Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB) has the role of assigning names to places and natural features. The GNB's guidelines and procedures are aimed at ensuring community input, giving all interested parties a say in a naming decision and minimising duplication of names.

The end result is a clear identification of what name applies to which place or feature and to enable clear communication in times of emergency, for delivery of services and, in many cases, as a reminder of our history.

- The GNB strongly recommends that local councils do not prepare proposals to name features to honour living persons. Alternatives are to use commemorative plaques or naming a particular feature of community facility such as a building, grandstand or oval after the person to be recognised.

In all naming proposals, the GNB encourages local councils to undertake consultation with the community prior to submitting a proposal to the GNB.

Land to which this policy applies

This Policy applies to all public open space under the ownership or care & control of Council. For the purposes of this Policy, public open space is defined as:

Land that is available to the public for recreation or sport or has a conservation of aesthetic purpose. Open space includes reserves, parks, trails, sports playing fields, play spaces and streetscapes.

Guidelines for Assigning Park Names

The key principles adopted by Council are:

- Council will recognise and abide by the guidelines issued by the Geographical Names Board of NSW regarding the naming of open space. These guidelines form part of this policy
- Council will consider applications for names associated with the history and character of Penrith City including, but not limited to, the themes outlined below:
 - Elected members from all levels of government who have served the City and have made a significant contribution to the community. The recognition could apply to Councillors, Mayors or Members of Parliament.
 - Prominent Citizens - people who have demonstrated outstanding merit or people who have made an outstanding contribution to the City, particularly in the areas of service, preservation of the environment, community, sport, industry, leadership and personal bravery or who have achieved outstanding success in their chosen field of endeavour.

Applicants will need to provide written evidence of a person's merit supported by independent authentication as required. In the case of exceptional bravery in the military service the concurrence of the Returned Service League would be required.

- Council's first preference is for public open space to be named after the locality.

Policy Statement

The Geographical Names Act 1966, empowers the Geographical Names Board (GNB) to assign names to places, investigate and determine the form, spelling, meaning, pronunciation, origin and history of any geographical name to apply names with regard to position, extent or otherwise.

Place means any geographical or topographical feature or any district, division, locality, region, city, town, village or any other place within NSW but does not include any road, any local government area or urban area.

Individuals, private organisations and government authorities should submit any naming of an entire park or reserve to assign a geographical name using the GNB Placename Application Form.

The GNB welcomes suggestions for the naming of parks and reserves. However, proposals do need to have Council support.

Should a community group wish to have a park or reserve named, a report will be presented to Council for consideration. Following Council's endorsement, Council officers will prepare the relevant documentation for the consideration of the GNB.

If approved by the GNB, any signage, plaque, structure or naming ceremony will generally be at the applicant's expense, however this is at the discretion of Council and subject to final Council approval.

Naming of Portion of Parks or Reserves

- Priority shall be given to the naming of all parks and reserves after an adjacent street or locality.
- Council may give consideration to naming portions of a park or reserve with names of persons.
- This may occur when the park already has a name and a request has been received for the naming an element or field within that park.
- This approval can be determined by resolution of Council and does not need the approval of the GNB.

Guidelines for Assigning Portion of Park/Reserve Names:

- The person is to be considered worthy of such an honour
- The person should reside within the Penrith City Council Local Government Area
- The person must be, or have been, a member of a local community, services or voluntary organisation
- The person must have made a significant contribution to the local community through voluntary input, association with a local sporting club, education or through business, and that contribution must be identified

A significant contribution could include:

- Ten or more years association with local community groups, including school, sporting or service groups;
- Action by an individual to protect, enhance or maintain an area that produces substantial long term improvements for the community or area;
- Given names may be included as part of the naming proposal, and given and surname combinations are acceptable
- Death and former ownership of land are not acceptable reasons for a name, unless the above criteria can be supported

Process

Any approved application received to name a portion or segment(s) of a park or reserve, will be forwarded to the Geographical Names Board of NSW and relevant government agency for information only.

All requests for advice forwarded to the Geographical Names Board of NSW and relevant government agency will include:

- A covering letter indicating Councils approval;
- Copy of Council report including an outline of the person being honoured and justification statement for the name chosen
- The proposed name and location of the facility being named, including a location map.

Any signage, plaque, structure or naming ceremony will generally be at the applicant's expense, however this is at the discretion of Council and subject to final Council approval.

A register be kept and maintained by Council, recording the details of parks, reserves or facilities named in the City.

Guidelines for the determination of placenames



Land and Property
Management Authority

These guidelines were endorsed by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales (GNB) on 17 October 1996.

1. A name suggested for any place that owes its origin to the peculiarity of the topographic feature designated such as shape, vegetation, animal life etc., may be accepted but, in doing so, care should be exercised in avoiding duplication of names already used for other features.

The GNB prefers to avoid the repetition of commonly used names. Sugar Loaf, Sandy Back, Bald, Deep, Long, Kangaroo, Reedy, Rocky, Spring and Stony are examples of such names.

2. Easily pronounced names should, as far as possible, be used.
3. Names of Aboriginal origin or with a historical background are preferred.
4. Names acknowledging the multicultural nature of our society are encouraged.
5. The changing of long established placenames is generally not preferred, except where necessary to avoid ambiguity or duplication.
6. If considered appropriate, placenames may perpetuate the names of eminent persons, particularly those of early explorers, settlers and naturalists.
7. Names of persons should normally only be given posthumously but the GNB, at its discretion, may approve a feature name which honours a living person. Such a person's contribution to the local community should have been of outstanding benefit to the community. Ownership of the land is not sufficient reason for the application of the owner's name to a geographical feature. The GNB will not approve the naming of a feature after a person still holding public office.
8. The GNB may approve a first or given name as part of a geographical name only where it is necessary to

appropriately honour the person referred to or where it is necessary to avoid ambiguity.

9. Long and clumsily constructed names and named composed of two or more words should be avoided.
10. The multiplication of names for different parts of the same topographical feature such as a stream or mountain range will be avoided whenever possible and the one name applied to a stream or mountain range throughout its entire length.
11. The naming of forks, arms and branches of a river as North Branch and South Branch is not favoured. Generally, it is preferable to assign independent names to river branches.
12. The use of cardinal points of the compass as a prefix or suffix to an existing name is not favoured. However, well-established names which carry such a prefix or suffix may be approved.
13. Where names have been changed or corrupted by long established local usage, it is not usually advisable to attempt to restore the original form; that spelling which is sanctioned by general usage should be adopted.
14. When a choice is offered between two or more names for the same place, locality or feature, all sanctioned by local usage, the GNB may adopt one of such names as is considered appropriate in accordance with the rules outlined above.
15. The possessive form should be avoided whenever possible without destroying the sound of the name or changing its descriptive application e.g. Howes Valley should be written without the apostrophe.
16. The use of hyphens in connecting parts of names should, as far as possible be avoided.
17. Names considered offensive or likely to give offence will not be approved.

www.gnb.nsw.gov.au



Commemorative naming



Land and Property
Management Authority

The Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB) has the role of assigning names to places and natural features. The GNB's guidelines and procedures are aimed at ensuring community input, giving all interested parties a say in a naming decision and minimising duplication of names.

The end result is a clear community identification of what name applies to which place or feature and to enable clear communication in times of emergency, for delivery of services and, in many cases, as a reminder of our history.

The GNB seeks to recognise outstanding achievement in the community by commemoratively naming relevant geographical features. Acts of bravery, community service and exceptional accomplishment by both individuals and groups are grounds for this recognition.

The GNB has bestowed honours of this nature on many individuals and groups. Returned service men and women, famous sporting identities, educators, industry leaders, former elected civic officials, famous Aboriginals, community leaders and everyday Australians have all been commemorated in this fashion.

The most vexing naming decisions arise when features are named after people, especially those still living. The GNB's experience is that proposals of this kind invariably lead to division in the community.

Most jurisdictions around the world prohibit the use of names of living persons and apply severe restrictions to the use of the name of any deceased person. For example, the United States Board on Geographic Names "will not consider names that commemorate or may be construed to commemorate living persons".

The Australian guidelines talk of ascribing names of living persons "only in very exceptional circumstances". These guidelines were born from long experience.

Therefore, the GNB strongly recommends that local councils do not prepare proposals to name features to honour living

persons. Alternatives are to use commemorative plaques or naming a particular community facility such as a building or oval after the person to be commemorated.

The GNB's primary directive is to give precedence in using names of Aboriginal origin associated with the feature or a name with an historical background in the area of the feature. Local councils are encouraged to use these long standing practices wherever possible.

In all naming proposals, local councils are encouraged to undertake consultation with the community prior to submitting a proposal to the GNB. This is no different to existing participative procedures adopted by councils on a wide range of issues aimed at achieving an equitable solution brokered by the local council for the benefit of the community.

Land and Property Management Authority

Head office
1 Prince Albert Road
Queens Square
SYDNEY NSW 2000

T 1300 052 637
61 2 9228 6666
F 61 2 9233 4357

© October 2009 Land and Property Management Authority (B) P09/21/001

www.gnb.nsw.gov.au

