

General Policy

NEW ROAD AND STREET NAMING

- Intent** To establish a clear and concise guideline for managing road and street naming in new developments and estates by private organisations, prior to Cairns Regional Council approving the plan of survey.
- Scope** This policy shall apply when considering the naming of new roads and streets in new developments and estates.
- This policy does not cover:
- renaming streets and roads
 - naming of other community infrastructure
 - street numbering of lots

PROVISIONS

Key principles

- Establish consistent road and street naming practises across the Cairns Regional Council Local Government Area to support a clear and legible network;
- Ensure urban and rural addressing is as simple as possible, unique, and easily identifiable;
- Provide clear criteria to guide road and street naming decisions;
- Ensure road and street names are justified and aligned with the physical, historical or cultural character of the area; and
- Deliver clear and consistent road and street naming to assist service providers, emergency services and public wayfinding.

Definitions

- Development** The carrying out of building, plumbing, drainage, or operational work; reconfiguring a lot; or making a material change of use of premises under the *Planning Act 2016*.
- Estate** An Estate is a group of homes and other buildings built together as a single development (e.g. housing development).
- Operational Works** Operational Works refers to physical activities conducted on, over, or under land that alter its state or appearance, but do not constitute "building work" or a "material change of use."
- Roadway** A roadway is considered to be any public or private land-based thoroughfare, route, or course navigable by vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian traffic that facilitates the assignment of addresses or enables access between locations, properties, or geographical features. Examples of roadways include alleyways, roads, streets, highways, laneways, fire tracks, bike paths and walking tracks.
- Roads** An area that is open to or used by the public and is developed for, or has as one of its main uses, the driving or riding of motor vehicles.
- Streets** Streets are generally for providing property access, pedestrian and cycle movement with more localised vehicular traffic.

Application requirements

1. Council will only consider the naming of roads and streets upon receipt of a formal application in writing.
2. A request to name a road or street must be accompanied by a road layout plan with any future road extension.
3. A request to name a road or street should be finalised prior to submission of an Operational Works application so that the approved names can be utilised on the plans and map documentation. The approved road/street names as well as the road/street type must be shown on engineers' drawings submitted for subsequent operational works approval and shown on the survey plan at the time of lodgement.
4. For new developments not associated with an Estate, three proposed names for each proposed road/street must be provided.
5. For a new Estate, the application must include:
 - A list of the proposed road and street names to be used within the Estate; and
 - The origin of each name clearly stated for consideration.
 - Where names share a common theme or origin, a single explanation may be provided.
6. Requests to name roads or streets after significant individuals must include a brief biography of each person being recognised.

Road and Street Naming Criteria

All road and street names must comply with the Australian Standard *AS/NZS 4819:2011 – Rural and urban addressing*.

This guideline adopts the following parts of the Standard for road and street naming:

- Section 1 – Scope and General.
- Section 4 – Road definition and naming; and
- Appendix A – Road types – Australia.

Where this guideline is silent on a matter, the above sections of *AS/NZS 4819* apply and take precedence over any inconsistency.

Assessment criteria:

1. Name duplication
 - Duplicate road or street names (whether existing or previously approved) must not occur within the Cairns Regional Council Local Government Area, ensuring ease of navigation for service providers, emergency services and public wayfinding.
2. Preferred naming source
 - Flora and fauna, generally using the common name and excluding lengthy or complex scientific names;
 - Names of prominent citizens or identities, excluding living persons;
 - Names with cultural significance to the local area including Traditional Custodians. Note: the use of a First Peoples language name is subject to approval from the Traditional Custodian group with a registered Native Title or determination over the location;
 - War casualty lists;
 - Local heritage values; or
 - Existing road/street naming themes in the suburb or area.

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

All proposed names will be considered based on their individual merits, and any deviation from these sources will be considered accordingly.

The local councillor representing their division and community is cognisant of local values, culture, history, flora, fauna, natural icons etc, that can contribute to the appropriateness relevance, and connections to community in the selection of street names.

3. Ease of communication

- Names should be reasonably short, easy to read, spell and pronounce;
- Proposed names should not be similar in spelling or sound to existing names;
- Where it is intended that a road/street have the same name as a place or feature with an approved geographical name, then particular care should be taken to ensure that the correct spelling is adopted;
- 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;
- Unduly long names and names composed of two or more words are not supported. In exceptional circumstances a given and surname may be considered where essential to identification. Exceptional circumstances may include being a highly prominent individual where including a given name with a family name is essential to identify an individual or where it is necessary to avoid ambiguity, e.g. Angus Smith Drive, Sir Leslie Thiess Drive etc. Whilst street and cul-de-sac names should have only one word it is recognised that some roads require a two-word name because of their geographic relationship e.g. Old Common Road, Ross River Road etc; and
- Names must not be offensive or discriminatory.

4. Formatting requirements

- Generally, road/street names proposed or approved must not contain abbreviations. For example, the "Creek" in "Wallaby Creek Road" must not be abbreviated. There is, however, one exception: "ST" should always be used in place of Saint;
- "The" must not be used in place of a name followed by a road type, e.g. "The Boulevard".
- Prepositions in road names must be used, e.g. "Hampton on Boulevard";
- No directional indicators are to be used, e.g. "Gold Road West" and "Gold Road East";
- The apostrophe mark must be omitted in the possessive case, e.g. 'Smith's Road' should be "Smiths Road";
- Hyphens are not to be used;
- Full stops are not to be used;
- No symbols, diacritical marks or special characters are to be used. The exception is macrons for Indigenous names; and
- Numerals are not to be used. Any numbers in a name must be written in full. Only standard A to Z alphabet characters may be used.

5. Road type

- Road/Street types must be representative of the road being described e.g. street, court, crescent;
- Road/Street types are to be in accordance with *AS 4819 Appendix A* and read in conjunction with section 4.3 of *AS 4819*; and

- The road/street type must be included with the naming application submitted to Council. It must also be shown on plans submitted with the Operational Works approval for checking.

Holding of approved names

Approved names remain valid for the following periods:

- 5 years for developments not associated with Estates; and
- For Estates, the applicant must advise Council at the time of the request for approval of names, the proposed estimated time frame for completing of the Estate. Approved names will be reserved for that time period.

Note: The Council maintains a register of pre-approved names, often derived from local pioneers including indigenous language (developed in consultation with First People Advisory Consultants). These names can be provided to developers upon request. Council also welcomes private submissions for new names to be added to the register, provided they meet the *AS/NZS Rural and Urban Addressing Standard*.

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This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

Director responsible for Review:

Planning Growth & Sustainability

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 15/07/2026

CURRENT ADOPTION: 15/07/2026

DUE FOR REVISION: 15/07/2030

REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:



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Ken Gouldthorp
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER