

### 3 General Principles

The following 11 general principles for the naming of roads conform to the road naming principles outlined in various sections of *AS/NZS 4819:2011 Rural and Urban Addressing*. They are designed to ensure that naming practices in NSW will be of the highest possible standard and will result in intuitively clear road names for all, minimising confusion, errors and discrimination.

#### 3.1 Principle 1 - Ensuring Public Safety and Service Delivery

Road names shall not risk public and operational safety for emergency response, or cause confusion for transport, communication and mail services. Many emergency responses and other public services (such as mail) are determined by the clarity of road names and their extents, and all road name proposals shall ensure that operations will not be adversely affected. Emergency and other public services shall also actively discourage the use of road names which are known to be unofficial.

For example, a road naming authority may redesign the traffic flow for a road that results in portions of a road no longer being connected. In such instances Principle 9 - Amending Road Names states that renaming action shall occur and defines the time periods that apply. This is particularly important to ensure public and operational safety are prioritised.

#### 3.2 Principle 2 - Language

1.1. Road names shall be written in standard Australian English or a recognised format of an Australian Aboriginal language local to the area of the road.

1.2. Road names should be easy to pronounce, spell and write, and preferably not exceed three words (including the road type) or 25 characters. An exception to this is in the use of Aboriginal names when it is accepted that a traditional name may at first appear to be complex but will, over time, become more familiar and accepted by the community.

1.3. Diacritical marks (symbols such as ´, ¸ or ¨) are not used in Australian English names, and shall be omitted from names drawn from languages that use such marks.

1.4. The following types of punctuation as used in Australian English shall not be included as part of a road name: period (.), comma (,), colon (:), semi-colon (;), quotation marks (""), exclamation mark (!), question mark (?), ellipsis (...), hyphen (-), dash (/) and parenthesis (()). For surnames or other names that include a hyphen, the hyphen shall be omitted when used for a road name.

1.5. An apostrophe mark shall not be included in road names written with a final 's', and the possessive 's shall not be included. e.g. *St Georges Terrace* not *St George's Terrace*. Apostrophes forming part of an eponymous name shall be included (e.g. *O'Connor Road*).

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

1.7. Road names shall not include the definite article (*the*) as the sole name element of a road name (e.g. *The Esplanade* is not acceptable).

1.8. A road name shall not be abbreviated or contain an abbreviation, initial or acronym (e.g. *Mount*, not *Mt*) except that *St* shall be used for *Saint*.

1.9. For the purposes of consistency, names starting with *Mc* or *Mac* shall not have a space included between the *Mc* or *Mac* and the rest of the name.

1.10. A road name shall not include Arabic numerals (e.g. 3 or 4<sup>th</sup>) or Roman numerals (e.g. IV or X). Where numbers are included in a road name they shall be written in full (e.g. *Fifth Avenue*, *Ten Mile Road*).

1.11. A road name shall have the same spelling as any name from which it is derived.

1.12. A road name shall not include initials (e.g. *J Jones Road* is not acceptable).

### 3.3 Principle 3 - Roads to be Named

All formed roads, including private roads (roads for which the care and maintenance is not the responsibility of a naming authority) that are generally open to the public or to services shall be named in accordance with these principles. This includes, but is not limited to, highways, motorways and freeways; bike paths, bridle paths or walking tracks; roads within complexes such as universities, hospitals and retirement villages; roads within national parks and pedestrian only roads, such as malls.

Roads covered in this policy, and the responsible naming authorities are discussed in more detail in Section 2.

The delivery of emergency and other services are often impeded for residents and businesses when private road names are not officially recorded. In order to minimise confusion, to standardise address assignment and support emergency services, all road naming principles, policies and processes shall be applied to private roads in NSW. Long driveways providing access to minimal amounts of dwellings are not automatically considered to be private roads, and owner/occupiers have no authority to erect signs for such driveways, unless given consent from the Local Council. This same principle applies to pathways, in cases where naming is not considered necessary for addressing purposes.

Unformed roads (usually surveyed but unconstructed) should not be named unless a name is required for addressing purposes.

Short roads with five or less address sites need not be named if the address sites within the road can be assigned numbers within the adjoining road. Short roads that are named shall preferably have a short name. See example in Figure 3-1.



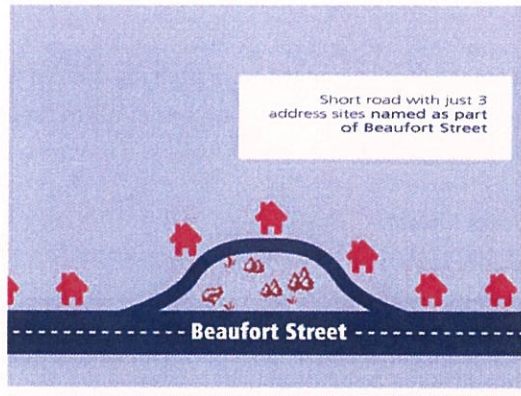


Figure 3-1 An example of a short cul de sac with only three address sites.

The use of an unofficial road name (a name that has not been endorsed by a naming authority) for addressing purposes is not acceptable. Such a road shall be assigned an official name (a name that has been endorsed by a naming authority and approved and gazetted by the Board), and each road shall have only one official name for addressing purposes.

As shown in the example in Figure 3-2 a classified highway may include a section that is also assigned a local name where it passes through a town or suburb. Nonetheless, each section of road shall have only one official name for addressing purposes. In this example, within the town the official name for addressing purposes is Brooke Street.

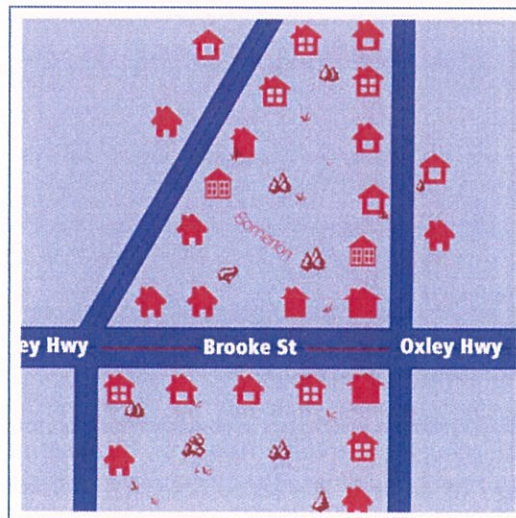


Figure 3-2 Example showing where the extent of a road name changes as it passes through a town.

### 3.4 Principle 4 - Uniqueness, Duplication

Uniqueness is the most essential quality to be sought in proposing a new road name. A road name will be regarded as a duplicate if it is the same or similar in spelling or sound to an existing name, regardless of the road type. Road names shall not be duplicated:

- Within the same address locality.
- Within an adjoining address locality.
- Within a local government area, and
  - o Within 10 kilometres in a metropolitan urban area
  - o Within 20 kilometres in a regional urban area
  - o Within 30 kilometres in a rural area
  - o Within 50 kilometres in remote areas.
- Within a duplicated address locality anywhere in NSW (refer to list in Appendix B).

### 3.5 Principle 5 - Acceptable Road Names

Names of early settlers, war servicemen and women and other persons who have contributed to the heritage of an area, local history themes, flora, fauna, ships etc. are usually most suitable for applying to roads.

Gender diversity in the selection of names is encouraged. Aboriginal names are also supported and shall be in a local language chosen in consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Local interest groups, developers or individuals may work with the naming authority to locate/define new names according to these suggestions.

When selecting road names, the following shall be considered:

- Road names shall not be offensive, racist, derogatory or demeaning (refer to NSW Anti-Discrimination legislation).
- Road names shall not be misspelt. In particular, the spelling of personal names shall be able to be validated by reference to primary sources.
- Commercial and Business names shall not be used, particularly where the name can be construed to be promoting the business. However, business names no longer in use and which promote the heritage of an area are acceptable. Refer Road types shall not be used in the formation of a road name, for example Promenade Road, Court Street etc. even if the road type is also a surname.
- The use of given or first names in conjunction with a surname is not normally acceptable, but may be considered if required to provide uniqueness for a significant name.  
e.g. Robert Askin Drive might be acceptable if there is already an Askin Road. However, the use of given names as a method for defining uniqueness of a road name, can only be applied in limited circumstances and use of a Suitability Assessment form is required.



### 3.6 Principle 6 - Commemorative Road Names

Naming often commemorates an event, person or place. The names of people who are still alive shall not be used because community attitudes and opinions can change over time.

The initials of a given name are not to be used in any instances. Where a given name is to be used it shall be spelt in full.

Naming authorities should make every effort to gain consent from family members of the person who is being commemorated. Supporting evidence that shows attempts by a council to consult with family members should be provided during the lodgement of the proposal, but it is acknowledged that some names may be from an era for which this is not possible.

### 3.7 Principle 7 - Road Extents

The extent of a named road shall be defined by the formed road, and shall include only one section navigable by vehicles or foot. Unconnected navigable sections, such as where separated by an unbridged stream or a physical barrier, shall be assigned separate names.

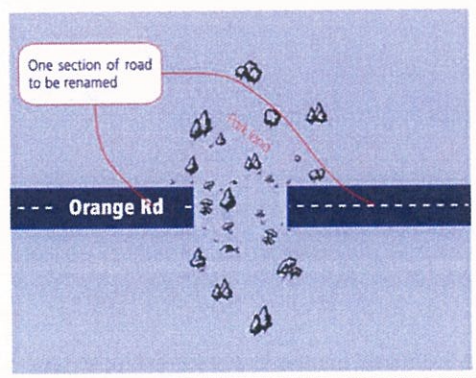


Figure 3-3 Unconnected sections of road- one section needs to be renamed

When a road extent is broken into separate sections by redevelopment or redesign, the name shall only be retained on one section and the other section(s) renamed as part of the development process.

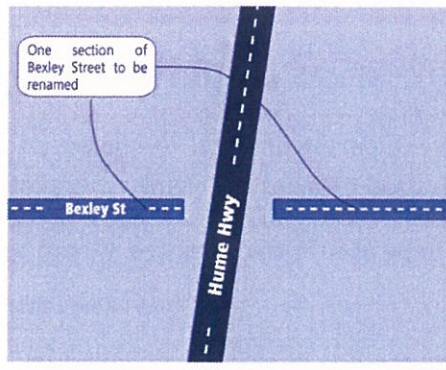


Figure 3-4 Road broken by development. One section needs to be renamed

The extent of each road shall be mapped according to the centreline of the road, and the name should apply from one end of the road to the other i.e. the point where the road finishes or intersects with other roads.

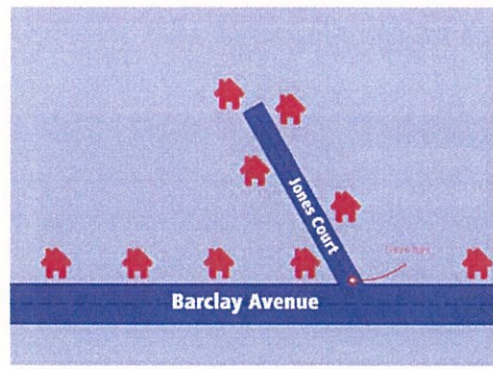


Figure 3-5 Road names apply for entire extent of road

A classified highway may be split by a section that is assigned a local name where it passes through a town. Each section of road shall have only one official name for addressing purposes. Refer to Figure 3-2 for an example.

### 3.8 Principle 8 - Suffixes, Prefixes and Directional Indicators

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

A directional or similar device shall not be used as a suffix to uniquely define road extremities. e.g. *Boundary Road East* and *Boundary Road West*.

Origin to destination names, such as *Bathurst-Oberon Road* shall not be used. It is too easy for such names to be confusing as there are too many aliases e.g. *Bathurst Road, Oberon Road, Oberon-Bathurst Road*.

### 3.9 Principle 9 - Amending Road Names

Road names are intended to be enduring, and the renaming of roads is discouraged unless there are compelling reasons for a change. Issues that can prompt renaming include the redesign of a road, changed traffic flow, mail or service delivery problems, duplication issues and addressing problems. Where there are significant reasons for a change the GNB encourages authorities to undertake renaming action in conformity with these principles.

### 3.10 Principle 10 - Road Types

All road names shall include a road type selected from the list of acceptable road types in Appendix A. An exception to this mandatory assignation of road types only occurs on pre-approval of names for planning purposes or reserving of names, in which case the type might not yet be known.

Descriptions of the road types assist in the selection of types that suitably describe a road's characteristics, and they should be chosen with the ultimate configuration of the road in mind. For example, a road which is a cul-de-sac in the early development of an estate should be given a *through road type* if it is planned to be a through road by the time the development is completed.

Road types shall not be used to distinguish different roads of the same name or similarly sounding or spelt names. For example, the roads *Lambert Street, Lambert Close* and *Lambert Lane* are considered to be duplicates, which are not acceptable under Principle 4 - Uniqueness, Duplication. The same applies to *Brown Street, Broun Crescent* and *Browne Lane* (or similar combinations).

### 3.11 Principle 11 - Cross-Jurisdictional Naming or Renaming

Where naming or amendments to an existing road are required, and the extent crosses local government boundaries the Council with the most residents affected by any naming or proposed change shall take the lead in these negotiations. Where a road is named the whole road shall be named (as per Principle 7) and therefore a road spanning one or many local government areas shall have the approval of all RNAs prior to being considered for gazettal.