

Naming Policy

Adopted:
Last updated:

Background

Councils have a significant role in the choice and approval of names for public infrastructure such as roads, parks and reserves, and Council facilities. Under the Local Government Act 1974, the Council has the power to name and to alter the name of roads. Under the Reserves Act 1977, the Council has the power to name reserves. In addition, from time to time the Council names Council facilities.

Previous policy guidance for naming Council-controlled infrastructure was provided in the Road Naming and Property Numbering Policy (2014), the Reserves Policy (2017), and the Art and Memorials in Public Places Policy (2017).

Application

This policy applies to infrastructure in the Far North District that is within the Council's power to name. This includes the naming and renaming of:

- roads – both public and private
- open spaces – reserves, parks, and walkways vested in the Council
- Council facilities – civic spaces, community halls, recreation facilities

Definitions

The following definitions apply to this Policy:

- **Applicant** – means the individual or entity making an application, which may include the Council, a consent holder, or the party developing the infrastructure.
- **Council** – means the Far North District Council.
- **Council facility** – means a facility controlled by the Council. Such facilities may include but are not limited to community halls, civic spaces, as well as sport, recreation, and entertainment facilities.
- **Far North District** - means the area of jurisdiction of the Far North District Council.
- **Mana whenua** – means Māori who have historic and territorial rights over the land.
- **Open space** – means reserves, parks, and walkways administered by the Council.
- **Park** – means Council-owned public open space held under the Local Government Act 2002 with a primary community, recreational, environmental, cultural, or spiritual function.
- **Private road** – means, as defined by section 315 of the Local Government Act 1974, any roadway on private land intended for the use of the public. Private roads are not maintained by the Council, but are formally named by the Council. Formal naming is required for formed private roads to ensure correct identification for key services such as emergency, postal, and utility services.
- **Private rights-of-way (private way)** – means, as defined by section 315 of the Local Government Act 1974, any way or passage on private land intended for the use of only certain persons or classes of person. Private rights-of-way are not maintained by the Council, but those that serve 6 or more properties should be formally named by the Council to aid correct identification for key services such as emergency, postal, and utility services.

- **Policy** – means the Council’s adopted Naming Policy.
- **Reserve** – means as defined under section 2 of the Reserves Act 1977.
- **Road** – means land defined as road by section 315 of the Local Government Act 1974, which includes land intended for use by the public generally. This includes access ways and service lanes.

Legislative and Policy Context

Under section 319(1)(j) of the Local Government Act 1974, councils have the power to name and to alter the name of roads. Under section 319(B)(1), councils have the power to allocate a number to any area of land or building or part of a building within their districts.

Road names must be approved by Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand. Road naming and property numbering must comply with the *Australian/ New Zealand Standard Rural and Urban Addressing (AS/NZS4819:2011)* and subsequent amendments.

Under section 16 (10) of the Reserves Act 1977, territorial authorities have the power to name reserves vested in them. The Council must follow the procedures in sections 16(10) and 16(10A) of the Reserves Act to name or rename a reserve.

It should be noted that the power to name (and rename) settlements (such as suburbs and localities) and geographic features, lies with the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB). While this is outside its jurisdiction, the Council may make a proposal to the NZGB to name or rename a place or feature.

Strategic alignment

The policy will contribute to achieving the outcomes set out in the following strategic documents:

- Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 the purpose of local government is “to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.” Ensuring that the names we give to community infrastructure reflect our people and their stories, and promoting the use of te reo Māori, will contribute to cultural wellbeing in the Far North District.
- Revitalising te reo Māori is part of the wider partnership between the Crown and tāngata whenua, as expressed in Maihi Karauna: The Crown’s Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2019-2023.

Objectives

To promote social and cultural wellbeing by:

- encouraging and enabling the use of appropriate names in te reo Māori
- ensuring that locations of cultural significance for mana whenua are named appropriately
- enhancing placemaking through names that reflect the unique culture and identity of communities in the Far North District
- ensuring correct and clear addressing for emergency services and other key services (road naming)
- improving guidance for developers and property owners to consult with mana whenua, should they wish to choose a Māori road name

Policies

1. The Council will provide a consistent approach to determining appropriate names for roads, open spaces, and council facilities.
2. The Council will have a naming system for public infrastructure that will recognise and maintain the history and identity of our local communities, with te reo Māori names increasingly represented within the district.
3. The Council acknowledges and respects the Crown's responsibility as a Treaty partner and the requirement of local government to take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, specifically the obligations placed on the Council to provide opportunities for Māori to participate in decision-making and other council processes in a way which is meaningful to both parties.
4. The Council recognises it needs to establish meaningful and enduring relationships with Māori in order to enable effective participation in decision making while at the same time achieving mutually beneficial outcomes. Mana whenua hold mana and traditional associations with place and are the most appropriate authority to seek te reo Māori names from. They will be a partner in the process of selecting names for roads, open spaces, and Council facilities.
5. A Naming Komiti in each ward will support the selection of te reo Māori names. These Komiti will be resourced and administered by the Council.
6. This policy will not be applied retrospectively, except where individual renaming applications are received.
7. Names are to be agreed as early as possible in any development application process. This policy should form part of any subdivision design and approval process reference material.
8. Road names and road numbering must conform with *The Australian/ New Zealand Standard Rural and Urban Addressing (AS/NZS4819:2011)*.
9. Naming a private road or right-of-way does not mean that the Council accepts responsibility for the formation or maintenance of that private road or right-of-way.

Monitoring and Implementation

- Implementation of the policy will be monitored by the Council.
- This policy will be reviewed in response to issues that may arise, at the request of the Council, or in response to changes to legislative or statutory requirements (whichever occurs first).
- Amendment to this policy following a review may be subject to a public consultative process.