

Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021

Notifiable instrument NI2021-72

made under the

Public Place Names Act 1989, section 4A (Guidelines about naming of public places)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

3 Australian Standards

Australian Standards are available for purchase at www.standards.org.au and are available for inspection by members of the public by contacting the Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information.

4 Guidelines about naming of public places

I make the guidelines for the purposes of section 4A of the *Public Place Names Act 1989* as set out in the Schedule.

5 Revocation

This instrument revokes the *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1)* NI2014-643.

Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management
11 February 2021

Schedule

Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021

Naming of public places - generally

1. In naming a public place, the following should be considered as relevant:
 - (a) *Districts (Allocation of Street Addresses) Guidelines 2020* in NI2020-679 available at <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2020-679/>;
 - (b) Terms of Reference for the appointment of the ACT Place Names Committee (and its successors) at https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_names/place_names_committee
 - (c) Rural and Urban Addressing Standard AS/NZS 4819:2011 as in force from time to time;
 - (d) United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 13 - United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

Note Article 13 of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons;
 2. States shall take effective measures to ensure this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.
- (e) the nomenclature theme assigned to a division (suburb) by the Minister or the Minister's delegate at https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_names/place_search;
 - (f) the desirability for the totality of public place names in the ACT to be reflective of diverse cultural situations and cognisant of community sensitivities;
 - (g) any advice of the ACT Place Names Committee (and its successors) to the Minister on proposals for geographic and division names and nomenclature themes to be adopted for naming roads and other public places on Territory land;
 - (h) in relation to urban open spaces, the names of people who had a long association with the place, local Aboriginal vocabulary and the names of things characteristic of the location; and
 - (i) any other matters the Minister considers appropriate.

In this section, “urban open space” includes neighbourhood parks.

2. In naming a public place, the following terms or names should be avoided:
 - (a) discriminatory or derogatory names. Such names are those names perceived, at the time of consideration, to be offensive, demeaning or harmful to the reputation of individuals, or to social, ethnic, religious or other groups;
 - (b) names contrived to circumvent other parts of these guidelines; and
 - (c) terms which could be construed as advertising a commercial or industrial enterprise.

Naming of public places – addressing

3. If the public place is a road, the requirements of the *Districts (Allocation of Street Addresses) Guidelines 2020* in NI2020-679 available at <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2020-679/> should be complied with;
4. Where a road name is inconsistent with the *Districts (Allocation of Street Addresses) Guidelines 2020* the Minister may determine a road name recommended by the ACT Place Names Committee (and its successors) and/or the ACT Place Names Unit after consultation with:
 - (a) the ACT Emergency Services Agency;
 - (b) ACT Policing; or
 - (c) Australia Post.

Naming of public places – names of persons

5. Only the names of deceased persons should be determined.
6. At least 12 months should elapse after the death of a person before that person's name can be determined.
7. Names should consider community sensitivities.
8. Reasonable steps should be taken to consult the person's relatives, associates, an appropriate cultural group, or a relevant professional organisation, before naming a public place after a person.
9. Before determining a personal name, consideration should be given to the prominence of the person in their particular field.
10. A person's name should not be determined for a major thoroughfare or arterial road unless the person has attained prominence or standing in their particular field.
11. The use of two names may be considered to afford commemoration of a significant person's name while striving to accord with simple addressing requirements.

Community Proposals and Consultation

12. In naming public places, the Minister or the Minister's delegate should give consideration to:
 - (a) community input on potential nomenclature themes and the nomination of names for commemoration;
 - (b) feedback in response to community consultation.

Naming of a geographical feature

13. Where no previous official name exists for a geographical feature, preference should be given to a name that:
 - (a) is the local Aboriginal name that was originally applied to identify the geographical feature, provided the wishes of the relevant Aboriginal community are respected regarding the use of the name; or
 - (b) is in keeping with the character and tradition of the location; or
 - (c) has historical or local significance; or
 - (d) is suggestive of the peculiarity of the geographical feature.
14. Where a geographical feature has an existing introduced name, consideration shall be given to restoring traditional Aboriginal language to the feature by giving it dual names which recognise the traditional Aboriginal place name alongside the long-standing introduced name.

Note:

1. The ACT Place Names Committee (and its successors) will advise the Minister on all proposals for geographic and division names and the themes to be adopted for naming roads and other public places on Territory land.
2. The ACT Place Names Committee (and its successors) will provide guidance to the ACT Place Names Unit of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate to ensure that community sensitivities have been considered in the work of the unit.
3. The power of the Minister to determine names for public places and divisions applies to Territory Land only and not to National Land, refer to section 3 of the *Public Place Names Act 1989*. “National Land” is land declared to be “National Land” under section 27 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* (Cwlth) (PALM Act). “Territory Land” is land in the Australian Capital Territory that is not “National Land”, refer to section 28 of the PALM Act.
4. The ACT Place Names Unit will consult with the Commonwealth on the naming of public places in areas of Territory Land specified as Designated Areas. The National Capital Plan can specify areas of land in the Territory to be “Designated Areas” under section 10 of the PALM Act.