Road and Street Naming Policy

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Responsible Officer(s):	*General Manager Infrastructure, Environment & Regulatory Services*
Council File Reference:	*Council Policies (P)*
Applicable Legislation:	*Local Government Act 1999 – Section 219(3)(a) and Section 231.* *Local Government General Regulations 1999* *Australian Standards AS1742.2-2009* *Australian Standards AS1743-2001* *Australian Standards AS4212-1994* *Australian Standards AS NZA 4819-2011*
Relevant Policies:	*Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* *Public Consultation and Community Engagement Policy* *Land Development Infrastructure Guidelines* *Memorial and Plaque Establishment Policy*
Related Procedures:	*Road and Street Naming Procedure* *Memorial and Plaque Establishment Procedure*
Delegations:	*Chief Executive Officer* *General Manager Corporate & Community Services* *General Manager Infrastructure, Environment & Regulatory Services* *Rates Officer*

1. Purpose

It is Council's policy that all sealed public roads and all formed public roads within the Council area that are regularly accessed will be assigned a name.

2. Definitions

Council	means Berri Barmera Council
Private Road	means a road in private ownership
Public Road	means (a) any road or land that was, immediate before the commencement of the LGA Act 1999, a public street or road under the repealed LGA Act; or (b) any road (i) that is vested in a council under this or another Act; (ii) that is placed under a council's care, control and management as

	a public road after the commencement of this Act, but not including an alley, laneway, walkway or other similar thoroughfare vested in a council; or (c) any road or land owned by a council, or transferred or surrendered to a council, and which, subject to this Act, is declared by the council to be a public road; or (d) any land shown as a street or road on a plan of division deposited in the Lands Titles Registration Office or the General Registry Office and which is declared by the council to be a public road; or (e) any land transferred or surrendered to the Crown for use as a public road that was, immediately before the transfer, held by a person in fee simple or under a lease granted by the Crown, (and includes any such road that is within the boundaries of a public square)
Park	means community land reserved or delineated as a park or designated by a council as a park
Township	Means (a) any government township and any land laid out as a township where plans of the township have been deposited in the Lands Titles Registration Office, the General Registry Office or the Surveyor-General's Office; or (b) any part of the area of a council that contains at least 20 residences and that is defined as a township by the council by notice in the Gazette;

3. Principles

Council has the power under section 219 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the LG Act) to assign a name to, or change the name of a:

- Public road
- Private road
- Public place

Council must also assign a name to each public road created by land division.

All formed private roads that are accessible to the public (with the exception below) will also be assigned a name. This includes roads within complexes such as universities, hospitals, retirement villages, and roads in forests or parks etc. Private roads with five or less property addresses do not need to be named. In these cases, address numbers will be assigned off the road that the private road exits on to.

All roads that can be used as part of an address for an address site will be assigned a name.

Note: The naming of State roads is the responsibility of DIT.
Road name signs that identify each public road will, as far as practicable, be placed at every road intersection and will clearly indicate the road to which it applies.

Note: While the Australian Standard stipulates that road name signs should be placed at every intersection, this may not always be practicable in rural areas.

4. Policy Statement

4.1. Initiating the Road Naming Process

A road naming process may be initiated if:

- council identifies a district road which has previously not been named;
- a request is received by the Council from an affected landowner or their agent;
- council resolves that a name change be investigated;
- council staff determines it is in the public interest to investigate a change in road name;
- council opens or forms a road;
- council receives an application for a land division.

4.2. Road Names

In the naming and renaming of public roads the following principles will be observed.

4.2.1. Uniqueness

- a road will have only one name;
- a road name will be unique within a township or the rural district. Duplicate road names within a township and the rural district will be resolved in order to avoid confusion (e.g. emergency services response);
- roads that are maintained by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) will be named by DIT. Council will consult with DIT in relation to naming these roads;
- duplicate names and similar sounding names (e.g. Paice, Payce or Pace Roads) within a township or rural district will be avoided where possible;
- if possible, duplication of names in proximity to Council districts will also be avoided. However, roads crossing Council boundaries should have a single and unique name;
- wherever practicable, road names will be continuous from the logical start of the road to the logical end of the road, irrespective of Council boundaries, landforms and intersecting roads.

4.2.2. Name Sources

Sources for road names in no particular order may include:

- aboriginal place name;
- early explorers, pioneers, and settlers;
- eminent persons;
- local history;
- botanical, historic or geographic etc;
- war/casualty lists;
- commemorative names.

Names will be selected to be appropriate to the physical, historical or cultural character of the area concerned. The origin of each name will be clearly stated and recorded as part of the Council's historical records.

Council will accept suggestions of road names from the community in which case it will consider the appropriateness of the suggested name and then upon acceptance, record that name for further consideration

when new road names are required. The local Aboriginal community will be consulted when choosing Aboriginal names or using words from relevant Aboriginal languages.

4.2.3. Propriety

Names of living persons will be avoided. Names, which are characterised as follows, will not be used.

- offensive or likely to give offence;
- incongruous – out of place; or
- commercial or company.

4.2.4. Communication

Names will be reasonably easy to read, spell and pronounce to assist service providers, emergency services and the travelling public. Unduly long names and names composed of two or more words should be avoided:

- a given name will only be included with a family name where it is essential to identify an individual or where it is necessary to avoid ambiguity. The use of given names will generally be avoided;
- 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. Lock 3 Road;
- roads with double destination names will be avoided.

4.2.5. Spelling

Where it is intended that a road have the same name as a place or feature with an approved geographical name, particular care will be taken to ensure that the correct spelling of the official place name is adopted as shown in the State Gazette.

Where the spelling of names has been changed by long established local usage, unless there is a particular request by the local community to retain the original name, the spelling that is sanctioned by general usage will be adopted.

Generally, road names proposed or approved will not contain abbreviations e.g. the “Creek” in “Wallaby Creek Road” must not be abbreviated. There are, however, two exceptions, “St” will always be used in place of “Saint” and it is acceptable to use “Mt” for “Mount”.

4.2.6. Form

The apostrophe mark ‘will be omitted in the possessive case e.g. “Smith’s Road” will be “Smiths Road”.

Names will avoid the use of the possessive “s” unless the euphony becomes harsh e.g. “Devil Elbow”.

The use of hyphens will be avoided. However, hyphens may be used when naming a road after a person with a hyphenated name.

4.2.7. Road Type

Road names will include an appropriate road type suffix conforming with the following guidelines:

- the suffix chosen will be compatible with the class and type of road. Assistance to both the motorists and pedestrians is a major consideration in choosing the suffix;
- when a suffix with a geometric or geographic connotation is chosen it will generally reflect the form of the road;
- crescent - a crescent or half-moon, re-joining the road from which it starts;
- esplanade - open, level and often along the seaside or a river
- For a cul-de-sac use Place, Close, Court or a suffix of similar connotation;
- highway (HWY) will be specifically reserved for roads associated with the state arterial road network. Its use will be restricted to roads of strategic importance constructed to a high standard.

4.2.8. No Prefix or Additional Suffix

The use of a compass point prefix/suffix or an additional suffix such as “north” or “extension” will be avoided, particularly where new roads are to be named.

Where an existing road is subsequently bisected because of traffic management planning or some other reason, it may be appropriate to delineate each half of the road by the addition of a compass point suffix for the purposes of assisting the community and the emergency services to locate the appropriate part of the road.

4.3. Naming of Private Roads

This policy covers all formed roads that are regularly accessed and therefore includes private roads.

Private landowners are not obliged to seek Council approval for naming their roads. However, there is a public interest in encouraging private landowners and developers to select suitable names, preferably in accordance with this policy, and to obtain Council endorsement for the name.

Where Council proposes to assign a name to a private road it will consult with the owner of the land over the proposed name and the signage requirements for the road.

4.4. Consultation with Adjoining Councils

If a Council decides to change the name of a public road that runs into the area of an adjoining Council, the Council will give the adjoining Council at least two months’ notice of the proposed change and consider any representations made by the adjoining Council in response to the notice.

4.5. Consultation with adjoining landowners

In instances where Council is proposing to consider the changing of the name of an existing “named” road or to assign a road name to an existing “un-named” road it will consult with landowners on that road in relation to the proposed name change or assignment through notices in the Murray Pioneer and by written notice to those landowners.

Landowners will be given an opportunity to comment to Council prior to a decision being made.

4.6. Public Notice of Name Assignment or Change

Council will, after considering any comments from landowners, decide in regard to the road name and then will give public notice of the assigning or changing of a road name.

This will be by publication in the Government Gazette and by notice in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State, as required under the LG Act. Public notice will include the date that the new name takes effect (see 4.8 below).

4.7. Advise Relevant Parties of New Name or Name Change

Council will provide written notice (e.g. by email) of Council’s decision on a new road name or name change to all relevant parties, including:

- Registrar-General
- Surveyor-General
- Valuer-General [see s.219(3)(a) of the LG Act]
- the owner of the road (if a private road)
- owners of abutting properties
- Australia Post
- Telstra
- SA Water
- SA Power Networks
- SA Police
- SA Ambulance Service
- SA Metropolitan Fire Service and/or Country Fire Service

4.8. Date of Effect for New Names or Name Changes

The date of effect of the new or changed road name will be determined at the time the decision to assign the name to allow sufficient time for all stakeholders to decide to ensure a smooth transition.

The date of effect will be determined after considering:

- in respect of renaming an existing road, the impact on existing property owners, residents, tenants and occupiers. For example, the time required to advise relevant parties to change letterhead stationery and advertising references;
- potential confusion for people using maps and street directories that effectively become out of date, and;
- the desire of some developers to sell property ‘off the plan’ and the opportunity for new owners to know their future address at an early stage.

Council will update the Register of Public Roads as required by s.231 of the LG Act.

4.9. Road / Street Name Signage

Council will ensure road naming signage in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard (AS 1742.5 – 1997) is erected.

Signage may be erected during construction of a subdivision.

4.10. Township Road / Street Identification

Council shall engrave road / street names into the concrete kerb, where available.

4.11. Road and Street Naming Procedure

For detailed procedures and steps related to road and street naming, please visit the Road and Street Naming Procedure on our website at www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au.

If you would like to create a meaningful memorial for a loved one, such as a plaque, we invite you to explore our Memorial and Plaque Establishment Policy and Procedure, also available on our website at www.berribarmera.sa.gov.au.

Electronic version on the website is the controlled version.
Printed copies are considered uncontrolled.
Before using a printed copy, verify that is the current version.

Version 1	28 Nov 2023	
Version 2	28 January 2025	Endorsed Ordinary Meeting of Council with minor changes