



# **Geographical Names Board of NSW Policy**

## **Place Naming**

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Any enquiries relating to this publication, may be addressed to the Geographical Names Board  
E: [ss-gnb@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ss-gnb@finance.nsw.gov.au)

Geographical Names Board of New South Wales

PO Box 143

Bathurst NSW 2795

T: 6332 8214 (Int: +612 6332 8214)

E: [ss-gnb@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ss-gnb@finance.nsw.gov.au)

W: [www.gnb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au)

## Document Control

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6 May 16	6.1	New section on changing names	B Hirst / B Goodchild

## Repeals and Review

The policies identified in this document are consistent with national and international best practice. They repeal all existing Geographical Names Board of NSW (GNB) policies and guidelines in respect to geographical naming in NSW, apart from those included in the NSW Addressing User Manual, which are complementary to these policies. They do not apply retrospectively, and any arrangements that predate these rules are not necessarily subject to its terms.

Recognition of any existing NSW geographical name that does not conform to these policies does not establish a precedent for any future naming proposal.

This document is to be revised annually or as required. Where minor changes are required, the GNB must ensure the version number is updated. However, where changes in legislation or operating environment result in substantive rewriting of the document, the sponsor must create a new document and ensure it is entered into TRIM (electronic file management system). This will ensure the integrity of the original document.

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# 1 Scope

This policy applies to the operations of the GNB and its Secretariat.

## 2 Responsibilities

### Geographical Names Board

The GNB is responsible for the governance of this policy.

### Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (DFSI)

DFSI is responsible for the administrative management, technical support and promotion of the policy under the auspices of the GNB.

## 3 Glossary

Act	<i>Geographical Names Act 1966 No 13</i>
CGNA / PCPN	Committee of Geographic Names of Australasia – now renamed the Permanent Committee on Place Names. Part of ICSM
GNB / Board	Geographical Names Board of NSW as constituted under the Act
DFSI	Department of Finance, Services and Innovation
Gazetteer	List of geographical names. In NSW the Geographical names gazetteer is stored in the Geographical Names Register database.
Geographical name	The name of a place as determined by the provisions of the Act and been notified in the Gazette as a geographical name, but does not include a name which has ceased to be a geographical name under the Act.
GNB (the GNB)	Geographical Names Board as constituted under the Act
ICSM	Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping
Place	Defined by the Act as <i>'any geographical or topographical feature or any area, district, division, locality, region, city, town, village, settlement or railway station or any other place within the territories and waters of the State of New South Wales but does not include any road, any area (within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1993) or area of operations of a county council (within the meaning of that Act), any electoral district under the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912, any school or any place or place within a class of places to which the provisions of this Act do not apply by virtue of the regulations.'</i>
Recorded name	Defined by the Act as <i>'the name of a place as it appears on a Lands Department map or, where the name of a place appears differently on two or more such maps, the name of that place as it appears on whichever of those maps was published later than the other or others.'</i>
Road / Road Naming Authority	Road and Road Naming Authority are defined under the <i>Roads Act 1993</i> and summarised in section 5.3 of the <i>NSW Address policy</i>
Secretariat	GNB secretariat appointed in accordance with section 4 of the Act
Spatial Services	A division of the Department of Finance, Service and Innovation (DFSI). Spatial Services is the government body responsible for the implementation of the Geographical Names Act.

## 4 Introduction

Consistent use of accurate place names is an essential element of effective communication worldwide, and supports socio-economic development, conservation and national infrastructure. (Permanent Committee on Place Names)

Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, Spatial Services and the GNB have statutory responsibility to establish, update, preserve and publicise place naming in New South Wales.

The *Geographical Names Act 1966* recognises the importance of unambiguous and official place names. Place names reflect the relationship between people and place and create a link that forms the basis for communication, location and addressing. Clear and unambiguous place names are essential for emergency services, postal and service delivery as well as professional and personal navigation.

The GNB is committed to recognising our Aboriginal cultural heritage by registering place names given by Aboriginal people so that they can be assigned as geographical names alone or used alongside existing non-Aboriginal names.

The GNB is committed to open and transparent practices and procedures in the selection of place names. This document brings together the policies adopted by the GNB and enables all interested parties to understand why specific names are selected.

The policies detailed in this document are consistent with national and international policies, guidelines and practices.

## 5 Legislation and Authority

As set out in the *Geographical Names Act 1966* (Section 5), the GNB has the following powers and functions:

- assign names to places
- approve that a recorded name of a place shall be its geographical name
- alter a recorded name or a geographical name
- determine whether the use of a recorded name or a geographical name shall be discontinued
- adopt rules of orthography, nomenclature and pronunciation with respect to geographical names
- investigate and determine the form, spelling, meaning, pronunciation, origin and history of any geographical name
- the application of any geographical name with regard to position, extent or otherwise
- compile and maintain a vocabulary of Aboriginal words used or suitable for use in geographical names and to record their meaning and origin
- compile and maintain a dictionary of geographical names with a record of their form, spelling, meaning, pronunciation, origin and history
- publish a gazetteer of geographical names
- inquire into and make recommendations on any matters relating to the names of places referred to it by the Minister

The GNB may compile, maintain and publish a list of road names.

## 6 Policy – Universal Naming Principles

The following principles shall apply for all new geographical names in New South Wales.

### 6.1 Language

- 1 Geographical names shall be written in standard Australian English or a recognised format of an Australian Aboriginal language local to the area of the geographical name.
- 2 Diacritical marks (symbols such as ´ in é, ¸ in ç or : in ö) are not used in Australian English names, and shall be omitted from names drawn from languages that use such marks.
- 3 Geographical names shall be easy to pronounce, spell and write, and preferably not exceed three words (including any designated term) 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.
- 4 The following types of punctuation as used in Australian English shall not be included as part of a geographical name: period (.), comma (,), colon (:), semi-colon (;), quotation marks (“ ”), exclamation mark (!), question mark (?), ellipsis (...), hyphen (-), solidus (/) and parenthesis (()). For surnames or other names that include a hyphen, the hyphen shall be omitted when used for a geographical name.
- 5 An apostrophe mark shall not be included in geographical names written with a final ‘s’, and the possessive ‘s shall not be included e.g. Georges River not George’s River. Apostrophes forming part of an eponymous name shall be included (e.g. O’Connell Plains).
- 6 A geographical name shall not include a preposition e.g. Avenue of the Allies.
- 7 Geographical names shall not include the definite article (the) as the sole name element of a place name e.g. The Reserve is not acceptable.
- 8 A geographical name shall not be abbreviated or contain an abbreviation, initial or acronym e.g. Point, not Pt except that St shall be used for Saint. An exception may be where an abbreviation may have become widely accepted by the community. Eg CWA for Country Women’s Association.
- 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.
- 10 A geographical name shall not include Arabic numerals e.g. 3 or 4th or Roman numerals e.g. IV or X. Where numbers are included in a geographical name they shall be written in full e.g. Fourth Top Ridge, Eleven Mile Creek.
- 11 A geographical name shall not include initials e.g. A F Wyatt Reserve.
- 12 The spelling of geographical names derived from the same source shall be uniform in spelling. e.g. Mount Kosciuszko is now spelt with z to be consistent with original spelling.
- 13 Postnominals and titles shall not be included in geographical names.e.g John Smith not John Smith AO. An exception is the use of ‘VC’.

### Justification

The principles identified above ensure consistency thereby reducing the potential for confusion. These principles are consistently applied throughout Australia and commonly adopted internationally. They also facilitate reliable electronic searching essential for navigation systems, service delivery and public safety.

## 6.2 Form and Character of Names

Place names shall be recognisable words or acceptable combinations of words and shall be appropriate to community sensitivities.

Discriminatory or derogatory names are not acceptable. Such names are those perceived, at a given point in time, to be offensive, demeaning, or harmful to the reputation of individuals, or to social, ethnic, religious or other groups. It is recognised that the perception of 'discriminatory' or 'derogatory' may vary through time and from place to place. In response to requests from the public, the GNB will investigate the appropriate status of any names deemed to be discriminatory or derogatory.

Commercial and business names shall not be used for geographical names, particularly where the name can be construed to be promoting a business. However, business names no longer in use which promote the heritage of an area are acceptable.

Use of club, society, association or special interest group names is discouraged. Such association may change their focus or for some reason lose community support. Community based associations, particularly those philanthropic associations, may be acceptable (eg Rotary, Lions, Apex).

## 7 Policy - Commemorative Names

Commemorative names are those that commemorate a person, event or place. Acts of bravery, community service and exceptional accomplishments are typical grounds for this recognition. The name of persons who gave their lives in service for their country are often used as commemorative names.

The person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the area around the geographic feature or locality.

When such a name is applied, it shall be given posthumously, at least one year after the decease of the person. Names of living persons are by their nature subject to partisan perception and changes in community judgement and acceptance.

Commemorative names shall not be used to commemorate victims of, or mark the location of, accidents or tragedies. Ownership of land is not in itself grounds for the application of an owner's name. Names of persons holding public office shall not be used.

Personal names, including those of persons still living, may be used for built features e.g. pavilions and grandstands etc., however these features are not formally assigned by the GNB and are not covered by the Act.

### 7.1 Personal Names

The names of deceased persons are suitable for the naming of reserves. Such persons shall have had a long term association with the area, or have made a significant contribution to the area of the proposed park or reserve. To assist local governments in determining the suitability of a name the GNB offers the following guidelines regarding association or contribution:

- Two or more terms of office on the governing local government council.
- Twenty or more years association with a local community group or service club.
- Twenty or more years of association or service with a local or state government or organisation.
- Action by an individual to protect, restore, enhance or maintain an area that produces substantial long term improvements for the community.
- The death of a person within a place is not solely to be considered sufficient justification for commemoration.
- Local residents of note.



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## Justification

Using the name of a living person is unacceptable (nationally and internationally) as it may lead to favouritism and/or inappropriate naming. There are examples where people commemorated have later proven to be of poor character or otherwise thought to be unworthy.

# 8 Policy - Duplication of names

## 8.1 Duplication of place names

In accordance with the NSW Addressing User Manual (6.8.1 Uniqueness, Duplication), no new locality name shall be duplicated within NSW or any other state or territory in Australia.

Duplication includes identical or similar spelling and/or pronunciation.

## 8.2 Place names other than localities

Uniqueness is the most essential quality to be sought in proposing a new place name. Duplication should be avoided wherever possible, but new place names may be duplicated provided there is no duplication of the name within the local government or adjoining local government.

Place names with a different designation value are not considered to be duplications. For example, Jenolan River and Jenolan Caves are acceptable.

The GNB encourages efforts by local governments to change or modify duplicate names wherever ambiguity or confusion is likely to occur. Such name changes should be coordinated with the GNB.

## Justification

The purpose of place names is primarily to provide unambiguous direction and reference to identify geographical entities. Duplication of locality names is to be avoided because of the confusion this will cause, particularly in the dispatch of emergency services, which is now often coordinated from call centres. Duplication of locality names used for addressing purposes can result in delays in arrival of essential services.

Duplication can also cause personal difficulties such as failed parcel and service delivery and difficulty for tourists and visitors.

Where duplication occurs inter State or Territory, the respective authorities should liaise in order to attempt to arrive at an acceptable solution.

## 9 Policy – Place Naming Process

### 9.1 General

This policy is for the application of place names within the territories and waters of New South Wales including reserves under the management of local government.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Services has a separate policy for the naming of national parks under its management.

- All proposals for place naming shall conform to the GNB's Naming Principles.
- All place name proposals shall include a map or diagram clearly defining the extent of the feature proposed to be named.
- Proposals for place naming shall be submitted to the GNB for consideration and formalisation process.
- Private ownership of the land on which a geographical or physical feature is located does not confer any naming right to the land owner or manager. This is also true in respect to land under the various forms of public management, including national parks and reserves.
- Place names (excluding localities) shall not be duplicated within the same LGA or locality or in an adjoining LGA or locality.

### 9.2 Selection of names

- Aboriginal names are encouraged as the name to be used for any feature that currently does not have a name recognised by the GNB.
- Names acknowledging the multicultural nature of NSW are encouraged.
- Names associated with the heritage of an area are encouraged, especially the names of early explorers, settlers, naturalists, events.
- A name suggested for any place that owes its origin to the peculiarity of the topographic feature designated such as shape, vegetation, animal life etc. may be accepted.
- Gender diversity in names is encouraged.
- The multiplication of names for different parts of the same topographical feature such as a stream or mountain range shall be avoided, and the one name applied to a stream or mountain range throughout its entire length. However, an Aboriginal name may apply to a limited section of a feature.
- The naming of forks, arms and branches of a river as North Branch and South Branch is not supported. Unique names shall be assigned to river branches.
- When a choice is offered between two or more names for the same place, locality or feature, all supported by local usage, the GNB may adopt one of such names as is considered appropriate in accordance with its principles and policies.
- The use of cardinal points of the compass as a prefix or suffix to an existing name shall not be used.
- The changing of long established place names is to be avoided except where necessary to avoid ambiguity or duplication.
- The GNB may approve a first or given name as part of a geographical name only where it is necessary to appropriately honour the person referred to or where it is necessary to avoid ambiguity.

## 9.3 Changing names

Where names have been changed or corrupted by long established local usage, it is not usually advisable to attempt to restore the original. Changes are discouraged unless the change has been deemed to be in the public interest or for safety reasons. Changing well established names can lead to address or location confusion, especially to electronic navigation services.

## 9.4 Correct designation values

The GNB has compiled a Glossary of Designation Values in the Geographical Names Register in order to assist in determining the correct designator to be applied to place names at the time of naming.

New names proposed for place names shall include the designation value appropriate to the nature of the feature.

The Glossary of Designation Values is attached as Appendix A.

## 9.5 Council resolutions to identify community support

When Council submit a naming proposal, it should be supported by a Council resolution. Council should also supply evidence that they have sought community feedback on the proposal. This could include advertising and inviting comment using:

- Local newspapers.
- Relevant web site.
- Local council facilities (eg offices, libraries etc).
- Notices to residents in the area surrounding the feature of the proposed name.
- Notices to local progress associations.

## 9.6 Naming of Cross Border Features

The name for any feature that crosses the State boundary shall be the same on both sides of that boundary. The basis for the selection of a name for such a feature should be the consensus between relevant authorities. Primary responsibility for obtaining consensus should rest with the authority within which the majority of the feature is located. Any matters regarding naming or renaming of features that cross the state border shall be referred to the Cross Border Commission.

## 9.7 Referring names to Local Government

Where a submission proposing a name is received by the Secretariat, that submission must be referred to the relevant Local Government and the submitter notified of this action.

## 9.8 Generic reserve names

The GNB has classified a number of reserve names as “generic”, and when one of these names is proposed it shall also include the name of the locality within which the reserve is located. For example, Volunteer Park is a generic name, and if this name is proposed in Muswellbrook, it shall be proposed as Muswellbrook Volunteer Park.

The following park names have been classified as “generic” by the GNB

ACACIA PARK	ANZAC PARK
APEX PARK	BI-CENTENARY PARK
BI-CENTENNIAL PARK	CENTENARY PARK
CENTENNIAL PARK	CENTRAL PARK
CIVIC PARK	GALLIPOLI PARK
HERITAGE PARK	JUBILEE PARK
KINGS PARK	LIONESS PARK
LIONS PARK	MEMORIAL PARK
OLYMPIC PARK	PEACE PARK
PIONEER PARK	PRESIDENT PARK
PRINCE PARK	PRINCESS PARK
QUEENS PARK	QUOTA PARK
REMEMBRANCE PARK	RIVERSIDE PARK
ROTARY PARK	SESQUI CENTENARY PARK
SESQUI CENTENNIAL PARK	VOLUNTEER PARK
WAR MEMORIAL PARK	

## 9.9 Use of the name Anzac

The use of the name Anzac is protected by Commonwealth regulations, and may only be used for the naming of a road or park in which, there is situated a public memorial relating to the war which commenced on the fourth day of August 1914, or the war which commenced on the third day of September 1939. (Commonwealth ‘Protection of the word ‘Anzac’ regulation.’)

## 9.10 Naming of facilities within reserves

Facilities within an officially assigned reserve, such as a pavilion, grandstand, garden, buildings etc. may also be named according to this policy, but do not require the formal approval of the GNB. However, the GNB shall be notified of such names to ensure the name, position and origin is recorded in the Spatial Services’ Digital Topographic Database and the name shown on maps, where relevant.

## 9.11 Renaming of reserves

Names chosen for reserves are expected to be enduring, and the renaming of these features is confusing and disruptive and is discouraged. If the renaming of a reserve is proposed, evidence of community support for the name change must be provided. The GNB will then evaluate the merits of the proposal before making a decision.

## 9.12 Naming of properties and homesteads

The GNB does not officially assign names of properties or homesteads. However names of properties and homesteads may be recorded in the NSW Digital Topographical Database (DTDB).

# 10 Policy – Recognition and use of Aboriginal names

## 10.1 Background

The names we give to places convey their significance through a sense of history, identity and connection between people and a place. The land is seamless with spirituality and identity for Aboriginal people. A key manifestation of this connection are the names given to features on the land that relate to the ancestors, histories, law and lore of its people.

For Aboriginal people connection with 'Country' is intrinsically connected to identity. Country is the area where an Aboriginal community is connected by language, cultural practices and long held relationships between people and the land. Countries are said to own people whereas for non-Aboriginal people land is owned through a range of legal titles. Country and people are inseparable for Aboriginal communities.

This policy is designed to encourage and promote recognition of Aboriginal place names and to foster the more frequent and official use of these names, particularly for places where the names have not been assigned as geographical names. The policy also provides, where it is possible, for the reinstatement of an Aboriginal place name through the dual naming process.

The NSW Government is committed to continuing the recognition of our Aboriginal cultural heritage by registering the original place names used by Aboriginal people to identify geographical features. Where a feature is identified by a non-Aboriginal name and that name is well established, an Aboriginal name put forward for the feature can be assigned as a dual name and sit alongside the existing non-Aboriginal name.

The GNB prefers the use of Aboriginal names for geographical features. Where a feature currently has a non-Aboriginal name, it may be considered for a dual name provided that documentary or oral evidence of the Aboriginal name is provided.

## 10.2 Recognition and use of Aboriginal names

- Aboriginal place names are preferred for the name of any place that does not have an assigned geographical name.
- Prior to submitting an Aboriginal name for consideration by the GNB, the proponent shall consult the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal communities on all matters concerning Aboriginal place names occurring in their area of current occupation and traditional association, in line with self-determination policies. This includes any proposals to assign new names, alter spellings of existing names or assign dual names. The GNB will not accept a name nominated by a Local Government Council unless the nomination has been endorsed by the local Aboriginal Land Council.

- Aboriginal place names which have been assigned as geographical names shall not be amended in form, spelling, extent or position without the consent of the relevant Aboriginal Land Council or community.
- A dual naming system may be used for the naming of a physical and environmental place[s] of significance to the local Aboriginal Land Council or Community when a non-Aboriginal assigned geographical name already exists. Dual naming shall not apply to localities, towns or roads.
- A dual name can only be assigned where there is plausible historical evidence in the form of documentary or oral sources, that the feature has an existing Aboriginal name and that some authority or authenticity can be attributed to the source or sources for the form, origin, spelling, history and meaning of the name. The name cannot be a new name assigned for the purpose of a tribute etc.
- Signs or notices explaining the origins of Aboriginal place names should also identify the name of the language group from which the name originated. For example, the name '... '... means '.....' from the '...' Aboriginal language group.
- The GNB endorses and supports the Permanent Committee on Place Names "Guidelines for the Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Names" which is included in the PCPN's "Guidelines for the Consistent Use of Place Names".
- The GNB does not have a role in the determining naming, spelling or determination of boundaries of Aboriginal Countries or Nations.

## 11 Policy - Infrastructure

### 11.1 Railway Stations

Railway stations shall be named after its locality or area of interest unless to do so would lead to a duplicated station name. In these cases a name that identifies the area or location of the station should be used. For example Town Hall Station and Martin Place Station are situated in Sydney where multiple stations are in one locality.

#### Justification

Railway station names assist in location and navigation and are particularly important for visitors and other travellers.

### 11.2 Other infrastructure

The GNB does not have specific statutory responsibility for formally naming infrastructure (other than Railway Stations and Post Offices), schools, private estate names or building names.

Nevertheless, naming any prominent feature should follow the accepted practice for naming as detailed in this policy.

#### Justification

Infrastructure such as buildings and sporting facilities are generally not used for addressing purposes however there is a high likelihood that they may be used for location including emergency services. Unique names for all infrastructure will assist in ensuring their location for emergency services.

## 11.3 Bridge Naming

The GNB does not name bridges, however, it encourages all bridge naming to follow the guidelines as set out in this policy.

The naming of bridges and other structures on roads does not have a formal legislative basis. However, the same procedures for road naming applies to bridges and other road infrastructure:

- RMS is responsible for the naming of bridges and other structures on freeways.
- Local councils initiate the naming of bridges on local, regional and state roads (other than freeways). RMS to approve these proposals.

RMS will approve a naming proposal for a bridge or structure provided that:

- The name has wide community support.
- An Aboriginal name has the support of local Aboriginal groups.
- Consideration has been given to National and State commemorative initiatives involving the naming of new of key road infrastructure.
- The name is consistent with GNB place name criteria.
- The design of the name plaque accords with RMS requirements.

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[http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro\\_pol\\_pro.pdf](http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro_pol_pro.pdf)

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# Appendix A



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# FACT SHEET

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## Glossary of designation values in the Geographical Names Register

### **ABORIGINAL RESERVE**

Crown land set aside for Aborigines, where they may continue their traditional lifestyle away from the influence of white Australians and access to which is controlled by federal or state authorities or by Aboriginal Land Councils.

### **AERODROME**

All licensed aerodromes and government aerodromes maintained by the Federal Airports Corporation, other than those designated 'airports'.

### **AIRFIELD**

A landing or taking-off area for aircraft.

### **AIRPORT**

An aerodrome that handles regular schedules of passengers and freight.

### **AMPHITHEATRE**

Basin shaped hollow, particularly one having steep sides. Considerable variation in size.

### **ANABRANCH**

A distributary of an anastomosing river which links up with other distributaries and sometimes with the parent stream.

### **ARM**

A comparatively long, narrow and natural waterway extending from a larger body of water.

### **ARTESIAN BORE**

A hole bored perpendicularly into strata, producing a constant supply of water at the surface without pumping.

### **BACKWATER**

A body of stagnant water connected to a river.

### **BASIN**

1. The tract of country drained by a river and its tributaries, or which drains into a particular lake or area.
2. A circumscribed formation in which the strata dip inward from all sides to the centre; the stratified deposit, especially of coal, lying in such a depression.

3. An area of water limited in extent and nearly enclosed by structures alongside which vessels can lie. A non-tidal basin is one closed by caisson of gates to shut off from open water, so that a constant level of water can be maintained in it. Also called a 'wet dock'. A tidal basin is one without gates in which the level of the water rises and falls with the tide. Sometimes called an 'Open Basin'.

### **BAY**

A well-marked indentation made by the sea or a lake into a coastline, whose penetration is in such proportion to the width of its mouth as to contain land locked waters and constitutes more than a mere curvature of the coast.

### **BEACH**

The sloping shore along a body of water that is periodically washed by waves or tides and is usually covered with sand or gravel.

### **BIGHT**

A crescent-shaped indentation in the coastline usually of large extent and not more than a 90 degree sector of a circle. See 'Bay' and 'Gulf'.

### **BILLABONG**

An efflux from a stream, usually an old bend in the stream, which has been cut off by erosion and deposition. When the fall of a stream is only a few centimetres per kilometre channel is usually incapable of clearing flood waters, which overflow into this efflux. As the water recede the efflux or billabong becomes a pool or a series of pools, which in dry periods may completely dry up.

### **BLUFF**

A spur or ridge terminating in a steep, rocky face.

### **BORE**

A deep vertical hole of a small diameter drilled to obtain water. Designation includes 'Artesian Bore'.

**BOUNDARY**

That which serves to indicate the limits of a particular area. Various types of boundaries which may be encountered are:

1. UNCLASSIFIED BOUNDARIES; those drawn by the compiler prior to classification to delineate a change in surface characteristics.
2. INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES; those defining the territorial sovereignty of a country.
3. STATE OR TERRITORY BOUNDARIES; those defining the major administrative or political divisions within a country.
4. ADMINISTRATIVE AREA BOUNDARIES; those defining areas of common local or regional administration.
5. PROHIBITED AREA BOUNDARIES; those defining the limits of an area into which entry is prohibited, without prior permission from a controlling authority, for security or safety reasons.

**BREAKWATER**

A natural or artificial structure along a coast capable of checking the force of the waves, thereby reducing beach erosion. The designation includes 'groyne', 'training wall' and 'levee'. The latter two are to restrict rivers to a defined course.

**BROOK**

A small stream or rivulet.

**BUTTE**

A small residual of a mesa. The level top being the upper surface of the hard stratum but little lowered by erosion. The slopes on all sides are escarpments and its maximum horizontal dimension in any one direction is about 400 metres.

**BUTTRESS**

A very steep spur projecting from a hill, mountain, plateau, range etc., having the appearance of supporting it.

**CAMP**

A place where tents, cabins, etc. are erected for the use of military troops, etc.

**CANAL**

A large artificial watercourse used for irrigation or navigation.

**CANYON**

A gorge, relatively narrow but of considerable size, bounded by steep slopes. It has often been formed by a river cutting through the soft rocks of an arid region; the scantiness of the rainfall prevents denudation of the canyon walls, and so maintains their steepness. The walls of a large canyon, however, rarely approach the vertical, and their irregularity of slope is due to inequalities in the hardness of the rock.

**CAPE**

A piece of land jutting into the sea; a projecting headland or promontory.

**CATCHMENT AREA**

The region which drains all the rain water that falls on it, apart from that removed by evaporation, into a river or stream, which then carries the water into the sea or a lake; it may thus coincide with the 'River Basin'. Its boundary is defined by the ridge beyond which water flows in the opposite direction - away from the basin.

**CAUSEWAY**

A raised roadway of solid structure built across low or wet ground or across a stretch of water.

**CAVE**

A hollowed-out chamber in the earth, especially a natural cavity with an opening to the surface.

**CEMETERY**

A place or area for burying the dead.

**CHANNEL**

1. An artificial watercourse used for drainage or irrigation purposes.
2. A comparatively deep and narrow waterway affording a passage for vessels. The waterway may be natural or dredged and can occur in a river, harbour or sea.

**CHASM**

A particularly narrow portion of a gorge or ravine where the width is notably exceeded by the depth and the sides are vertical or nearly so.

**CITY**

A centre of population, commerce and culture with all essential services; a town of significant size and importance, generally accorded the legal right to call itself a city under, either, the Local Government Act, the Crown Lands Act or other instruments put in place by government.

**CIVIC PLACE**

A pedestrian area or open space, especially a square or plaza, within an urban environment which is frequented by citizens for a variety of purposes including public activities. It may be a place of commemoration. It does not include areas specifically created for commercial or business purposes. It is not to be used in an official address.

**CLEARING**

An area of ground within a forest, where less than 15% of the ground is covered by trees or scrub. Clearings within areas of dense vegetation may be manmade or naturally occurring.

**CLIFF**

A perpendicular or steep face of rock considerable in height, either inland or along the coast.

**COLLEGE**

An establishment for technical or vocational education usually post secondary.

**COMMON**

A tract of land which belongs to the local community as a whole, and is open to common use.

**COUNTY**

Territorial division of the state for administrative purposes.

**COVE**

A small indentation in a coast, usually sheltered.

**COWAL**

A small lake or dam.

**CRATER**

A bowl shaped cavity, in particular, at the summit or on the side of a volcano. And from which smoke and steam may emanate if the volcano is active. Craters of extinct volcanoes may contain crater lakes. The word crater is applied to other depressions especially those caused by the fall of large meteorites onto the earth's surface. Volcanic craters are sometimes called calders.

**CREEK**

A natural watercourse that is usually a tributary of a river or another creek. It may be perennial or non-perennial and in some areas its course may become indefinite or even peter out.

**CROSSING**

A place where a street, railway, stream, etc., may be crossed.

**CUTTING**

An open excavation through high ground, generally for a transportation system.

**DAM**

1. A barrier built across a stream to impound its water for any purpose.
2. An earthen structure built to contain water for stock purposes.

**DEPRESSION**

A depressed or sunken place.

**DESERT**

An almost barren tract of land in which precipitation is so scanty or spasmodic that it will not adequately support vegetation.

**DIP**

A place for controlling ticks on cattle.

**DISTRICT**

1. Territory marked off for special administrative purposes.

2. A tract of country, up to about 1600 sq. kms in area, distinguished by certain common characteristics, natural or cultural.

**DOCK**

An artificial structure in which ships are built or repaired.

**DRAIN**

A channel, man made or natural, by which liquid is drained or gradually carried away.

**DUNES**

Mounds or ridges of sand formed, either in a desert or along the sea coast, through transportation by the wind.

**ESCARPMENT**

A more or less continuous line of cliffs or steep slopes terminating any generally level upland surface, and is due to erosion or faulting.

**ESTUARY**

The tidal mouth of a river, where the tide meets the current of fresh water; more commonly, an arm of the sea at the lower end of a river.

**FALLS**

A sudden, more or less perpendicular, descent of water over a natural step in the bed of a river or stream.

**FAULT**

A fracture in the earth's crust along which movement has taken place, and where the rock strata on the two sides therefore do not match.

**FLAT**

A relatively level piece of ground within an area of greater relief; a tract of country without hills and smaller than a plain. In river valleys they may be Valley or River Flats, along the foreshores and subject to tidal action they are Tidal Flats and according to the nature of the surface they may be Mud, Stony or Sandy Flats.

**FLORA RESERVE**

Crown land set aside for the protection of flora, and access to which is controlled by federal or state authorities.

**FORD**

The shallow part of a stream or other body of water, where it may be crossed by vehicle or by wading. The crossing may be natural or improved, but not by bridging.

**FOREST**

An area of land proclaimed to be a forest under a Forest Act.

**GAOL**

A place for the confinement of persons convicted and sentenced to imprisonment or of persons awaiting trial.

**GAP**

A low point or opening between hills or mountains or in a ridge or mountain range.

**GLEN**

A narrow, wooded valley with a stream flowing at its bottom. Its sides being generally steep.

**GOLF COURSE**

An area of ground laid out for the playing of golf.

**GORGE**

A valley deep in proportion to its width, usually with precipitous or very steep sides. Generally a feature of some magnitude, relative to the surrounding base.

**GRADIENT**

A noteworthy gradient inclination or slope of the surface of the ground on the side or end of an elevated relief feature.

**GRAVEYARD**

A place for graves; a burial ground, esp. a small one or one in a churchyard.

**GULF**

Large valleys in mountain ranges OR an area of sea partly enclosed by land; usually of larger extent, and greater relative penetration than a bay, that is, Gulf of Carpentaria.

**GULLY**

A natural watercourse formed in the earth's surface, especially a hillside, by the action of water. It only carries water after rain and its sides are generally steep. Usually one of the smallest branches of a drainage system, and often associated with erosive action.

**HARBOUR**

A natural or artificially improved stretch of water where vessels can anchor or secure to buoys or alongside wharves etc and obtain protection from sea and swell. The protection may be afforded by natural features or by artificial works. The place may be provided with terminal and transfer facilities for loading and discharging cargo or passengers.

**HEAD**

A comparatively high promontory of land projecting into the sea with a steep face. An un-named head is usually described as a 'Headland' when a specific name is assigned, it becomes a 'Head'.

**HEADLAND**

A narrow area of land jutting out into a sea, lake, etc.

**HILL**

A small portion of the earth's surface elevated above its surroundings, of lower altitude than a mountain.

Generally its altitude is less than 300 metres above the surrounding country but this can change in areas of low relief.

**HILLOCK**

A small hill or mound.

**HISTORIC AREA**

An area or precinct containing no or minimum present activity, but which at one time was an area of recognised name and purpose.

**HISTORIC SITE**

A specific place or site which has at one time been the site of an event or purpose.

**HISTORICAL LOCALITY**

An area or precinct containing no or minimum present activity, but which at one time was an area of recognised name and purpose.

**HISTORICAL RECONSTRUCTION**

An area or precinct which at one time was an area of recognised name and purpose and has now been redeveloped to recognise its past.

**HOLE**

An area hollowed out in or an opening in the ground.

**INLET**

A narrow indentation in the coastline or in the lake or river by which the water penetrates into the land.

**ISLAND**

A piece of land usually completely surrounded by water.

**ISLET**

A comparatively small insular landmass. Smaller than an Island but larger than a Cay.

**KNOB**

Rounded projection from a surface.

**KNOLL**

A small rounded Hill.

**LAGOON**

An enclosed area of water separated from the open sea or from a stream by some more or less effective, but not complete, obstacle such as low sandbanks.

**LAKE**

An extensive sheet of fresh or saltwater, natural or artificial, enclosed or nearly enclosed by land. It may or may not have in and out-flowing water, and in dry areas may even dry up at times.

**LAKE BED**

The area of a lake which is under water or once was under water.

**LANDING PLACE**

The act of coming to land. A place of disembarkation.

**LANDMARK**

A prominent or well known object in or feature of a particular landscape. A boundary marker. A large continuous area of land, as opposed to seas or islands.

**LANDSCAPE FEATURE**

This designation is used for a feature of the landscape, whether natural or cultural, which does not fit comfortably in any other designation and the number (actual and expected) of such places in NSW does not warrant a specific separate designation.

**LIGHTHOUSE**

A distinctive structure on or off the Coast, exhibiting a major light designed to serve as an aid to navigation.

**LOCALITY**

A bounded area within the landscape that has a 'Rural' Character.

**LOCK**

A section of a canal or river that may be closed off by gates to control the water level and the raising and lowering of vessels that pass through it.

**LOOKOUT**

A natural scenic viewpoint on elevated ground. Works or structures within the immediate vicinity of the view point improving the safety, amenities or view may be evident.

**LOOP**

A railway branch line which leaves the main line and rejoins it after a short distance.

**MARINA**

A docking facility for yachts and other pleasure boats accessible for private patrons only.

**MARSHES**

Low poorly drained land that is sometimes flooded and often lies at the edge of lakes etc.

**MESA**

A flat table-like upland, which falls away steeply on all sides (escarpments). It is larger in area than a 'butte' but smaller than a 'plateau'.

**MONOLITHS**

Large block of stone or anything that resembles one in appearance, intractability, etc. A statue, obelisk, column, etc, cut from one block of stone, A large hollow foundation piece sunk as a caisson and filled with concrete.

**MOOR**

A tract of unenclosed ground, usually covered with heather, coarse grass, bracken, and moss.

**MOUNT**

A natural elevation of the earth's surface rising more or less abruptly from the surrounding level, and attaining an altitude which, relative to adjacent elevations, is impressive or notable. In general the elevation of a mountain is more than 300 metres from foot to summit, but this distinction is arbitrary. For reasons of euphony and local usage 'Mount' is usually used when the generic term precedes the specific term and 'Mountain' when it succeeds it.

**MOUNTAIN**

A large natural elevation of the earth's surface.

**MOUNTAIN LAKES**

A lake created by an extinct volcanic crater.

**MOUNTAIN PEAK**

A prominent point of a hill or mountain. The separately named summits on a range of hills or mountains.

**MOUNTAIN RANGE**

A series or line of mountain or hill ridges with or without peaks, in which the crests are relatively narrow. Its minimum length is about 16 kilometres.

**NAVAL ESTABLISHMENT**

An institution, pier or building specially designed and equipped for use by the Navy.

**NECK**

A narrow strip of land; peninsula or isthmus.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD**

The immediate environment; surroundings. A district where people live. The people in a particular area. Living or situated in and serving the needs of a local area.

**OBSERVATORY**

An institution or building specially designed and equipped for observing meteorological and astronomical phenomena. Any building or structure providing an extensive view of its surroundings.

**OCEAN**

A very large stretch of sea. The vast body of water on the surface of the globe that surrounds the land.

**PARISH**

Territorial division of the state for administrative purposes.

**PASS**

A depression or gap in a range of mountains or hills permitting easier passage from one side to the other.

**PASSAGE**

A comparatively deep and narrow waterway affording a passage for a vessel.

**PEAK**

A prominent point of a hill or mountain. The separately named summits on a range of hills or mountains.

**PENINSULA**

A piece of land almost surrounded by water, especially one connected with the mainland by only a narrow neck of land or isthmus.

**PICNIC AREA**

A location to which people bring food to be eaten in the open air.

**PINNACLE**

The highest point. A towering peak, as of a mountain.

**PIT**

A large usually deep opening in the ground.

**PLAIN**

A tract of country the general surface of which is comparatively flat or slightly undulating. In extent generally not less than 2,500 hectares and sparsely, if at all timbered.

**PLATEAU**

An elevated tract of comparatively flat or level land, having a large part of its total surface at or near the summit level. Its local relief may be very great in cases where it is cut by gorges, or it may have a small local relief like a plain in cases where erosion has not been severe. Its minimum horizontal dimension in any direction generally exceeds 1.6km.

**POINT**

A location, spot, or position. Point of land. A small promontory,

**POND**

A pool of still water, often artificially created.

**POOL**

A small body of still water, usually fresh. A deep part of a stream or river where the water runs very slowly.

**PORT**

A town or place alongside navigable water with facilities for the loading and unloading of ships.

**POST OFFICE**

A local office for receiving, distributing and transmitting mail, providing telecommunication services etc.

**POWER STATION**

An electrical generating station.

**PRISON**

A place to which persons are legally committed, either while awaiting trial or for punishment.

**PUBLIC WATERING PLACE**

An artificial waterhole.

**RACECOURSE**

A place which has been licensed by government for the holding of horse races.

**RAILWAY**

A permanent track composed of a line of parallel metal rails fixed to sleepers for transport of passengers and goods in trains.

**RAILWAY CUTTING**

An excavation in a piece of high land for a railway.

**RAILWAY LOOP**

A short branch off a railway track, often connected at both ends to the main track where trains can pass on a single line stretch of railway. In some cases freight may be handled at these sidings. This designation includes 'Railway Siding'.

**RAILWAY SIDING**

A short branch off a railway track, often connected at both ends to the main track where trains can pass on a single line stretch of railway. In some cases freight may be handled at these sidings. This designation includes 'Railway Loop'.

**RAILWAY STATION**

A structure beside a railway line with facilities for passengers and freight.

**RAMP**

An area set aside for the launching of small water craft, usually paved.

**RANGE**

A series or line of mountain or hill ridges with or without peaks, in which the crests are relatively narrow. Its minimum length is about 16 kilometres.

**RAPIDS**

Portions of a stream with accelerated current where it descends rapidly without a break in the slope of the bed sufficient to form a waterfall.

**RAVINE**

A deep narrow steep sided valley.

**REACH**

A comparatively straight part of a river or channel between two bends.

**REEF**

A ridge of rocks or coral lying near the surface of the sea, which may be visible at low tide, but is usually covered by water.

**REGION**

A region is a relatively large tract of land distinguished by certain common characteristics, natural or cultural. Natural unifying features could include same drainage basin, similar landforms, or climatic conditions, a special flora or fauna, or the like. Cultural determining features could include boundaries proclaimed for administrative purposes, common land use patterns etc.

**REGULATOR**

Any of various mechanisms or devices such as a governor valve, for controlling fluid flow, pressure, temperature, etc.

**RESEARCH STATION**

An institution, farm or building specially designed and equipped for carrying out agricultural research.

**RESERVE**

An area proclaimed to be a public reserve by government legislation.

**RESERVOIR**

An artificial lake or structure storing water for domestic or other uses.

**RIDGE**

A long and narrow stretch of elevated ground. It generally has a length less than 16 kilometres.

**RIFLE RANGE**

An area used for target practice with rifles.

**RIVER**

A major natural stream in a large catchment basin, carrying water to another river, a lake or the sea. Usually perennial, but not necessarily so in arid areas.

**RIVER BEND**

A curve in the course of a stream. This designation includes 'meander'.

**RIVER CROSSING**

A place where a river may be crossed.

**RIVER FLAT**

A relatively level piece of ground within an area of greater relief; a tract of country without hills and smaller than a plain, caused by the laying down of sediment by a river.

**RIVER MOUTH**

The area at which a river makes contact with the sea.

**RIVULET**

A small stream.

**ROAD BEND**

A bend in a road.

**ROADS**

An open way, usually surfaced with tarmac or concrete, providing passage from one place to another.

**ROADSTEAD**

An open anchorage for ships, which may be sufficiently sheltered to give protection from seas, usually by reefs, sandbanks, or islands.

**ROCK**

A prominent or isolated outcrop of rock, or even a single large stone. This designation includes 'boulder' 'crag' 'needle' 'pillar' and 'tor'.

**ROCK FACE**

An area of exposed rock, generally in a vertical position.

**RURAL PLACE**

A place, site or precinct in a rural landscape, generally of small extent, the name of which is in current use.

**SADDLE**

A col or pass or any land form recalling in shape a saddle.

**SANDBANK**

A bank of sand in a sea or river that may be exposed at low tide.

**SANDBAR**

A ridge of sand in a river or sea, built up by the action of tides, currents, etc, and often exposed at low tide.

**SANDHILL**

A mound, ridge or hill of drifted sand either in a desert or along a sea coast, formed by the action of wind.

**SANDRIDGE**

Sand drifts in long ridges tending parallel to and elongating in the direction of the prevailing winds.

**SCHOOL**

An establishment for primary or secondary education created by the Education Act.

**SCRUB**

A vegetation consisting of stunted trees, bushes, and other plants growing in an arid area. An area of arid land covered with such vegetation.

**SEA**

One of the divisions of the oceans, especially if partly enclosed by land.

**SHOAL**

A ridge of sand or of rocks just below the surface of the sea or of a river and therefore dangerous to navigation.

**SPORTSGROUND**

A reserve used for sporting fixtures.

**SPRING**

A flow of water issuing naturally out of the ground, either continuously or intermittently.

**SPUR**

A minor linear projection off a range, ridge, mountain, tableland, hill or plateau being generally not more than 2 kilometres in length and decreasing in altitude from the parent feature.

**STATE**

A major administrative or political division within a country.

**STATION**

A structure beside a railway line with facilities for passengers and freight.

**STEEPS**

The very steep and deep sides of a mountain or high plateau.

**STRAIT**

A comparatively narrow passage connecting two seas or two large bodies of water.

**STREAM**

Small river, brook. Any steady flow of water or other fluid.



**SUBURB**

A bounded area within the landscape that has an 'Urban' Character.

**SURF BREAK**

A permanent obstruction such as a reef, bombara, rock or sandbar which causes waves to break thus making conditions conducive to surfing.

**SWAMP**

A tract of land normally saturated with water, having little or no drainage and characterised by a growth of grass or reeds. This designation includes 'marsh'.

**SYPHON**

A tube/pipe placed with one end at a certain level in a body of water and the other in a body of water below this level.

**TABLELAND**

An elevated tract of land with a generally level surface of considerable extent, generally with a minimum area of 2,500 hectares.

**TANK**

An artificial waterhole forming a reservoir for rainwater and adjacent run-off.

**TERMINAL**

A reception or departure building at the terminus of a bus, sea or air transport route.

**TERRACE**

A level or nearly level strip of land, usually narrow and bordering the sea, a lake or river, lying between a slope upwards to hills on one side and a slope, often abrupt, downwards on the other.

**TOPS**

The top of a hill

**TOWER**

A tall usually square or circular structure, sometimes part of a larger building and usually built for a specific purpose.

**TOWN**

A commercial nucleus offering a wide range of services and a large number of shops, often several of the same type. Depending on size, the residential area can be relatively compact or (in addition) dispersed in clusters on the periphery.

**TRACK**

A formed and/or marked track that is used by people either walking, cycling or riding a horse. This designation includes 'trails'.

**TRAINING WALL**

See 'Breakwater'.

**TRIG. STATION**

A point on the ground, the geographic position of which has been determined by geodetic survey.

**TUNNEL**

An underground passageway, esp. one for trains or cars. Any passage through or under something.

**UNIVERSITY**

An institution of higher education having authority to award bachelor and higher degrees, usually having research facilities.

**URBAN LOCALITY**

Not now recommended, see 'Urban Place'.

**URBAN PLACE**

A place, site or precinct in an urban landscape, the name of which is in current use, but the limits of which have not been defined under the address locality program.

**URBAN VILLAGE**

A cohesive populated place in an urban landscape, which may provide a limited range of services to the local area.

**VALLEY**

Long depression in the land surface, usually containing a river, formed by erosion or by movements in the earth's crust. Any elongated depression resembling a valley.

**VILLAGE**

A cohesive populated place in a rural landscape, which may provide a limited range of services to the local area. Residential subdivisions are in urban lot sizes.

**WATER AERODROME**

All licenced aerodromes and government aerodromes maintained by the Federal Airports Corporation, other than those designated 'airports' which have landing facilities on water for sea planes etc.

**WATER FEATURE**

A feature within water.

**WATER SYPHON**

See 'Syphon'

**WATERFALL**

A sudden descent of water over a step in the bed of a stream, the fall being much steeper than in the designation 'rapids'. In place names frequently shortened to 'Fall' or 'Falls'. This designation includes 'cascade' and 'cataract'.

**WATERHOLE**

A natural hole or hollow containing water, often in the dry bed of an intermittent river.

**WEIR**

A barrier, erected across a stream to impound and raise the water level for the purpose of maintaining it at the level required for irrigation or navigation purposes.

**WELL**

A hole or pit dug in the ground to obtain water.

**WHARF**

A platform alongside of which ships may be secured for loading or unloading cargo or passengers. This designation includes 'pier', 'quay', 'jetty', and 'marina' for those marinas that only have public access.

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**Disclaimer**

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Geographical Names Board  
PO Box 143  
Bathurst NSW 2795  
T: 1800 025 700  
T: +61 2 6332 8214  
F: +61 2 6332 8217  
E: [ss-gnb@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ss-gnb@finance.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.gnb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au)