

# Road naming in NSW

The naming of roads in New South Wales is standardised to ensure that the process is transparent and easy-to-understand for regulatory bodies and members of the community. A consistent approach benefits emergency services, transport and goods delivery and provides opportunities for community consultation when naming roads.

In NSW, the Geographical Names Board (GNB) is required to be notified of all road naming proposals. The Surveyor General and/or the Registrar General can also object to any road naming proposal.

## How is a road named?

Road naming is legislated under the *Roads Act 1993*. This Act empowers the authority in charge of the road with the rights to name it. In the case of a state highway, for example, the relevant authority would be the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA). Local roads or streets would fall under the jurisdiction of the local council that administers the area.

When a road naming authority wishes to name an un-named road or rename a previously named road they must follow the process outlined in the Roads (General) Regulation 2000. This regulation requires the authority to:

- publish notice of its proposal in a local newspaper
- serve notice of its proposal on Australia Post, the Registrar General and Surveyor General (through the Department of Lands) and, in the case of a classified road, on the RTA.

This notice must state that written submissions on the proposed name may be made to the roads authority and must specify the address to which, and the date by which, any such submissions should be made. If, after consideration, the roads authority decides to proceed with the proposed name, the roads authority shall:

- publish notice of the new name in the NSW Government Gazette and in a local newspaper.

In the case of a road that is being named for the first time a brief description of the location of the road should be given

- inform Australia Post, the Registrar General, Surveyor General and, in the case of a classified road, the RTA of the new name, giving sufficient particulars to enable the road to be identified.

It is important to note that the roads authority may not proceed with a proposal to name or rename a road if Australia Post, the Registrar General and Surveyor General (through the Department of Lands) or the RTA (in the case of a classified road) objects to the name. However, the Minister for Roads may overturn this objection.

## How to notify the Registrar General and the Surveyor General

To streamline the process, road naming authorities need only inform one contact within NSW Government. This fulfils their requirements for notifying the Registrar General, Surveyor General and the GNB. This contact is:

Team Leader Regional Cadastre  
Information Sourcing  
Department of Lands  
PO Box 143  
Bathurst NSW 2795

## The objection process

The Registrar General or Surveyor General will only object to a proposal if it is deemed not to meet the *Guidelines for the naming of roads*, published by the GNB.

If a naming proposal does not meet these guidelines, the proposal will be referred to the GNB for determination, with the naming authority informed of this action. The GNB can either overturn the decision

or give a finding of non-concurrence, which would restrict the naming authority from gazetting this name.

If the authority still wants to proceed with the name after the GNB has made its decision, the matter will be referred to the Minister for Roads for determination.

## Legislation

The *Roads Act 1993* - Section 162 provides the authority for the naming of roads.

The Roads (General) Regulation 2000 (Government Gazette No 112) Part 2, Division 2 sets out the procedure to be observed when naming roads.

## For further advice or assistance

For further advice or assistance on road naming in NSW contact the GNB.

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Bathurst NSW 2795  
T 02 6332 8214  
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