

The Geographical Names Board of New South Wales (GNB) is the official body for naming and recording details of places and geographical names.

A place name is the most common way to identify your location or where you live. It connects people to a place. How we apply names is important for many reasons including emergency services, economic development, preserving history and creating community.


Place names need to reflect community

sensitivities, which can change over time. The subjective nature of the term “offensive” requires place names to be reviewed on an individual basis.


If a name is thought to be offensive, the GNB will work with the impacted community, local council and if regarding offensive nature towards Aboriginal people and/or the use of traditional language, Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) or Elders Group, to find a name that reflects the character and history of the local area.

## What to do if you find a place name offensive:


- 1



Work with your local Council, LALC/Elders Group (if applicable) and community to identify a new place name.
- 2





Council, LALC/Elders Group (if applicable) or the community submit the proposed name including confirmation of endorsement to the GNB.
- 3




GNB Secretariat reviews the submission against relevant policies and principles and prepares a report for the next Board meeting for consideration.
- 4


**GNB's possible options:**

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If rejected, GNB will contact the applicant and advise them to reconsider the submission.
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If deferred, GNB will seek further information.
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If supported, GNB Secretariat advertises the proposed name for public comment for one month.
- 5



If no objections are received, the name becomes official and the GNB updates the official NSW mapping database and Geographical Names Register.

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 If objections are received, they will be forwarded to relevant local council or government authority for comments. The Board will review submissions and either reject, alter or endorse the name. A report which sets out the grounds for the submissions is prepared for the Minister. If approved, it becomes the official geographical name and NSW mapping databases and the Geographical Names Register are updated.

The current NSW Place Naming Policy stipulates that proposed names considered offensive or likely to give offence will not be approved. The public consultation process undertaken prior to assigning any new place name in NSW ensures the community have an opportunity to provide their feedback.

### Useful links from [gnb.nsw.gov.au](http://gnb.nsw.gov.au):

[Place Naming Policy](#)

[Guidelines for the Determination of Place Names](#)

[Naming a place](#)