

## Place naming process

Consultation with the local Aboriginal community is important prior to making an application. This ensures that:

- the name is from the local language group
- the story behind the name is captured
- community supports the use of the name.

Once endorsement has been received, an application can be made.

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## What happens next?

- Once received, the application is considered by the Geographical Names Board
- If endorsed, it is advertised for public comment
- Any objections are reviewed
- Final decision is made

When made official, place names can be added to maps and the NSW Geographical Names Register which preserves the name and its story.

## More information

Further information about the NSW place naming policy and process can be found on [www.gnb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au)

Contact the Geographical Names Board Secretariat on:

(02) 6332 8214  
1800 025 700

[SS-GNB@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SS-GNB@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)

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# Reawakening Traditional Aboriginal Place Names



## Traditional Aboriginal place names

Many geographical features already have traditional names that have been used by the local Aboriginal community prior to European settlement.

Traditional place names can be officially recognised and recorded for a feature which enables the story and culture of the local Aboriginal community to be shared.

The GNB is committed to Aboriginal place naming and prefers the use of traditional Aboriginal place names for geographical features in NSW.

## What are the benefits

Aboriginal place naming is central to language revitalisation as it helps reawaken, preserve and grow Aboriginal languages in NSW and strengthens NSW First Peoples' connections with culture and identity.

Assigning a place name under the *Geographical Names Act 1966* does not impact other legislation or change rights or responsibilities.

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## Dual names

When a feature already has an official non-Aboriginal name, the traditional Aboriginal name can also be recognised officially by assigning it as a dual name. This means the feature has two names, an Aboriginal name and a non-Aboriginal name, each existing in their own right. For example, Mount Panorama/Wahluu.

Dual naming does not apply to towns, roads, localities or other administrative areas such as a reserve or state forest.



## What can be named

The Geographical Names Board can assign traditional Aboriginal place names for geographical features.

Examples of features that can be officially named include:

- rivers and creeks
- mountains, hills, peaks and valleys
- lakes, lagoons and swamps
- beaches, bays and islands
- ridges, points and peninsulas

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## What can't be named

The Geographical Names Board does not have the authority to name infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and buildings.

## Acknowledging traditional Aboriginal place names

If you want to officially assign a traditional Aboriginal place name you can contact the Geographical Names Board Secretariat who can provide advice and guidance on next steps.