



Principles for the Consistent Use of Place Names

includes
Principles for the Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names
and
Dual Naming Depiction Principles

**Australia and New Zealand
Working Group on Place Names**



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PRINCIPLES FOR THE CONSISTENT USE OF PLACE NAMES

1 *Introduction*

These principles cover the choice, form and application of place names in Australia.

Consistent use of accurate place names is an essential element of effective communication worldwide, and supports socio-economic development, conservation and national infrastructure. The United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names, meeting in Montreal in 1987, drew attention to the need for each member nation to formulate a set of Toponymic Guidelines. This document, which replaces the 'Toponymic Guidelines for Australia' of November 1995, is a response to that requirement. It has been prepared by the Australia and New Zealand Working Group on Place Names, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Committee for Surveying and Mapping, as a contribution to the Australian Spatial Data Structure Initiative.

Prior to the time of European settlement Australian geographical features, except for those in the external territories, have largely been named in one or more of the approximately 260 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages then spoken.

In the period of European exploration of the Australian coasts which extended from the 17th century through to the 19th century, names of coastal and near coastal features were applied in the European language of the discoverer or cartographer. From the beginning of European settlement in 1788, an English-based naming system has developed, creating place names from British or other European sources or from Indigenous words.

Although Australian English is acknowledged as the national language, the study of Australian indigenous languages is again gaining impetus. These Principles recognise the importance of these original sources of place names, both from the presently spoken languages and also from those languages no longer spoken. The spoken language in the External Territories is not necessarily Australian English. The respective lingua franca of a territory is used for nomenclature purposes.

On Federation, the States retained responsibility for naming features lying within their respective borders. The Commonwealth assumed responsibility for naming features lying within boundaries of the Internal and External Territories of the Commonwealth. These various responsibilities were generally exercised within a mapping or surveying agency of the respective government.

2 *Place Names Authorities*

Both Australia and New Zealand have developed legislative or regulatory procedures for the systematic approval and recording of place names. Within Australia, each State and Territory of the Commonwealth has such procedures. A number of other government agencies also have nomenclature responsibilities.

The principal nomenclature authorities are represented on the Australia and New Zealand Working Group on Place Names (WGPN), a standing committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM).

3 *Australia and New Zealand Working Group on Place Names*

This Committee was established in 1984 as the Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia (CGNA), for the coordination of place naming in Australia and New Zealand. WGPN is a permanent committee of ICSM, the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping. Its membership comprises the principal nomenclature authorities of those two countries, with a number of other members who have responsibilities for place names.

The following Principles, however, apply only to Australian nomenclature authorities. For New Zealand applications, reference should be made to the Land Information New Zealand document, 'Frameworks of the New Zealand Geographic Board': the document can be downloaded from

<https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/guide/frameworks-new-zealand-geographic-board-nga-pou-taunaha-o-aotearoa>

The Working Group's terms of reference are to:

- provide a framework for delivery of consistent place naming practices
- provide a framework for delivery of comprehensive place names products
- facilitate provision of expert advice to government and industry for effective decision making relating to place names
- facilitate preservation of the heritage and cultural significance of place names.

4 Principles

4.1 Official Language

In Australia, the national language is Australian English. In general, place naming practice must use the form, spelling and style of the official language. In particular cases, place naming practice should take account of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spoken languages and the various languages used in Australian External Territories.

4.2 Names Governed by Statutory or Administrative Authority

Authorities or agencies of Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Governments which, by legislation, regulation or administrative arrangement, have responsibility for naming particular or selected classes of geographical features, such as electoral districts or national parks, should liaise with the relevant State/Territory geographical/place names authority on the adoption of a name or liaise with such bodies to develop practices and processes that ensure the name selection is appropriate. These Principles should be observed by such authorities in the adoption of a name.

Authorities and agencies with naming rights should give due recognition to:-

- principles developed under international treaties and agreements;
- policies and principles developed and recorded by the Australia and New Zealand Working Group on Place Names; and
- policies and principles developed in their own area of responsibility to accord with local needs.

4.3 Official or Approved Names

The written form of a place name approved by a State or Territory nomenclature body is deemed to be an 'official' or 'approved' name. Full documentation of the approval process should include alternative names, covering Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, External Territory, historic English, French or Dutch names and other variant forms. The final decision needs to be documented for future references and reviews. Including 'recorded names' or unapproved names within a gazetteer database will remain the responsibility of each naming authority.

4.4 Feature Description and Identification

A decision on a geographical name proposal for a physical feature or administrative area should specify the extent to which the name applies. If the feature lies entirely within one State or Territory area, that State or Territory will decide how the feature is to be described.

4.5 Features which Cross State/Territory Boundaries

The name for any feature that crosses a State/Territory boundary should be the same on both sides of that boundary. The basis for the selection of a name for such a feature should be consensus between the relevant authorities and primary responsibility for obtaining consensus should rest with the authority in which the feature was first named. The relevant authorities should also ensure that a logical extent is determined for such features.

4.6 Personal and Commemorative Names

Naming often commemorates an event, a person or a place. If personal names are to be used for geographical features the person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the area where the feature is located. Ownership of the land should not in itself be grounds for the application of the owner's name to a geographical feature.

When a personal name is used, it should be applied only posthumously and generally only the surname should be used. Names of living persons are by their nature subject to partisan perception and change in community judgment and acceptance. For this reason they are not efficient or effective choices for official place names. Alternatives are to use commemorative plaques or naming a particular community facility such as a building or oval after the person to be commemorated.

Commemorating an event, person or place provides the community with meaning behind the name and links the name to the place. In all cases those seeking to commemorate should seek advice from individual jurisdictions as there are often jurisdictional guidelines which will provide further advice.

4.7 Form and Character of Names

Place names should be easy to pronounce, spell and write; simple, concise and preferably of 50 or fewer characters; recognisable words or combinations of words; and in all respects in accordance with community standards. Names from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages should be transcribed as accurately as possible to suggest a pronunciation as close to the Indigenous form as a speaker of Australian English can reasonably attain. Consideration should be given to the use of place names in diverse cultural situations: derogatory or discriminatory terms or terms in poor taste, likely to cause offence or names contrived to circumvent other parts of these principles should be avoided.

4.8 Use of Titles, Honorifics and Postnominals

Titles are added to the beginning of a person's name to signify respect, a hereditary entitlement, an official position or a professional/academic qualification. Letters or abbreviations after a person's name signifying that the individual holds a position, office or honour are known as postnominals. Neither titles nor postnominals should form part of an official place name.

4.9 Coastal Waters Hydrographic Features

The naming of water and seabed features within coastal waters of a State or Territory is the responsibility of that State or Territory. The respective Commonwealth Agency is responsible for naming low water features which lie in Commonwealth Internal Waters and in that part of the Territorial Sea seaward of the Coastal Waters. Australian States and Territories involved in the naming of features in Coastal Waters should liaise with the Australian Hydrographic Office.

4.10 Offshore Undersea Features

Low water or seabed features which lie outside the coastal waters of the State but within the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone or within the Exclusive Economic Zones of the External Territories and the Australian Antarctic Territory or within the area of the Australian continental shelf are to be named in accordance with the guidelines for the Standardization of Undersea Feature Names, promulgated by ICSM Resolution R00/11/06, May 2001 – *Limits of Oceans and Seas and Offshore Undersea Features*. In determining a naming proposal for an undersea feature, the International Hydrographic Organization / Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission publication *Standardization of Undersea Feature Names* (Guidelines Publication No. 6) is to be considered. This publication implements the recommendations given in the *Technical Resolutions of the International Hydrographic Organization* (IHO) section 4

(*Geographic Names*). Submissions on offshore undersea feature names should be forwarded to the Australian Hydrographic Office for coordination and submission to the Scientific Committee on Undersea Feature Names.

4.11 Limits of Oceans and Seas

The limits of oceans and seas adjacent to Australia, to its External Territories and to the Australian Antarctic Territory are published in the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) publication S-23 *Limits of Oceans and Seas*. The Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS), under the ICSM Resolution R00/11/06, May 2001 – *Limits of Oceans and Seas and Offshore Undersea Features*, has the responsibility of reviewing and maintaining the currency of features related to Australia in the publication through the IHO.

4.12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names

The use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names will be governed by the relevant Principles of the Australia and New Zealand Working Group on Place Names, which include:

- the need for consultation with groups within the community for input into the place naming process;
- the acceptance of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples' right to have input into the process of adopting approved place names;
- the recognition that traditional names exist;
- the recognition that multiple names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait origin, together with a European name, may exist for the one feature;
- the recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names may predate the arrival of Europeans in Australia;
- the equal status of oral recording of place names with that of documentation;
- the recognition that the use of some names will be subject to restrictions;
- consideration to be given to using Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander names for those features with an unrecorded name, in accordance with Resolution 22 'Aboriginal/native geographical names' of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1987;
- the need to comply with the written form of the indigenous language, where one exists, from which a name is drawn;
- the need for full consultation with bodies affected by place naming proposals.

A full statement of the Principles for the Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names is given in Appendix A.

4.13 Dual Naming

Dual or multiple naming of features, recognised in some States and Territories, is a legitimate means of recording feature names drawn from Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, European and other cultures. The Working Group's Dual Naming Depiction Principles are given in Appendix B.

4.14 Possessive Apostrophe

Since the eighteenth century, the –'s and –s' endings have been used on English nouns to show when they were possessive or to express association or affiliation. In place names, these forms are to be written without apostrophes, e.g. Howes Valley, Rushcutters Bay, Ladys Pass. This is to facilitate the consistent use of a single form in each case and to assist in the rapid retrieval of place names from emergency service databases, in the light of variable community usage and uncertainty as to whether the name

concerned is singular or plural. The Australian Government *Style Manual* (2002) notes that place names involving possessives are written without apostrophes, and commends the simplicity of this Australian convention.

4.15 Diacritical Marks

English language place names do not have diacritical marks. In the case of place names derived from languages other than English, any diacritical marks are not to be carried over to the English form.

4.16 Uniformity of Spelling

Associated names (such as Balgowlah and Balgowlah Heights), or names deriving from the same source (such as McLaren Flat and McLaren Vale), should generally have the same spelling (rather than for example Balgowlah and Balgowla Heights or McLaren Flat and Maclaren Vale).

4.17 Generic Terminology

The generic term is the part of a place name that indicates the type of feature designated, e.g. 'Creek' in Sandy Creek, 'Bay' in Botany Bay (where 'Sandy' and 'Botany' are, in contrast, the specific terms). Populated places do not normally include a generic as part of the toponym; but for other features the appropriate generic term should form part of the name. The prime reference for generic terms is the *CGNA Glossary of Generic Terms*. Geographical feature names of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin are generally to have such a generic, unless the combination of the generic term with the specific is thought to be inadvisable for cultural reasons.

4.18 Qualifying Terminology

Qualifying terms such as 'Upper', 'New' or their opposites, in addition to cardinal indicators, may be used in Australian place naming; however, more distinctive names are preferred.

4.19 Duplication

The purpose of place names is primarily to provide unambiguous direction and reference in order to identify geographical entities. Therefore duplication of place names is to be avoided because of the confusion this will cause, particularly in the dispatch of emergency services, now often coordinated from national call centres.

A place name is a duplicate if it is identical with, or similar to, another. The duplication may be present in the spelling of place names, or in their pronunciation, or in both. The similarity of multi-word place names should be assessed on the basis of the whole name rather than on one of the elements alone.

This principle applies to locality names, geographical feature names and road names:

- A proposed locality name should not duplicate any other locality name in Australia (AS/NZS 4819, 3.2.2). If a significant period of time is likely to elapse between initial consulting and the final registering of a locality name, the relevant naming jurisdiction should be advised so that the proposal may be recorded to avoid duplication by other States or Territories.
- Proposed names for geographic features should not duplicate existing names.
- Road names must not be duplicated within a locality; a road name with the same name element but different in type is not considered to be unique (AS/NZS 4819, 4.4.7).

4.20 Abbreviations

Standard international and national abbreviations are used in mapping and charting products. Abbreviations, however, are not to be included in the recording of place name generics: *Mount Kosciuszko*, not *Mt Kosciuszko*. Because *Mt* is a generally-accepted abbreviation of 'Mount', it may be used for addressing, mapping and general identification purposes.

4.21 Use of Numbers in Place Names

Numbers or roman numerals included as all or part of a place name should be written in full (e.g. Seven Mile Beach)

4.22 National Gazetteer

The Australian National Gazetteer is a digital file containing a subset of the place name data bases maintained by Australian place name authorities. The Australian National Gazetteer is updated periodically. Additional information will be available from the respective place name authority.

4.23 Exonyms

An exonym is a name used in a specific language for a place situated outside the area where the name has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the place is situated, e.g. Prague is an English exonym for Praha, Londres is a French exonym for London. There is no list of exonyms approved for use in Australia. In mapping overseas areas the United Nations List of Country Names is the authority for country names. For features within a country, the relevant place names authority should be the resource for the correct representation of place names from that country. Geographic names for features in international waters should conform to the names promulgated by the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Naming (SCUFN).

4.24 Road Names

For principles relating to road names and addressing issues, see Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4819:2011, 'Rural and urban addressing'.

4.25 Use of the Definite Article 'The'

Place names which begin with 'The...' (such as The Pinnacle and The Sailors Peak) are potentially confusing, since it will not be clear in general use whether *The* is truly part of the place name or merely a normal element in the grammar of the sentence. Place names with a leading *The* should therefore not be used, unless there are strong historical reasons for doing so.

4.26 Use of Hyphens

Hyphens may be used within place names which incorporate a hyphenated surname (Baden-Powell Waterhole). They may also be used in place names of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, where that language has a recognised writing system which uses hyphens. Hyphens should not otherwise be used.

4.27 Commercial Names

Terms that may be construed as advertising a commercial or industrial enterprise are to be avoided, in accord with UNGEGN Resolution 2012/4 which 'discourages the commercialisation of geographical features'.

4.28 Use of Protected and Restricted Words

Anzac: Legislation in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom has been enacted to protect the word 'Anzac'. *The Protection of Word 'Anzac' Regulations, 1921 (Australian Commonwealth)* safeguards the word "Anzac" and any word which resembles it, from inappropriate use. These regulations describe when use of the word 'Anzac' requires the authority of the Minister for Veterans Affairs, the uses that may be excluded from regulated requirements and its proper depiction of 'Anzac' and 'ANZAC'.

Bicentennial: Requests to use 'Bicentennial' as an official name or as part of a name previously required the written approval from the relevant Federal Minister responsible for the *Australian Bicentennial Authority Act 1980 (Commonwealth)*. This responsibility has been removed as a result of the act being repealed in 1999 by the Statute Stocktake Bill; however jurisdictions should review each request to use the term on a case by case basis to ensure it is being used decorously and in context.

Defence words and letters: *The Defence (prohibited words and letters) Regulations 1957 (Commonwealth)* regulate the use of any word, words or groups of letters relating to Australian military forces or any service or body of persons associated with the defence of the Commonwealth. Applications seeking the consent to use any word, words or groups of letters restricted by these regulations must be made in writing to the Minister of Defence.

APPENDIX A: Principles for the Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names

1. Background

The Dreaming is an Aboriginal philosophy that is the basis of Aboriginal culture and the core of both the spiritual and physical life of Aboriginal people.

It is a philosophy about the origins of the universe, including people, animals, landscape and social life. The fundamental theme of this philosophy is that people and the world in which they live, are all part of a continuing spiritual-physical relationship where both aspects of the philosophy co-exist and one cannot survive without the other.

The land is seen by Aboriginal people as the sacred centre piece of Aboriginal religion and its features are seen as icons within a vast natural cathedral continually occupied by Aboriginal people whose fundamental existence is the bond between the land, people and spirituality. An important aspect of this link is the names given to features on the land that relate to the ancestors, stories, song and dance.

The relationship between Aboriginal people and the land is still as prevalent today as it was more than 400 centuries ago - it is fitting then, to acknowledge Aboriginal footprints in the sands of time by preparing these principles which are designed to encourage Naming Authorities throughout Australia to recognise the validity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names and to assist in the more frequent and official use of these names particularly for unnamed features.

The only previous attempts to standardise the approach for the collection and use of Aboriginal names occurred following instructions by Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor-General of New South Wales between 1828 and 1852, and a proclamation during the same period by Governor Gawler, Governor of South Australia, aimed at promoting the recording of Aboriginal names for topographic features.

2. Introduction

The national policy Principles for the Use and Recording of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names have been developed in recognition of the continuing close relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the land, and how these relationships form the basis of an oral indigenous place names system.

The Policy is also cognisant of the concept of 'self-determination' and as such, it recognises the fundamental right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be involved in the decision-making processes of government particularly those related to official naming processes.

Notwithstanding the advice of anthropologists, linguists or those associated with nomenclature authorities, it must be recognised that the right to decide the use of names rests always with the indigenous people whose language or place names are being used for official naming purposes.

The Principles provide a unique opportunity to adopt a set of national standards for the collection and use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names. They will also create uniformity in the way that information is collected and used by State and Territory nomenclature authorities, and enhance the maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage in areas throughout Australia.

It is recognised that each State and Territory has a differing set of environmental and administrative circumstances in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names. Differences in legislation, community structures and physical circumstances require guideline to be broad enough to cater for the differences in circumstances in each State and Territory.

3. Objectives

The text in brackets forms a brief explanatory statement.

3.1 Main Objective

To ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names are recognised by all Australia as being part of Australian heritage and need to be preserved.

3.2 Secondary Objectives

- a. That the names of places as given by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people be recognised initially by place names authorities and ultimately by all Australians.
- b. That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names be preferred as the name to be used for any feature that does not have a name recognised by the relevant place name authority.
- c. That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities be consulted on all dealings concerning Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander place names in their areas of current occupation and traditional association, in line with self-determination policies. [This includes any proposals to assign new names, alter spellings, institute a dual naming system, etc].
- d. That the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies be used as a resource to assist in the development of a writing system for any specific language which does not have an existing system. [AIATSIS¹ can assist with advice regarding available sources, such as linguist/anthropologists who have worked with the language group, previous surveys etc].
- e. That Nomenclature authorities undertake when possible to educate the general community in the use and pronunciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names. [This can be started by the use of authorised names on maps, wide distribution of policies, taking opportunities to speak to appropriate and interested groups, various media releases etc., all of which can be very beneficial without the need to be involved in costly programs.]
- f. That nomenclature authorities be committed to the continuing development of appropriate procedures to facilitate the recording and use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names and State and Federal governments recognise the need to provide funding.
- g. That nomenclature authorities seek the involvement of other interested/concerned groups [e.g. land councils, local government authorities, language centres].

4. Principles

The Principles should be seen as a tool to assist State and Territory naming authorities to record and use the place names of Australia's indigenous people. A range of factors for consideration as part of recording and use of indigenous names, includes:

- Recognition
- Preferences
- Writing System
- Education
- Procedure

¹ Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

4.1 Recognition

- a. Any use of names of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin should be made following consultation and with appropriate recognition of the groups consulted.
- b. As part of any process for the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names, the concept of self-determination and its importance in contributing to placenames issues must be recognised.
- c. Recognition to be given to the use of traditional names for places and localities bearing an officially or recorded name from another source.
- d. Recognition that more than one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander place name may exist for any particular feature, both within a specific language group and from two or more language groups.
- e. Recognition that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names were in use prior to European occupation.
- f. Recognition that the oral recording of placenames in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture has equal standing with written recording.
- g. Recognition that some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names may be subject to restrictions that must be respected. (This may apply to some names in common usage which are of a very sensitive nature – either sacred or offensive. Names in this category may be revealed following the establishment of good relations between the communities and the nomenclature authorities, and should be negotiated on an individual basis).
- h. Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural expectation, particularly in respect of methods of community contact, community structures, and respect for community wishes.

4.2 Preferences

Preferential provisions in these Principles are designed to ensure that certain basic rules are incorporated into nomenclature authority procedures especially those relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names. As a guide the following rules concerning preferences have been developed:

- a. That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names be preferred for those features which do not have a name officially recognised by the nomenclature authority.
- b. That a preference be stated for the orthography of a place name to agree with the orthography (if one exists) of the language from which the place name originates.
- c. That there be no interference with established Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander place names without the consent of the relevant community. [This applies to names in any location].
- d. That during the development and after the adoption of policy and principles, there be an involvement of participants representing a diversity of interests, including local government bodies, national parks and wildlife services, heritage bodies, etc.
- e. Adjustments may be made to the spelling of place names in consultation with the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community if the current form is under threat of mispronunciation by the wider community or has been previously incorrectly represented.
- f. Appropriate follow-up be made with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to show the results of any specific fieldwork or project.
- g. Linguists should be consulted to maintain standards of excellence in written form.
- h. Authorisation is to be obtained from the relevant community for the use of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander name or word taken from any source in official naming. [This refers to the use of

names or words for new naming proposals, e.g. suburbs, conservation parks, etc. where the proposed use of the name or word may not be appropriate.]

- i. Questions of copyright/ownership of information collected during any fieldwork or investigation must be resolved prior to the survey or other activity being conducted.
- j. The wishes of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community must be respected in relation to names and related information associated with areas of land currently occupied or areas of traditional association.
- k. Consultation must try to meet the expectations of all involved parties; however, failing complete agreement, a consensus of opinion should be sought.

4.3 Writing System

There is obviously a clear difference between the official form of a place name for cartographic mapping and information science purposes, and the culturally/linguistic correct form of a word for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Nevertheless, the following rules have been developed to assist nomenclature authorities in clarifying these issues.

- a. Where a writing system already exists and is in use by the community, that system should be used as the basis for the correct spelling of place names by nomenclature authorities.
- b. Where no writing system exists, AIATSIS should be contacted as a reference source for the development of a writing system.
- c. Those researching languages that are no longer spoken will need to seek the assistance of a linguist to enable accurate renditions of the names to be determined.
- d. Names should be transcribed as accurately as possible to suggest a pronunciation as close to the Indigenous form as a speaker of Australian English may reasonably attain.
- e. English generic terms should be used to specify the type of feature involved, unless cultural reasons make this inadvisable.
- f. The language source of each place name is to be noted if known or if it can be determined.

4.4 Education

Education is seen as a crucial factor for increasing the awareness, knowledge, and correct pronunciation of names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, and in educating the wider community about the importance of place names to these cultures. As such, the following rules have been developed to assist nomenclature authorities in dealing with issues of education, raising awareness, and in improving correct spelling and pronunciation of indigenous place names, Nomenclature authorities should commit

- a. to undertake, where possible, an educative role in popularising correct spelling and pronunciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names;
- b. to undertake, with the Australia and New Zealand Working Group on Place Names (WGPN), an educative role to develop positive international perspectives of the use of indigenous names in Australia;
- c. to import a realisation that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names represent gifts from those cultures, the sharing of which imposes ethical obligations on the users. [This covers such areas as respect for restrictions, acknowledgement of sources, authorisation for use of names, etc];
- d. to create an awareness among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the importance of being able to preserve culture through place names, and to minimise the encroachment of new European names on the landscape, particularly for features of high cultural significance;

- e. to foster an understanding among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that these wishes will be respected;
- f. to educate nomenclature authority support staff in appropriate consultative mechanisms;
- g. to create an increased awareness among nomenclature authority staff of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language and culture.

4.5 Procedural

The use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names particularly for cartographic purposes will obviously require rules that would not overly conflict with established practices for mapping. The following rules have therefore been developed to assist nomenclature authorities in dealing with issues that may arise upon the consideration of the use of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander place names for official purposes.

- a. A dual naming system or use of alternative names may be used as a management and educative tool for naming physical and environmental features of significance to the local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community when an official name already exists and when a name change is not possible or acceptable.
- b. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander names or terms from one particular area are not to be applied to other areas for official naming purposes.
- c. Local historical and cultural information relating to the meaning and origin of the place names should be collected whenever possible.
- d. Previous relevant surveys by anthropologists, linguists, land councils, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional owners and others be used as a resource prior to any field work.
- e. Names and spellings may be changed to avoid duplication of names, to present a better vehicle for correct pronunciation and to provide for better local and regional culture retention.
- f. Roman characters should be used in preference to other syllabic forms.
- g. Where alternative spellings of a specific Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander name exists, only one official spelling should be used following consultation with the relevant community.
- h. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names are to be actively sought with the assistance of the State/Territory and Federal Governments.
- i. State/Territory authorities should co-operate in undertaking joint projects where Common State/Territory boundaries have no meaning to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and language.

5. Review

It is not proposed that this policy Principles document will constitute a fixed set of procedures and standards. It is, however, designed to establish rules to facilitate the collection and correct use of place names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Meaningful reviews of the Principles are recognised as being an integral part of ensuring that the aim and objectives of the Principles are being met and will continue to meet the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and nomenclature authorities.

It is expected that as nomenclature authorities commence programs to actively record and use Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander place names, there will be an on-going process of review and revision of these principles.

Experiences in South Australia and Western Australia relating to recording projects have raised issues which, at first glance, appear to be complex problems. However, these matters have been readily

resolved through processes of consultation with specific Aboriginal communities and individuals. A very important point is to ensure that the momentum is maintained, particularly now that interest has been generated among a significant number of concerned agencies and individuals.

6. *Implementation*

Each nomenclature authority will need to further examine these Principles to determine how they fit with current policy and practices within their respective States/Territories. Some of the Principles will already form part of the general policy in use by State/Territory nomenclature organisations. The Principles should be organised by nomenclature authorities in a procedural sense to suit the methodologies currently in place in each State/Territory.

As refinements and additions to these Principles occur, new changes will be dealt with by the Australia and New Zealand Working Group on Place Names and formal notification of changes to the Principles will be distributed to State and Territory nomenclature authorities for discussion and adoption.

APPENDIX B: Dual Naming Depiction Principles

1 *Order of Names*

In Australia, whichever of the two names of the same feature that is most likely to be used by the local community is to be used first in a sequence [Refer *Appendix A*, §4.5]. The sequence of the name should be reviewed at regular intervals. If a visual separator is required, it shall be a solidus preceded and followed by a space ‘ . / . ’.

In New Zealand, the contemporary practice is to use the original Māori name as the preceding name (i.e. in recognition of the rights of first discovery), followed by a solidus ‘ . / . ’ and then the non-Māori name. Other forms of dual names are considered on a case by case basis.

2 *Style*

Both the indigenous part and the introduced part of the dual name shall be in the same font, font type, font size, font style and colour.

3 *Jurisdiction*

The naming authority shall direct mapping agencies on the naming sequence.

4 *Cartographic Practice*

Both parts of the dual name shall be shown on official maps such as topographic maps and hydrographic charts.