

**POLICY TITLE:** Dual naming and/or re-naming of Council Facilities

**FOLDER NUMBER:**

**POLICY OWNER / DIVISION:** Community and Environment

**POLICY OWNER / BRANCH:** Library and Community Services

**FUNCTION:** Community Services

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

**POLICY ADOPTION/AMENDMENT DATE:**

**REPORT NUMBER:**

**REVIEW YEAR:**

**RELATED POLICIES:**

**DEVELOPMENT:**

This policy was prepared with the co-operation and support of the Hornsby Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee.

**POLICY PURPOSE / OBJECTIVES:**

To facilitate the dual naming and/or re-naming of Council facilities incorporating Aboriginal words which in the case of dual naming will sit alongside the non-Aboriginal name, each part having equal status and to provide a framework for decision making when accessing dual names or re-naming requests.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

1. Consideration will be given, but not exclusively, to a name or word, from the Darug or GuriNgai Language Groups that recognises or describes the historic flora or fauna of the area, a generic term for a geographical feature or landmark, an event, gesture or occupation of historical or contemporary relevance to place, a name that recognises an Aboriginal person, or historic community event or connection.
2. If a spelling of a word is changed it will only be done in consultation with local Traditional Owners and local acknowledged Aboriginal language experts.
3. When displayed on signage both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal part of the dual name shall be in the same font type, size, style and colour.

4. The Aboriginal name shall appear first with the non-Aboriginal name occurring second, the placement of the non-Aboriginal name occurring first will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with local Traditional Owners.
5. Where a facility is currently identified by an existing non-Aboriginal name, an Aboriginal name can be put forward to be assigned as a dual name and sit alongside the existing non-Aboriginal name. The facility may also be considered for re-naming.
6. Dual naming and/or re-naming proposals will be considered on a case by case basis and on its merit and with regards to the local Traditional Owners of the Land and the Hornsby Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee. The proposed name will be presented to the:
  - Local Traditional Owners of the Land
  - Aboriginal members of Hornsby Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee
  - Hornsby Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee
  - Council for ratification.
7. Preferably in the case of the dual name it will not exceed three words and 25 characters but it is accepted that a traditional name/word may be more complex.
8. When a choice is offered between two or more names for the same facility Council may adopt one of the such names in consultation with HATSICC and the local Traditional Owners as to which of the names is considered appropriate.
9. Any individual, group or organisation can propose an Aboriginal name/word be recognised as an official name for a Council facility
10. Each written submission must be supported by documentation, with sources, demonstrating relevance or connection to the area, have identifiable links to the community or Shire. In the case of a name the documentation may take the form of letters, newspaper clippings, articles, oral histories and photographs. As per Council's current policy names would normally be assigned posthumously, however there may be occasions when a person's name is suggested who is living. In such cases a person's contribution to the Shire must be deemed significant.
11. Council may conduct additional research as it sees fit to supplement a naming proposal.
12. The dual name and/or re-name will appear on all official documents, publications and signage and these will be updated incrementally as budgets allow.

13. Objections must relate to the substance of the intended dual name or re-name, and not be lodged in opposition to the actual dual naming policy.
14. The policy will be reviewed as required and revised accordingly and be aligned to the latest update of the Geographical Names Board Policy - Place Naming.
15. Council will not consider names:
  - a. That have similar spelling or sound or are already in use within Hornsby Shire and within 5 km in a neighbouring LGA as this may pose a risk to public safety and service delivery by emergency services providers.
  - b. Dual naming or re-naming shall not apply to localities, towns, districts and suburbs or constructed features such as roads, streets, highways or bridges etc. These are governed by other authorities such as the NSW Geographical Names Board.
  - c. Council facilities deemed war memorials are not eligible to be dual named.