

# Auckland Council Local Board Road Naming Policy and Guidelines

Pursuant to section 319(1)(j) of the Local Government Act 1974 and exercising the delegation granted by the Governing Body of the Auckland Council, the Local Boards of the Auckland Council make the following policy with regard to the naming of roads and altering of names of roads within each Local Board area.

This policy can be read as assisting developers, CCOs, contractors and emergency services when offering possible road names for the Local Board's consideration, as well as Council officials when reporting to the Board in terms of this policy.

Road names are intended to be enduring. Altering the names of roads is discouraged unless there are compelling reasons for a change. Issues that can prompt the alteration of a road name include the re-design of a road, mail or service delivery problems and duplication issues. Where community members suggest the name of a road be altered, there must be evidence that the majority of residents on the affected road support the alteration with the rationale for the alteration. This also applies where emergency services and other agencies request the alteration of the name of a road.

The procedure for naming roads is set out in Appendix B.

## **For the purpose of this policy**

**Road:** means a road as defined in section 315 of the Local Government Act 1974, and includes access ways and service lanes as defined in section 315, any square and any public place intended for use of the public generally.

**Name (in reference to a road):** means the word or name used to identify the road but excludes the road type / suffix (e.g. Crescent, Place, Street etc.).

**Private roads and private ways** are defined in section 315(1) Local Government Act 1974 (e.g. right-of ways, common access lots).

## Principles

Naming of roads for the first time and alteration of existing road names shall follow these principles. To assist further, criteria are set out in Appendix A.

### Principle 1: Road names to minimise confusion

- (1) Road names must not risk public and operational safety for emergency responses, or cause confusion for transport, communication, mail services, or to occupants of the road and visitors.
- (2) Emergency responses (such as ambulance, police and fire) and other public services (such as mail) are impacted by the clarity of road names and all road name proposals must ensure that such operations will not be adversely affected and as far as is possible will prevent potential confusion for users of the road.

### Principle 2: Road names to reflect the heritage of an area

- (1) Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland has a rich history that is reflected throughout the region. Suburb and road names can and often reflect our local history and our context in national and international events, people, and local landscapes and biodiversity. In turn this creates and consolidates a sense of place and identity.
- (2) Proposed names should reflect the historical or cultural or existing thematic or environmental identity of an area, to recognise the unique characteristics of that area and possibly the community.
- (3) This can be recognised by looking at mana whenua, early settlers, war servicemen and women and other persons who have contributed to the area, and to its heritage; local history themes; commemoration of a local or national significant event; flora; fauna etc.
- (4) The Board expects that there will be consultation with the local residents' and local business associations, local special interest groups, historical societies and mana whenua to develop new names.
- (5) The names of living persons is not encouraged.
- (6) Where names of persons are being considered, applicants should endeavour to consult with and obtain consent from family members of the person being commemorated, and evidence of this should be provided with the application.
- (7) Where an ancestral linkage to mana whenua is proposed the applicant must consult with the appropriate iwi to ensure cultural propriety.

### Principle 3: Road Types

- (1) All road names must include a road type (suffix) that reflects and is sympathetic to the type of road being named. A list of road types is included in Appendix C.

## Appendix A

### Road Naming Criteria

- (1) A road name should only use characters from a standard English alphabet. Cultural differences should be recognised and used such as macrons for a Maori name, apostrophes and accents where necessary.
- (2) Where a proposed road name has been identified as of significance to mana whenua, consultation with identified iwi is expected to ensure appropriateness and spelling of the road name.
- (3) Road names should be easy to pronounce, spell and write, and preferably not exceed three words (including road type) or 25 characters. Recognising the cultural diversity of Auckland an exception to this may be the use of te reo Māori or other names.
- (4) Where there is an existing similar/same road name within Auckland Council's boundary or an adjoining territorial authority's boundary, a new road name should not be:
  - (a) the same as an existing road name; or
  - (b) similar in spelling to an existing road name; or
  - (c) similar in sound to an existing road name
- (5) Road types do not distinguish different roads of the same or similar sounding names (e.g. Smith Road, Smith Street, Smith Crescent).
- (6) Punctuation should not be used as part of a road name except for surnames or other names that include a hyphen.
- (7) A road name should not be abbreviated or contain an abbreviation, initial or acronym, excepting that "St" can be used for "saint" and "Mt" can be used for "mount".
- (8) "The" should not be used as the sole name element of a road name (e.g. The Avenue).
- (9) A road name should not include a preposition (e.g. Avenue of the Allies).
- (10) Road names should not include an apostrophe or accent unless part of a person's name (e.g. O'Connor Drive) or part of a proper name.
- (11) For the purposes of consistency, names starting with Mc or Mac should not have a space included between the Mc or Mac and the rest of the surname.
- (12) A road name shall be accurate and shall have the same spelling as any name from which it is derived and is able to be validated by reference to primary sources.
- (13) Where numbers occur in a road name they must be in full form (e.g. Fifth Avenue, Nine Mile Road).
- (14) A road name must not include initials (e.g. J Jones Road).
- (15) A suggested road name is not to be offensive, racist, insulting, derogatory, blasphemous or demeaning, in that the use of such name is calculated or likely to wound the feelings, arouse anger or resentment or disgust or outrage in the mind of a reasonable person.

- (16) A road name must not be commercially based, unless the company is no longer in use and/or the name reflects the heritage of an area (e.g. Winstone).
- (17) Road types shall not be used in the formation of a road name, for example Promenade Road, unless the road type is the same as a surname (e.g. Court).
- (18) The use of given or first names in conjunction with a surname may be used if required to provide uniqueness for a significant name (e.g. Kate Shepherd Drive).
- (19) A road name should preferably not include qualifying terminology (e.g. Upper, New, East, West) unless the road name is derived from a name which includes such a qualifying terminology (e.g. xxx ).
- (20) A directional word cannot be used to uniquely define a road's extremities e.g. Boundary Road East, Boundary Road West.

## Appendix B

### Procedure for Naming of roads

- (1) Applications for new road names or altering the name of a road are to be submitted to Auckland Council, presently the consents team, in the first instance.
- (2) The application must include:
  - the reason for requesting the road to be named or for the name of the road to be altered;
  - a clear definition of the extent and location of the proposed road to be named or of the road whose name is to be altered (e.g. an annotated scheme plan);
  - evidence of consultation with appropriate iwi, family, local associations;
  - one preferred name and two alternative names for each road being named for the first time or altered;
  - rationale for and meaning of the proposed name(s).
- (3) The consents team will assess the suggested name(s) and the supporting documentation to ensure that the Local Board's Road Naming policy and guidelines have been considered and applied.
- (4) The consents team will then report to the Local Board in a timely manner in terms of the Board's policy and guidelines for the Board's consideration.
- (5) To remove all doubt, the Local Board shall have the final decision on the naming of roads and the altering of road names within the respective Local Board area. The Board has the discretion to reject any names offered and to seek alternative names and to make its own enquiries. The Board's decision is final.
- (6) All applicants will be notified by the consents team of the new road name.
- (7) The consents team will also inform Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), the Electoral Office, emergency services, New Zealand Post, and as required by section 319A of the Local Government Act 1974 a copy of the Board's resolution is to be sent to the Registrar-General of Land and the Surveyor-General of the new road name.
- (8) The consents team will ensure that the new road name is entered into the Council's global database detailing the following:
  - Road name
  - Road type
  - Status
  - Extent of the new name
  - Locality
  - Local Board's name and area
  - Appropriate mana whenua area
  - Etymology, significance, rationale for the name.

## Appendix C

### Road Types

The road types shall be selected from the following as most appropriate and applicable.

<i>Road Type</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Open Ended</i>	<i>Cul de sac</i>	<i>Pedestrian Only</i>
Alley	Ally	Usually narrow roadway	Y	Y	
Arcade	Arc	Covered walkway with shops along the side			Y
Avenue	Av	Broad road, usually planted on each side with trees	Y		
Boulevard	Bvd	Wide road, well paved, usually ornamented with trees and grass plots	Y		
Circle	Cir	Road generally forms a circle, or a short enclosed road bounded by a circle.	Y	Y	
Close	Cl	Short, enclosed road		Y	
Court	Ct	Short, enclosed road		Y	
Crescent	Cr	Crescent shaped road , especially where both ends join the same road	Y		
Drive	Dr	Wide main road without many cross-streets	Y		
Esplanade	Esp	Level road, often along the seaside, lake or a river	Y		
Glade	Glde	Road usually in a valley of trees	Y	Y	
Green	Grn	Road often leading to a grassed public recreation area		Y	
Grove	Gr	Road that features a group of trees standing together		Y	
Highway	Hwy	Main road or thoroughfare, a main route	Y		
Lane	Lane	Narrow road between walls, buildings or a narrow country road	Y	Y	Y
Loop	Loop	Road that diverges from and rejoins the main thoroughfare	Y		
Mall	Mall	Wide walkway , usually with shops along the sides			Y
Mews	Mews	Road in a group of houses		Y	
Parade	Pde	Public promenade or road that has good pedestrian facilities along the side	Y		
Place	Pl	Short, sometimes narrow, enclosed road		Y	

<i>Road Type</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Open Ended</i>	<i>Cul de sac</i>	<i>Pedestrian Only</i>
Promenade	Prom	Wide, flat walkway, usually along the water's edge			Y
Quay	Qy	Road alongside or projecting into water	Y	Y	
Rise	Rise	Road going to a higher place or position	Y	Y	
Road	Rd	Open road primarily for vehicles	Y		
Square	Sq	An area of road bounded by four sides, usually for pedestrians.	Y	Y	
Steps	Stps	Walkway consisting mainly of steps			Y
Street	St	Public road in an urban area, especially where paved and with footpaths and buildings along one or both sides.	Y		
Terrace	Tce	Road on a hilly area that is mainly flat	Y	Y	
Track	Trk	Walkway in natural setting			Y
Walk	Walk	Thoroughfare for pedestrians			Y
Way	Way	Short enclosed road		Y	Y
Wharf	Whrf	A road on a wharf or pier	Y	Y	Y