

1 PURPOSE

The intent of the Place Names Policy (Policy) is to provide a framework for Council’s assessment and consideration of place name applications for the naming of a **Place**, in the Darwin municipality.

2 SCOPE

This Policy sets out the application procedure for the naming of a **Place** in the Darwin Municipality intended for submission to the Place Names Committee NT for consideration.

This Policy does not apply to the naming of City of Darwin assets not required to be assessed by the Place Names Committee, example being a Council owned sporting field – grandstand for sporting sponsorship reasons.

3 POLICY STATEMENT

The Place Names Act 1967 requires views of ‘interested person’ to be sought before the Place names Committee can make a recommendation to the Minister for the naming of a place. Local council’s views will be sought as the local government council established for the area, and/or as the owner of the land.

Council supports First Nations Place Names and Dual Naming opportunities in recognition of the Larrakia people and all First Nations people to help build a vibrant, creative and inclusive community.

3.1 City of Darwin Land

This policy is consistent with the guidelines and policies of the Place Names Committee NT, who is responsible for making recommendations to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for the naming, or altering of names of places in the Northern Territory (NT).

All applicants are referred to the Northern Territory’s Engagement Framework for Place Naming in the Northern Territory (Engagement Framework), which provides information on the requirements of submitting a Place name Application. City of Darwin requires that all place name applications submitted to City of Darwin are in accordance with the Engagement Framework.

All new place names applications, that are not dealt with under delegation, will be considered at a Council meeting. This process could take up to six weeks to complete. City of Darwin will provide Council’s decision in writing to the applicant following the Council meeting to consider the proposal.

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3.2 Land Owned by Others

Not all **Places** located in the Darwin Municipality are owned and/or managed by City of Darwin.

However, all place name applications in the Darwin Municipality will require some involvement from the City of Darwin as an “interested person” and/or stakeholder.

City of Darwin does not consult with other landowner/s or authorized person/s administering the land regarding place names applications relating to their land.

Place names applications with low or medium community implications will be responded to by City of Darwin officers. Examples include: the naming of a building, arcade or walking/driving lane on or through private property.

Place names applications with medium to high community implications will be considered by the elected Council. Examples include: significant public open spaces, Dual Naming proposals and a higher than ordinary level of community interest in a place naming proposal. This process could take up to six weeks to complete. City of Darwin will provide Council’s decision in writing to the applicant following the Council meeting where the elected Councillors considered the proposal.

City of Darwin requests that a place name application on land not owned by Council contain landowner approval of the proposal, noting that assessment of the application will continue while land owners approval is being sought.

4 DEFINITIONS

Dual Naming

Dual Naming generally has two distinct parts separated by a solidus (/); one in a First Nations name and the other is a non-First Nations name, such as a name given and recorded by an explorer since English settlement.

Place: has the meaning given in Section 4A Meaning of Place in the *Place Names Act 1967*, which reads:

(1) A place includes:

- (a) a geographic or topographic feature (whether or not covered by water)
- (b) a county, hundred, town, community, suburb or locality within a town or a site for a town
- (c) a highway, road, street, lane, trail or thoroughfare that is open to or used by the public
- (d) a park, garden, reserve, recreation or sporting ground that is open to or used by the public
- (e) a public cemetery as defined in the *Burial and Cremation Act 2022*
- (f) public infrastructure associated with transport facilities, educational institutions, medical institutions or nursing homes
- (g) a place, structure or building that is or may be of public or historic interest.

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5 LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

Local Government Act 2019 (NT)
Place Names Act 1967

6 PROCEDURES / RELATED DOCUMENTS

City of Darwin

Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan

Northern Territory Government

- Northern Territory's Engagement Framework for Place Naming in the Northern Territory
- Place Naming Process
- NT Aboriginal Place Names and Dual Naming Policy
- NT Discriminatory or Derogatory Place Names Policy

<http://www.placenames.nt.gov.au>

- Subdivision Development Guidelines

<https://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/sdg-online>

7 RESPONSIBILITY / APPLICATION

The General Manager Innovation is responsible for managing the implementation of this policy.

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