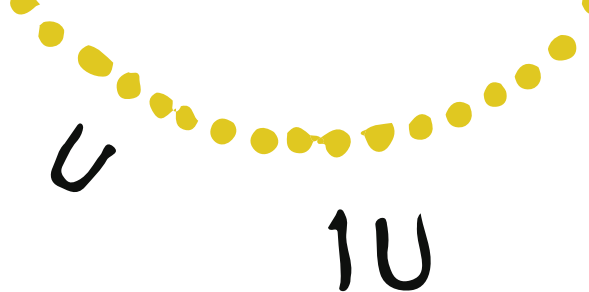


# Frequently asked questions for Indigenous place naming

Office of the Surveyor-General  
Geographical Names Unit





## Who can lodge an Indigenous naming proposal?

Any person, company or organisation can apply for a naming proposal.

## What is to be included in an Indigenous place name proposal?

An Indigenous naming proposal must be submitted on the official letterhead of the local Indigenous Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) or Recognised Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) and **must** include:

- the proposed Indigenous name
- a statement from the local Indigenous representatives giving permission for the proposed name to be used publicly
- a direct translation of the proposed Indigenous name
- a description of the meaning of the proposed Indigenous name
- a description of the significance that the area has to the Indigenous community
- the correct pronunciation of the proposed Indigenous name.

The proposal is emailed to: [DTI.PlaceNames@sa.gov.au](mailto:DTI.PlaceNames@sa.gov.au)

## What can be named?

Indigenous place names are only applicable to major infrastructure. Infrastructure that can be named are modern buildings, bridges, roads, overpasses, and shared-use paths that are associated with a major project. Minor infrastructure such as culverts, drains, walkways, and footbridges are not eligible for naming.

Dual names are applicable only to natural geographical and topographical features. These features can include hills, lakes, rivers, and mountain ranges.

Co-naming is applied only to conservation and national parks.

## How do I propose a name that fits the locality?

This is done through consultation with the relevant Indigenous community. The Indigenous community will consider the naming proposal and provide appropriate advice.

## How do you start consultation with Aboriginal communities?

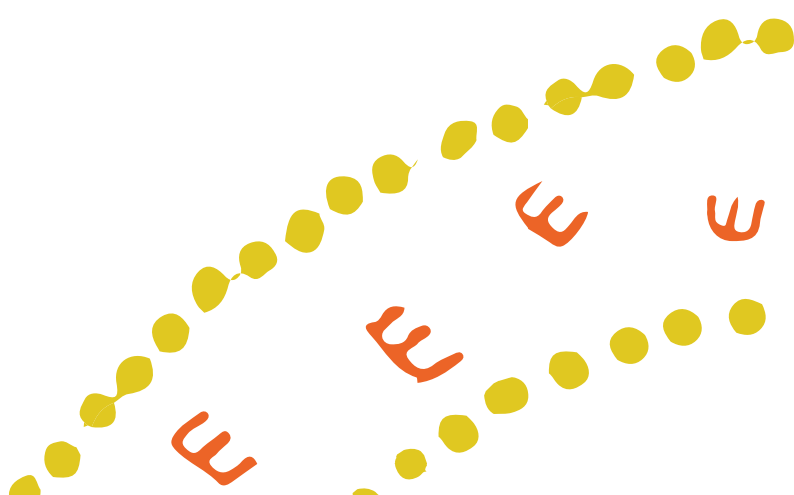
The first step in consultation is to contact the local Indigenous PBC or RNTBC of the area. A PBC or RNTBC are the corporations of the prescribed or recognised traditional owners of the area.

For example, any naming opportunities within the greater Adelaide metropolitan area will require consultation from Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation.

For information about the PBC, RNTBC and native title values of an area, please refer to these websites:

<https://nativetitle.org.au/>

<http://www.nntt.gov.au/Pages/Home-Page.aspx>



## What if there is no Native Title claim in an area that has an Indigenous naming opportunity?

If no Native Title determination has been made, there are still recognised groups in areas with no established PBCs or RNTBCs that can contribute to naming proposals. Information can be gathered from Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation.

## Can you name places after people?

The use of personal names for places are only acceptable when being applied posthumously and generally only that person's surname is used.

Before consideration for naming opportunities, the person nominated must be proven to be of good character and to have had significant positive impact in the community.

## How long does a naming process take to complete?

The timing of a naming proposal can vary, however, where there are no issues to consider outside of the norm, a naming proposal may be expected to take up to 12 months.

## How can I provide feedback during the public consultation period?

Feedback on a proposed place name can be emailed to the Office of the Surveyor-General: [DTI.PlaceNames@sa.gov.au](mailto:DTI.PlaceNames@sa.gov.au)

Or by letter:

Office of the Surveyor-General  
Geographical Names Unit  
GPO Box 1354  
Adelaide, South Australia 5000

## How do I confirm there are no similar names in the area?

The State Gazetteer and South Australian Property and Planning Atlas (SAPPA) database hold current official place names. Use the search functions to check if the proposed name is unique.

State Gazetteer:

<https://placenames.fsd.org.au/>

SAPPA:

<https://sappa.plan.sa.gov.au/>

Within the SAPPA 'Layers' tab, expand the Place Names option and tick the 'Place Names (Gazetteer)' and 'Dual Naming' boxes to see full results.

### Document Approval

Approved by	Bradley Slape – Surveyor-General
Approval Date:	2 August 2022
Review Date:	August 2024
Author:	Office of the Surveyor-General, Geographical Names Unit
Department:	Department for Trade & Investment

## Where do I find further information about the naming process?

More information can be found on the SA.GOV.AU website:

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/planning-and-property/land-and-property-development/suburb-road-and-place-names/place-name-proposals>

For further assistance with place naming proposals, please contact the Geographical Names Unit in the Office of the Surveyor-General at [DTI.PlaceNames@sa.gov.au](mailto:DTI.PlaceNames@sa.gov.au)

Detail on Indigenous naming can be found in these documents:

- The principles of Indigenous naming
- Approval process for Indigenous naming proposals
- Indigenous place naming information factsheet

## The Geographical Names Unit of the Office of the Surveyor-General

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Current as at September 2022