

 City of Mount Gambier	COUNCIL POLICY DUAL NAMING	Version No:	1
		Issued:	February 2022
		Next Review:	February 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the policy of the City of Mount Gambier (Council) for the dual naming of places in Mount Gambier which are of cultural significance to the Boandik Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land upon which the City of Mount Gambier lies.

Council's Yerkaalalpa Reconciliation Action Plan has prioritised the dual naming of significant sites in Mount Gambier, acknowledging its importance in fostering greater acknowledgement, recognition and celebration of our traditional owners.

Council has sought clarification from Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation to propose sites of local significance that could be initially considered, and identification of their name in Bunganditj (the language of the Boandik Peoples). This work has been undertaken in consultation with members of the Bunganditj Language Reclamation Committee and Council's Yerkaalalpa Community Reference Group.

Scope

This policy applies to the provision of dual naming of a public place such as a park, reserve or garden with geographical or topographical significance.

The policy excludes the naming of streets and roads, which is covered in Council's Street Naming Policy (S135).

The policy highlights sites of cultural significance to our Boandik Peoples, as examples of the places that have been identified for Dual Naming, including:

- Umpherston Sinkhole
- Cave Garden
- Leg of Mutton Lake
- Blue Lake
- Browns Lake
- Valley Lake

Purpose

Local Government Act 1999:

Section 219 of the Local Government Act 1999 identifies Council's power to assign a name, or change the name of:

- a public road,
- a private road; and
- a public place.

Council's Street Naming Policy (S135), provides an agreed position regarding the naming of streets and roads and is currently silent regarding the naming or dual naming of public places and/or spaces.

Geographical Names Act 1991

This Act sets out the powers of the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Surveyor General relating to the approval of geographical names.

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The Act details that approval for common name of place as a geographical name (including a dual geographical name which includes an Aboriginal name that is used for a place) provided if the Minister is satisfied:

- (a) that the recorded name of a place is the name that is by common usage assigned to that place; and
- (b) that there are no other names (including any variants of the recorded name) that are by common usage assigned to that place.

The Act also states that where a geographical name has been assigned or approved in respect of a place under the Act:

- A person must not produce or cause to be produced or display a document or advertisement in which another name is represented specifically or by implication as being the name of that place unless the geographical name or the approved name is also prominently represented.

2. Strategic Context

On 18 February 2020, Council adopted its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (Report No. AR20/3865). This plan, developed in collaboration with local Elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders, articulates a range of agreed strategic actions aimed at progressing reconciliation in Mount Gambier.

The Yerkaalpata Reconciliation Action Plan 2020 – 2022 commits to:

‘Commence the implementation of dual naming of places of cultural significance throughout Mount Gambier in consultation with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’

Furthermore, on 19 December 2017, Council endorsed Report No. AR17/49103 titled ‘Signage Strategy – Inclusion of Boandik Language’ which articulates the naming of local sites, including:

- Umpherston Sinkhole
- Cave Garden
- Leg of Mutton Lake
- Browns Lake
- Valley Lake
- Blue Lake

3. Name Sources

All use of Bunganditj language in the process of naming sites should be undertaken in direct consultation with:

- Any reference groups engaged by Council to advise on matters relating to reconciliation such as a Reconciliation Action Plan Community Reference Group.
- Recognised Boandik Elders
- Local Aboriginal Controlled Organisations such as Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation and Pangula Mannamurna Aboriginal Corporation
- Members of the Bunganditj Language Reclamation Committee

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Names should be selected so as to be appropriate to the physical, historical or cultural character of the area concerned.

4. Provision of Dual Names

Dual naming may be assigned to a public space where there is a geographical or topographical feature that has both a Bunganditj name and an existing European name.

When assigning or recording a name to a previously unrecorded natural feature that has an unrecorded European name in local usage, every effort will be made to determine if an Aboriginal name exists for that feature and a dual name will be assigned or recorded. If there is no known European name in local usage, then it is preferred that only the Bunganditj name (if available) be assigned to that particular geological or topographical feature.

Due to their geological and/or topographical significance, at this time, the following sites have been initially highlighted as being appropriate for dual naming:

- Umpherston Sinkhole *Balumbul*
- Cave Garden *Thugi*
- Leg of Mutton Lake *Yatton Loo*
- Blue Lake *Warwar*
- Browns Lake *Kroweratwari*
- Valley Lake *Ketla Malpi*

Further sites may be considered as appropriate for dual naming in agreement with and/or identified by:

- Any reference groups engaged by Council to advise on matters relating to reconciliation such as a Reconciliation Action Plan Community Reference Group.
- Recognised local community Elders.
- Local Aboriginal Controlled Organisations such as Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation and Pangula Mannamurna Aboriginal Corporation.
- Members of the Bunganditj Language Reclamation Committee.

5. Spelling

Where it is intended that a public place have the same name as a road or feature with an approved name, particular care will be taken to ensure that the correct spelling of the official place name is adopted as shown in the Government Gazette.

Where the spelling of names have been changed by long established local usage, unless there is a particular request by the local community to retain the original name, the spelling that is sanctioned by general usage should be adopted.

Generally place and reserve names proposed or approved will not contain abbreviations. There are, however, three exemptions:

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- Initials can be used in place of a person's given names e.g. P.J. Brown Reserve
- 'St' will always be used in place of 'Saint'
- It is acceptable to use 'Mt' for 'Mount'

6. Form

Dual names will be separated by a slash or stroke / to clearly define the two names.

To align with State Government Geographical Names Guidelines, the name most commonly used by the local community should be shown first.

As an example, Blue Lake / Warwar is the form used for this feature as Blue Lake is the more commonly used name. However, should the use of the Bunganditj name become adopted as the most common reference to the place in the future, then the form should be modified to reflect this.

After adoption, both parts of the dual name should be shown in official documents and signage.

7. Community Engagement

Community engagement should be undertaken on a place naming proposal and align to the principles and requirements of Council's Community Consultation and Engagement Policy.

Community engagement activities undertaken will include consideration of the following:

- Seeking input from the local community and/or communities of interest on known and potential names for the public place
- Notification via social media and at least one local print media outlet of the proposal
- Seeking feedback identified stakeholders on any appropriate place name proposal
- Advising stakeholders of the outcome of the place naming process

8. Public notice of name assignment or change

Council will give public notice of approved assigning or changing the name of a public place. This will be by publication in the Government Gazette and may also include a notice in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State, or as required under the Act.

The public notice will include the date the new name takes effect and notice will also be published on council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au

9. Date of Effect for New Names or Name Changes

The date of effect of the new or changes public place name should be determined at the time of the decision to assign the name so as to allow sufficient time for all stakeholders to make arrangements to ensure a smooth transition.

10. Place name signage

Council will ensure that the public place naming signage is in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards and Council's City Wide Signage Guidelines. Signage denoting the

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approved name will be erected as soon as practical following the implementation date of the naming proposal.

11. Review and evaluation

This Policy is scheduled for review by Council in January 2026; however, will be reviewed as required by any legislative changes which may occur.

12. Availability of policy

This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

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File Reference:	AF18/49
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999 Geographical Names Act 1991
Reference: Strategic Plan	
Related Policies:	Council Policy S135 - Streets - Naming of
Related Procedures:	Dual Place Naming - Administrative Procedure (to be developed)
Related Documents:	Not Applicable

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	General Manager City and Community Growth
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