

Draft Naming Policy 2023

Christchurch City Council's policy on naming roads, parks and facilities

Introduction

The names we give to roads, parks and facilities are important. Names connect us to the land and the environment around us, enhancing the character and heritage values of places. Names are necessary for identifying the precise locations of places, which is vital for emergency and other services. They create a sense of place, reflecting our shared history and landscape and can tell stories about where we are today, and what has gone before.

Before developing this draft Policy we reviewed our current policies on [Roads-and-rights-of-way-naming](#) and [naming-of-reserves-and-facilities](#) -both of these policies date from 1993. We found that these old policies don't reflect the significant changes that has taken place over the past thirty years or provide good guidance for the community or staff on naming. In particular, our Community Boards which make most of the decisions on names for roads, green spaces and facilities have asked for improved guidance on naming and greater diversity in the names presented to them for consideration. This draft policy is the result of this review.

We intend this new naming policy will help give effect to our strategies including "Christchurch Multicultural Strategy, Te Rautaki Matawaka Rau" (2017) and "Our Heritage, Our Taonga" (2019) and provide appropriate direction on the use of Māori names consistent with our responsibilities to Mana Whenua.

Alongside this policy we (will) provide a *Guide to the Naming Process*. This Guide will contain information on the procedure for naming a road, park or facility, including requirements for consultation and engagement.

Names are, clearly, very important and people often have strong views on them. We look forward to receiving your feedback on this draft naming policy.

Purpose

This policy, is intended to:

- Provide a consistent approach to the naming of roads, parks and facilities.
- Recognise our local identity, unique environment, and social and cultural heritage.
- Support and acknowledge mana whenua and reflect obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Contribute to cultural vibrancy and promote a sense of connection with our diverse communities.
- Ensure that names are enduring and have a meaningful connection to the locality.
- Have regard to the views of interested parties and communities in choosing names.
- Provide names that are not easily confused with other similar names and assist with wayfinding.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to the naming and re-naming of roads, parks and facilities under the control or ownership of the Council.

It is for all people interested in, involved in or affected by the naming or renaming of roads, parks or facilities including applicants, Council staff who assess naming applications and for decision-makers with the delegated authority to approve names.

Policy Statement

Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Facility/ Community Facility	means a Council building, part of a building, or a leased area which provides a facility for sport, recreation, the arts and entertainment or is a civic space. These community facilities include halls, libraries, community and sports centres and wharves.
Council	means the Christchurch City Council
Park	includes any land administered by the Council under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 and the Local Government Act 2002 including any domain, foreshore, open space or greenspace area which is under the control or ownership of the Council.
Road	has the same meaning as in the Local Government Act 1974 and includes any public or private road and extends to private access including access-ways, rights- of -way, access lot and service lanes.

Explanatory note: This policy contains explanatory notes which are not part of the policy and may be updated, amended or deleted as required. They are used for a number of reasons, including to provide additional helpful information, or because the information may be subject to change and needs to be updated before the policy has to be updated.

PART 1: GENERAL

1. Choosing an appropriate name

1.1. Generally, a name should be:

- a. Reflective of the history, culture, environment and/or current identity of the location, and
- b. Unique and not have a similar sound or spelling to an existing name in the area, and
- c. Not offensive or easily corrupted into an offensive version.

2. Specific criteria for assessing names

2.1. The proposed name will be assessed in terms of consistency with one or more of the following criteria:

- a. A traditional or Māori name which is acceptable to the Rūnanga or Iwi; this may be a name reflecting the physical characteristics of an area, an activity or event

associated with the area or of a notable ancestor.

- b. A feature of historical, social, cultural, environmental or physical importance in the area (e.g., Carlton Mill Road or Carlton Mill Reserve*).
- c. The name of a notable family, person or event associated with the locality or with the wider Christchurch area.
- d. A name in recognition of a person's service. This can be for community service, conservation, sport, the arts, science and research or other sphere of activity.
- e. Consistency with a common or established theme for naming in a subdivision or locality.
- f. A name that reflects the diverse cultures and communities of the locality or of Christchurch generally.
- g. The name of an event or activity strongly associated with the immediate location including an informal name for the area that is (or was historically) in common usage.
- h. A name associated with a person, event or activity of significance to Christchurch including names associated with people, events, or places of national and international significance.

**Explanatory note: While street names should not be the same or similar to other street names, having a common name which applies both to a park and the adjoining access road (e.g., Lancaster Park and Lancaster Street) can improve location finding and contribute to the 'sense of place'.*

3. Criteria for requesting a Māori name

3.1. A request will be made for a Māori name:

- a. For any road
 - that is classified as a collector road; or
 - in a location of significance to the Rūnanga or Iwi (such as a cultural heritage site).
- b. For any facility
 - that is a metropolitan facility; or
 - in a location of significance to the Rūnanga or Iwi; or
 - if the relevant Community Board considers it appropriate.
- c. For any park
 - that includes an area of natural water or a waterway recognizing that there may be Māori ancestral or cultural heritage values associated with that water; or
 - managed for recreation, amenity or conservation values and more than 2500 m² in size; or
 - where the park is (to be) managed as a māra kai and māra rongoā -a garden for traditional foods and healing plants.

Explanatory note: This clause identifies when a Māori name may be appropriate; in general a Māori name should be requested for the larger Metropolitan facilities, for the busier collector roads (most roads are local roads) and for some parks and reserves.

3.2 Generally a Māori name will not be requested for any reserve classified as a Local Purpose, Utility, Drainage or Stormwater reserve.

Explanatory note: If a request has been made for a Māori name but the Rūnanga or Iwi do not consider a Māori name is appropriate, the choice of name for the place will be consistent with other naming criteria (2. b-h) above.

4. Gifted names

4.1. Where a Māori name has been gifted by the Rūnanga or Iwi, that name is accepted.

5. Dual names

5.1. In some cases, dual names (Māori and English) may be appropriate for the naming or renaming of parks and facilities. Dual names will generally have the Māori name first.

Explanatory note: The Council will engage with Rūnanga or Iwi on any proposal for dual naming. Dual names may reflect the rich and diverse heritage of an area for example, the name Matuku Takotako: Sumner Centre. The name Matuku Takotako is the original Ngāi Tahu name for Sumner Beach and is a name that strongly reflects the community and enhances the local iwi identity.

6. Names which do not meet the criteria for approval

6.1. The following types of names are not suitable for approval:

- a. Names of people, flora, fauna or geographical features not associated with the area, e.g., names of native trees which are not present in the area or views that cannot be identified *except where* the name continues a current naming theme in the locality.
- b. Currently trading commercial organisations *except for* sponsorship names for facilities and leased parks.
- c. Anagrams, amalgamations or derivatives of people's names.
- d. Names of living persons.
- e. Names related to the developer of a subdivision.
- f. Name of a person, club or organisation associated with a privately owned building on Council land, where the club or organisation does not hold the ground lease for the building.
- g. Names for roads which may cause confusion because they are associated with another geographical location or feature e.g., Parklands Drive which is not located in the Parklands suburb.

Explanatory note: Names which don't meet the criteria for approval may lack an enduring or meaningful connection with a locality, its features and heritage or have the potential to suffer a loss in reputation and positive associations over time, such as the names of living people.

7. Changes and alterations to names

7.1. With the exception of a temporary or sponsorship name, a name is intended to be a permanent feature of a place. Changing the permanent name of a place should only occur where there is a clear benefit to the community from the change. This policy supports the alteration of the names of parks, facilities and roads to:

- a. correct spelling or punctuation.
- b. make corrections or alterations consistent with name changes approved by the NZ Geographic Board /Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB).

- c. allow for dual names for parks and facilities.
 - d. change a name which is considered offensive or has fallen into disrepute including through its association with a person or organisation known to have been involved in criminal, anti-social or dishonorable activities.
- 7.2. In addition to the above situations where a name change may be appropriate, a change in the name of a road may be necessary to improve way and location finding. A change in a road name may be required to:
- a. remove a duplicate (in spelling or sound) road name.
 - b. prevent confusion arising from changes to road layout.
 - c. ensure consistency with street addressing standards.
 - d. assign different names to separate ends of a road with an impassable section somewhere along the road length.

Explanatory Note: Any decision to alter a name will have regard to the costs and benefits associated with the change and the impacts of the change on the community. The range of relevant factors for consideration may include the level of support for the change, the effect on wayfinding and on heritage values, for example, where the name (proposed to be changed) commemorates a significant event, person or activity. The Council will not approve name changes except where the change is consistent with the criteria in 7.1 and 7.2 above; it is not appropriate to change a name simply because the current name is no longer considered fashionable or because current community members prefer a different road name or road type.

8. Authority to approve names and changes to names

- 8.1. Authority to approve names and name changes is set out in the Council's Delegations Register.

Explanatory Note: Under current delegation arrangements, the Community Boards have the authority to make decisions on naming and name changes. The Delegations Register can be found on the Council's website.

PART 2: POLICIES SPECIFIC TO THE NAMING OF ROADS

A road name provides for the clear identification of properties on that road for all users including residents and visitors, commercial services and, most importantly, for emergency services. A named road also provides an address. Given their essential role in wayfinding, road names should preferably be short, easy-to-spell and pronounce and not be similar in sound or spelling to an existing road name in the area.

9. Roads that need a name

- 9.1. The following roads will be named under this policy:
- a. All new public roads and any private roads which require a name for addressing or location finding.
 - b. Existing unnamed legal roads to be formed for vehicular traffic or public walkway.
 - c. Existing named roads where there is a proposed alteration to the name.
 - d. Other un-named or informally named roads where there are clear benefits to the community in providing a formal name.

Explanatory Note: All formed public roads and most private roads including existing unnamed access-ways which are extended to create six or more addressing sites, need to be named. Where a road provides addresses, its name and numbering need to be consistent with the current Addressing Standard (AS/ 4819: 2011). This standard is made for use by territorial authorities; it can be purchased from Standards New Zealand and is available for viewing in the Council's libraries.

10. Roads that don't require a name

- 10.1. Except where the Council determines otherwise, the following types of road do not generally need be named:
- a. Short cul-de-sacs and private roads with five or fewer lots or primary address sites (provided there is no proposal to extend the road).
 - b. An access way to a multi-unit development on an in-fill or brown-field site where sub-addressing from the existing road address is consistent with national guidelines for addressing in-fill developments.
 - c. A newly formed road which is a continuation of an existing named road and where the name of the existing road will automatically apply.

11. Style guide for roads

- 11.1. All Road names shall fulfil one or more of the criteria in Section 2 of this policy and conform to the following style:
- a. Each road is to have only one name (no dual names are allowed).
 - b. The name must be spelled correctly, and Māori names will include the appropriate macrons to aid pronunciation and to preserve correct interpretation. No other diacritical marks e.g., commas or apostrophes are permitted.
 - c. A name should be no more than 16 characters long including spaces but excluding the road type e.g., Lane (Ln).
 - d. Short names should be proposed for short streets for mapping purposes.
 - e. Names should be sufficiently different in sound and spelling so as not to cause confusion with road names in other locations and nearby districts.
 - f. Abbreviations are not permitted in the road name except for the road types listed in an Attachment to this policy.
 - g. All private roads (roads that are maintained by the residents of the road) shall have "Lane" as the road type.

12. Consultation and engagement on road names

- 12.1. Consultation is not generally required for the naming of new roads.
- 12.2. Council will require consultation where a proposal for naming (or renaming) a road will result in a change of street address, except where the new name has been gifted by the Rūnanga or Iwi.

- 12.3. The Council will determine the requirements for consultation and engagement on proposals for road names including how the results of any consultation will be reported.

Explanatory note: More detail on the requirements for consultation or engagement will be provided in the Guide to naming; including on consultation with family members of the recently deceased where the proposal is to name a road after that person.

PART 3: POLICIES ON NAMING AND SPONSORSHIP OF FACILITIES

13. Naming rights and sponsorship

- 13.1. Provided that it is consistent with legislative requirements, any relevant management plan or other Council policy, naming rights or sponsorship names may be granted for a:
- a. Council facility or part of a Council facility e.g., for specific rooms within a building
 - b. Leased area.

The choice of name may:

- a. be the result of sponsorship arrangements, or
- b. recognise or commemorate an influential individual or organisation, and
- c. be granted for a fixed period of time.

14. Naming of facilities managed by Council Controlled Organisations

- 14.1 Some Council owned facilities are managed by a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO). Any decision to name or rename such a facility will have regard to this policy.

References and related documents

Attach names and links to relevant related policies, relevant legislation, relevant standard operating procedures, forms, guidelines and processes.

Document	Link
<i>e.g. Guide</i>	

Policy name	Naming Policy 2023
Adoption date	TBC
Resolution number	TBC
Replaces	This policy replaces the Roads and Rights-of-way Naming Policy 1993 and the Naming of Reserves and Facilities Policy 1993.
Review date	insert date – 10 years from adoption (or before, if required)

Department responsible	Strategic Policy Unit
Position responsible	Manager