



ACT
Government

Territory and Municipal Services

Received by Directorate: 10/12/13
TRIM Number: MIN 13/1088
Due to MACS: 16/12/13
Due to Minister's Office: 19/13/13

TAMS
MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE/BRIEF REQUEST FORM

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services
 Chief Minister

Priority: Urgent Normal
Due Date (if specific): 19/12/2013

SUBJECT/Topic: Request to Rename Haig Park.

To: Gai Brodtmann MP.

- Roads and Public Transport
- Parks and City Services
- Business Enterprise Services
- Directorate Services
- Canberra Connect

REQUEST:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply to correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/> Briefing/Information Brief	<input type="checkbox"/> Event/Arrangements Brief
<input type="checkbox"/> Departmental Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Note	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech/Speaking Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Input	<input type="checkbox"/> Media Release
<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Briefing	<input type="checkbox"/> Media Alert

MEETING/EVENT:

Time:	Date:	Duration:
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Further Information: Input from ESDD required

Date:

Territory and Municipal Services DLO

Bourne, Sarah

From: Payne, Cassia on behalf of CMTD MLO
Sent: Friday, 6 December 2013 2:16 PM
To: Bourne, Sarah
Subject: CMTD Ministerial: M2013/03194 - Request to rename Haig Park - Gail Brodtmann MP
Attachments: TRIM: FW: letter to Chief Minister from Gai Brodtmann MP

Chief Minister Correspondence – Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

Record Number: M2013/03194

Date Due: 19/12/13

From: Gail Brodtmann MP

Subject: Request to rename Haig Park

Action Required: Response by CM

Cassia Payne | Ministerial Liaison Officer - Government Business Coordination
Phone: 6205 4058 | **Fax:** 6205 1093 | cassia.payne@act.gov.au
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate | ACT Government
Level 5 Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au

Bourne, Sarah

From: Everitt, Gabrielle on behalf of GALLAGHER
Sent: Thursday, 5 December 2013 4:52 PM
To: CMTD MLO
Subject: TRIM: FW: letter to Chief Minister from Gai Brodtmann MP
Attachments: Haig letter.pdf

Categories: TAMS

FAA

From: Hannoush, John (G. Brodtmann, MP) [<mailto:John.Hannoush@aph.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 5 December 2013 4:36 PM
To: GALLAGHER
Subject: letter to Chief Minister from Gai Brodtmann MP

Dear Chief Minister

I attach a copy of a letter sent today.

Regards

John Hannoush

John Hannoush
Office of Gai Brodtmann MP
Member for Canberra
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence
[redacted] (Parliament House)



Gai Brodtmann MP

MEMBER FOR CANBERRA



Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister
Minister for Health
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Higher Education
Legislative Assembly of the ACT
GPO Box 1020 CANBERRA ACT 2601

5 DEC 2013

Dear Chief Minister 

I am writing to propose for your consideration that Haig Park be renamed after an Australian military figure. Haig Park was named in honour of Earl Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Empire Forces during World War I, after his death in 1928. The park is one of the most prominent and significant landscape spaces in Canberra.

Haig is at best a deeply controversial figure, with his reputation generally under a heavy cloud; at worst he is seen in both academic assessment and in popular lore as responsible for the devastatingly high casualty rates in Allied forces in World War I, including those of Australian troops.

Although there can be little doubt about Haig's poor standing, quotations from his own contemporaries are revealing:

Prime Minister Lloyd George: "Haig ordered many bloody battles in this War. He only took part in two. He never even saw the ground on which his greatest battles were fought, either before or during the fight".

Journalist Henry Fyfe: "If ever the history of the war is written frankly... Haig will be held accountable for the appalling slaughter in the Somme battles and in Flanders, caused by his flinging masses of men against positions far too strong to be carried by assault".

B.H. Liddell-Hart, a prominent military historian and soldier, described Haig as "a man of supreme egoism and utter lack of scruple—who, to his overweening ambition, sacrificed hundreds of thousands of men".

The approaching centenary of the beginning of World War I provides an opportunity to consider whether the ACT should honour an Australian military figure in Haig's place. The ACT Haig Park Master Plan aimed at upgrading the quality of the park could include such a change as part of its refurbishing the image of the park.

Haig Park is the sole responsibility of the ACT Government under the ACT (*Planning and Land Management*) Act 1988, and there would therefore be no formal role for the Federal Parliament but should you decide to proceed with the proposal I would of course use all appropriate parliamentary platforms to assist.

I believe that we should retain the link to Australia's military history as a contribution to the conversation about the centenary of World War I and Australia's role in it. It would seem more appropriate to name the park after a World War I figure to provide a counterpoint to the name it is replacing. Within this framework, there would be a number of possibilities of which the following are only a small illustrative sample. If you were to go ahead with the proposal you would in any case want to seek public views, as



well as consult with professional historians of Australia in World War I, and particularly with ex-service organisations such as the RSL. Preliminary and very informal soundings with these organisations have been positive.

Sir John Monash would be an obvious candidate. Quotations from the Australian Dictionary of Biography are a complete contrast to the sentiments regarding Haig:

Returned soldiers including many senior officers, and Australian patriots in general, broadly assumed that Monash inspired the great offensive of 8 August and thus 'won the war'.

Monash perhaps won more than his fair share of fame, as against other Australian generals, for he had the great luck to take command of a magnificent fighting body just when the tide was about to turn conclusively in the allies' favour. But the task could hardly have been better done. None of the A.I.F. generals compare with him in intellect, articulateness or personal magnetism, though White does in administrative capacity. He won the undying respect of nearly all his peers, including the greatest fighting generals. Remarkably, no serious charge was ever held against Monash of 'butchery'. His reputation remains undiminished.

At the time of the naming of Haig Park, Monash was a nationally recognised figure:

In the 1920s Monash was broadly accepted, not just in Victoria, as the greatest living Australian.

Another major figure in World War I history is Harold "Pompey" Elliott. Like Monash, Elliott was dedicated to his soldiers. He was frequently in dispute with British commanders. According to the Australian Dictionary of Biography:

It has been said of Elliott that he could do some things with Australian troops no other commander could do. Elliott knew it and was humble about it.

'Pompey' could be a difficult subordinate especially when the safety of his men was involved. At least twice after Fromelles he protested so vehemently against attacks ordered by 5th Division headquarters that the operations were cancelled. His objections were always based on knowledge of the ground obtained from personal reconnaissance and on a profound grasp of the tactical possibilities.

Another candidate would be Robert Comb, a then 93-year-old veteran of World War I, who threw soil, which had been brought from Pozieres, onto the coffin at the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 1993. Such a figure could recall the rank and file, as well as having a connection with the Unknown Soldier.

I would be grateful if I could have the opportunity to meet with you before Christmas to discuss the proposal.



Gai Brodtmann MP
Member for Canberra
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Defence



Mick Gentleman MLA

Minister for the Environment and Heritage
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister assisting the Chief Minister on
Advanced Technology and Space Industries
Manager of Government Business
Member for Brindabella

19/17855

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 June 2019 suggesting a new name to replace William Slim Drive. I am responding on behalf of the ACT Government, as the naming of public places falls within my ministerial responsibilities as the Minister for Planning and Land Management.


Following the recent ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review, completed in June 2019, I wrote to the ACT Place Names Committee to request the Committee's assistance in providing me with options for a new name for this road.

Thank you for your suggestion of naming the road after [REDACTED]. The information you have provided suggests [REDACTED] made a strong contribution to the community. I have passed this suggestion on to the ACT Place Names Committee to consider for this opportunity or other commemoration opportunities in the future.

I expect to receive advice on naming options from the Committee in the coming months and to be in a position to formally rename the road following the completion of the duplication of the road which is due to commence in early 2020.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely


Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management

27/6/19

ACT Legislative Assembly

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2501, Australia
Phone +61 2 6205 0218 Email gentleman@act.gov.au



@GENTLEMANMick



MickGentleman



AGENDA

12th ACT Place Names Committee Meeting
10am 26 June 2003

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Agenda Item 1 | Minutes of last meeting |
| Agenda Item 2 | Dual Naming |
| Agenda Item 3 | Reserve Names |
| Agenda Item 4 | Sir Robert Menzies |
| Agenda Item 5 | Beach Naming |
| Agenda Item 6 | Haig Park |
| Agenda Item 7 | Representation on Committee |
| Agenda Item 8 | ACT Planning & Land Authority |
| Agenda Item 9 | Other Business |
| Agenda Item 10 | Next Meeting. |

Agenda Item 6 – Haig Park

██████████ calling for the renaming of Haig Park and asking him to forward his letter to Mr Simon Corbell. ██████████ letter in part says:

".....Haig Park, on Civic's northern fringe, is named after Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig who, as Commander-in-Chief of the British Empire Forces for the greater part of World War I, earned the nickname "Butcher Haig" for his role as the architect of the some of the greatest slaughters of that dreadful conflict.

On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the the British lost 19,240 dead (the largest loss ever suffered by the British Army in a single day), 35,493 wounded, 2,152 missing and 585 taken prisoner for a total loss of 57,470. At Fromelles on 19 July 1916, there were 5533 Australian casualties in just 24 hours. Then there was the Third Battle of Ypres, more infamously known as Passchendaele, in 1917 which cost 320,000 British Empire casualties, of which 36,500 were Australian (with 3200 Australian casualties on 12 October alone)."

....." So in this 85th year since the Armistice, we should consider renaming the park to something more appropriate and respectful of the memory of our fallen of World War I. "

The Minister replied:

"....Haig Park was one of Canberra's first parks to be gazetted, 20 September 1928, almost 75 years ago. It is part of Canberra's earliest nomenclature and part of our history.

The renaming of a public place is not taken lightly and for various reasons is generally discouraged. There would need to be strong community support for such a move to be successful. I have referred your letter to the ACT Place Names Committee for their consideration. I will write again when I have received the Committee's advice."

Issues

The committee provided comments prior to the preparation of the above Ministerial reply. Including:

From ██████████
I reiterate that rewriting history to make something palatable or obliterate something that is, or someone who is, disliked is a slippery path. History is not neat and tidy nor is it there to be sanitised. Haig was unsavoury in his command actions, but it could be argued that keeping the name is a way of recalling what he did and stood for. The other name for Haig Park is a

local name; it is like other places that have an official name and a colloquial name: this is no argument at all for changing a name.

We don't have anything in Canberra commemorating [REDACTED]. But suppose we did or presumably there is something elsewhere named after him and someone suggested changing it because [REDACTED] was a murderer amongst other things. Whilst [REDACTED] crimes are not on the scale of Haig he was still an unsavoury character. Do we expunge him from history? In one of the letters the suggestion is that the name honours Haig. It commemorates his name, but does it honour it. Some [REDACTED] would have preferred to obliterate the name [REDACTED] but it and the place are commemorated to remind us. That is how I see Haig's name. There are as Warden pointed out other unsavoury characters in ACT place names. I don't want to set a precedent. But mostly I am implacably opposed to changing history.

I suggest that the Committee consider the matter most carefully and advise the Minister accordingly via a letter correlated by Lorraine. As Chair I would like to see the draft of a letter circulated via C/ee members. The Haig Park name has been there for a good number of years, a few days to sort out our ideas will not go amiss. Also I am opposed to acting in the affirmative just on the suggestion of one or two members of the public.

From Dianne
I think we should let this pass.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. considers the matter; and
2. review the draft reply prepared for the Minister's signature.

AGREE / DISAGREE/NOTED

Comments:



Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Ms Gai Brodtmann MP
Member for Canberra
gai.brodtmann.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Brodtmann *Gai*

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2013 in which you have proposed that Haig Park be renamed after an Australian military figure from the First World War

I am advised by the ACT Place Names Committee secretariat that the name 'Haig Park' was determined under the provisions of the *National Memorials Ordinance 1928* in the Territory's first nomenclature gazette dated 20 September 1928. Historical records held by the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate show that it was the Chief Commissioner of the Federal Capital Commission, Sir John Butters, who proposed the commemoration of Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig of Bemersyde. It is likely that this proposal followed immediately after the death of Haig in January 1928. The recommendation that "... the large park which intersects the divisions of Turner and Braddon be named Haig Park" was subsequently approved at a meeting of the Canberra National Memorials Committee chaired by Prime Minister Bruce on 12 September 1928.

I have been further advised that the Place Names Committee has previously reviewed the appropriateness of Haig's commemoration in the context of criticism of his leadership in the First World War. It was the committee's unanimous opinion in 2003 and again in 2006 that the historical place name should remain as "...part of the fabric of Canberra's past". The committee also agreed that it is not good practice to revisit the appropriateness of public place names in the light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinions and suggested that keeping the name would be a way to encourage reflection and discussion about the First World War.

In relation to your suggestion to rename the park to commemorate an Australian military figure as a contribution to discussion about the upcoming centenary of World War 1, you would be aware that a number of men and women from World War 1 are already remembered through Canberra's public place names. In particular, the roads in the suburbs of Campbell, Gowrie, Hughes and Russell are specifically named after Defence personnel while the suburb of Monash commemorates Sir John Monash and Harold 'Pompey' Elliott is honoured through Elliott Street (and Elliott Place) in Campbell.

The Place Names Committee is proposing to commemorate the names of defence personnel, representing the army, navy and air force, within the new development on Section 5 Campbell. It is anticipated that at least one road in this prominent location will be named after an Australian who served in the First World War.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0840 Fax (02) 6205 3030

Email: gallagher@act.gov.au Facebook: KatyGallagherMLA Twitter: @katyGMLA

100
CANBERRA

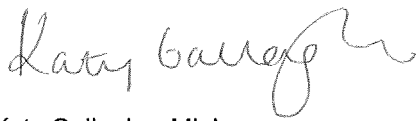
The recently prepared Haig Park master plan provides for the installation of commemorative artwork. I will ask the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate and ACT Heritage to investigate whether it would be appropriate to provide an account of Haig's leadership of the Australian forces, and to also acknowledge the centenary of the First World War, through the installation of artworks or interpretative signage.

Of course you are free to raise your proposal for renaming Haig Park formally with the Place Names Committee for its further consideration. Information on the process for nominating names, and contact details, is available at:

http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_search/place_names/place_names_committee

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Katy Gallagher'.

Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister

23 DEC 2013

From: [Priestly, Sharon](#)
To: [Priestly, Sharon](#)
Subject: ABC News: The Drum Tuesday October 30 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Wednesday, 14 November 2018 2:13:00 PM

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-30/the-drum-tuesday-october-30/10448754?pfmredir=sm>

Host: Craig Reucassel Panel: Jenna Price, Caroline Overington, Justin Mohamed and Tony Windsor Guest: Heidi Norman The panel discusses independents in Australian parliament, **a call to change names of Canberra streets and suburbs that honour controversial figures** and the Coalition pledges to get religious education back in schools.

Discussion starts at 14.40 mins into the program and goes for about 15 mins until around 27.26 mins.



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development



Dear 

Thank you for your letter dated 12 November 2018 concerning the place names article written by Doug Dingwall and published in *The Canberra Times* on 30 October 2018 <https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/canberra-s-place-name-changes-an-awkward-task-for-committee-20181029-p50cqk.html>

Unfortunately, Mr Dingwall did not speak to me directly and the statement in his article about only two street names being changed was taken out of context from a very early morning interview I gave to ABC Radio Canberra. In my interview I mentioned the number of changes made in recent years (that is, in consultation with the ACT Place Names Committee).

I am of course mindful of the changes made to the road names in Narrabundah to rename the historic First to Twenty-First streets which you also described in your book, "Homes for The Workers". You generously donated a copy of your book to the ACT Place Names library and it continues to be a valued resource for the Place Names research team.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your interest in the place names process and the valued contribution you make to recording the history and development of Canberra.

Yours sincerely



JEN BROWN
Surveyor-General of the ACT &
Co-chair, ACT Place Names Committee
20 November 2018

The Canberra Times

POLITICS ACT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

'Overreach': Canberra's place names review slammed by committee chair

By [Sherryn Groch](#)

30 November 2018 – 12:00am



A planned government review into place names in Canberra has been slammed as "overreach" and a waste of taxpayer money by the co-chair of the advisory group which helps oversee naming decisions in the territory.

After a fiery debate in the ACT Assembly on Wednesday, Labor backbencher Bec Cody pushed through an audit of the way places are named in the capital, which will single out William Slim Drive and Haig Park for immediate scrutiny. But she stopped short of her initial suggestion to review every place name in the ACT.



Bec Cody leads a debate on reviewing offensive place names in the ACT Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. DION GEORGOPOULOS

Historian David Headon of the ACT Place Names committee said the review appeared to a symptom of misunderstanding around the current processes for naming decisions, which he described as robust.

"She hasn't contacted us or asked us to look at any particular names," he said.

Ms Cody led the push for the review, which will examine both the volunteer committee and current naming regulations in the ACT, in response to community concerns that past decisions had commemorated "villains as heroes".

She said she had been contacted by a number of Indigenous and Jewish community groups, as well as sexual abuse survivors, who spoke of their personal distress to see some places in Canberra still named after people who had committed criminal or abhorrent acts.

Speaking on radio on Thursday, Ms Cody called the review a good "first step" towards correcting the record of history.

"In some cases I think there still needs to be a review but this is a start," she said, adding she was pleased that, while residential place names would escape scrutiny, William Slim Drive and Haig Park would be reviewed as a priority.

[William Slim Drive](#) commemorates Australia's 13th governor-general, who was later accused of molesting migrant children at Fairbridge Farm in NSW during the 1950s. [Haig Park recognises supreme commander of British and imperial forces in World War I](#), Field Marshal Douglas Haig, whose battlefield decisions have since drawn criticism.

Dr Headon said both places had been named well before the committee's establishment in 1999, but it had discussed them both in recent years at the request of the government. For Haig Park, updated signage providing more information about the general's actions had been arranged.

In the case of William Slim Drive, he said the committee was certainly aware of the sensitivities around the issue but had decided to await the findings of the recent royal commission into institutional child sexual abuse, as well as the ACT government's response, before going ahead with a change.

"The evidence is still being considered," he said. "We don't want to ever be in a position where we ourselves are making a decision on the facts of the case, we're waiting for them to be presented to us, probably from the government."

Changing a place name involved extensive consultation with relatives and rigorous historical evidence, he said, and had never before been undertaken by the committee for such a reason.

In the past decade, the committee had made about half a dozen name changes for safety reasons, he said, including confusion or duplication. All requests for a change were considered and the public could write to the committee or the directorate directly.

A government spokeswoman also said requests were infrequent with none received "in some years".

"To date this year we have received two requests regarding existing names, one querying the spelling of a street name," she said.

While the procedures for the new review put forward by Ms Cody had yet to be formulated, the spokeswoman said it would be undertaken internally by the government, not the committee.

"The names of Haig Park and William Slim Drive have previously been raised with the directorate and are the subject of continuing investigation," she said.

Dr Headon questioned what could be gained from a review of the committee itself, which already had a number of representatives from Indigenous and culturally diverse backgrounds

and an even gender split.

Under the direction of former chief minister Jon Stanhope, he said, the committee's remit had already been updated to include increasing the number of places named for women in Canberra, given [their current under-representation](#).

Ms Cody's call to bring place names into line with community standards was impossible, Dr Headon said.

"Standards change all the time, approximately the first dozen of our prime ministers were fierce advocates of the White Australia policy, does that mean we should change all the suburbs named for them?" he asked.



Sherryn Groch



Sherryn Groch is a reporter for The Canberra Times, with a special interest in education and social affairs

From: [Brown, Jeffrey](#)
To: [Fenotti, Louise](#)
Cc: [Placenames; Ledwidge, Greg](#)
Subject: RE: Place names review - Canberra Times [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 29 November 2018 3:07:11 PM
Attachments: [20181129 - CT Response - Cody motion.doc](#)

Hello Louise,

As requested attached is our response to the media questions. Generally we have kept the responses brief but have given a full procedure in response to the third question regarding the process to change a place name as this is the real crux of the matter.

I haven't saved this to Objective yet.

Regards
Jeff

Jeff Brown | Surveyor-General of the ACT
Phone 02 6207 1965 | Fax 02 6207 1615 | Mobile [REDACTED]
Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information | Planning Delivery |
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. ACT Government
Dame Pattie Menzies House, Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 1908 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.actpla.act.gov.au


From: Fenotti, Louise
Sent: Thursday, 29 November 2018 2:24 PM
To: Brown, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Place names review - Canberra Times [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

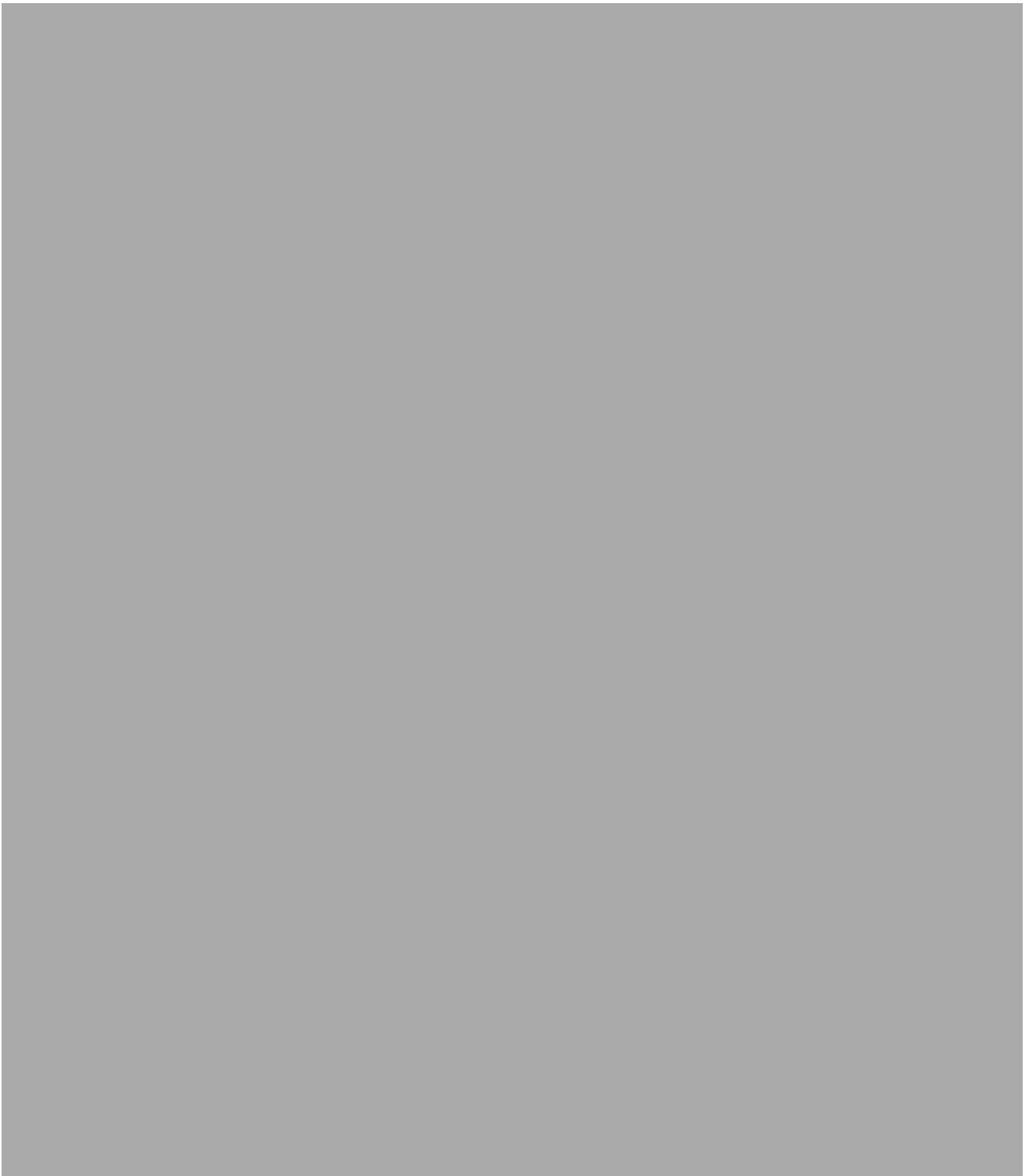
Hi Jeff

I forgot to send you an email so you can send through the response.

Thanks
Louise

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 29 November 2018 11:42 AM
To: Fox, Richard <RichardD.Fox@act.gov.au>; Piper, Mayumi <Mayumi.Piper@act.gov.au>
Cc: EPSDD_Communications <EPSDDComms@act.gov.au>
Subject: Place names review - Canberra Times







ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

[Redacted] Fairfax media

Email: [Redacted]@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Dear [Redacted]

Place names Review – response to questions

Please find below our response to questions submitted today:

- ***How will each review into the committee/guidelines/particular names work?***

The Motion on Place Names was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the afternoon of Wednesday 28th November (yesterday) and the review procedures are yet to be formulated.

- ***What about William Slim Drive and Haig Park specifically? Are you going to call for public submissions on the question of changing each of these? Will the act place names committee run the review or the directorate?***

The names William Slim Drive and Haig Park have previously been raised and are the subject of continuing investigation by the Directorate.

- ***How do names get reviewed or changed now in Canberra? Can the community contact the committee directly or do they go through the directorate.minister who can then ask the committee to take a look?***

A member of the community can apply for a review, or change, of an established place name on Territory land by writing to the Minister or to the Surveyor-General of the ACT (who is also Co-chair of the ACT Place Names Committee). The Minister will refer the request to the Surveyor-General for consideration.

A new public place name can also be subject to review or change at the time the naming instrument is tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly. A motion to disallow or amend a Disallowable Instrument to determine a new public place name can be made in the Assembly during the statutory tabling period of 6 sitting days.

The Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information (OSG&LI) within EPSDD will investigate the basis for the review/change of name request to determine how to proceed.

The reason for the request could include:

- reports of addressing confusion;
- the proponent believing the name is derogatory or offensive;
- a change to the road configuration;
- an error in the original place name determination;
- a desire to recognise a person (now deceased) who had a particular connection with the place name location; or
- other matters as relevant to the requirements of section 3 of the *Public Place Names Act 1989*.

The OSG&LI will consult with agencies with knowledge relevant to the request to establish whether the grounds for the name change are justified.

The OSG&LI will consult with property owners, residents and/or businesses using the current name as part of their address to establish the impact of a potential name change and to determine if a change of name is supported.

The Surveyor-General and/or the Minister's delegate will make a decision about whether the request is reasonable and then determine if the matter requires referral to the ACT Place Names Committee (the Committee).

If the Committee agrees that a change of name is warranted it will request the Place Names Unit within OSG&LI to research a replacement name in accordance with the place naming guidelines.

If the name to be revoked commemorates a person with national standing, who may also have other national commemorations, the OSG&LI will recommend that the Committee act in conjunction with the relevant Commonwealth authorities.

If the place name to be revoked commemorates a personal name, and the name is considered to cause offense, it is preferable that the replacement name is **not** of another person but some other feature or object.

If the place name to be revoked commemorates a personal name, the OSG&LI will notify the family, or other relevant contact, of the proposed course of action. If it is appropriate, a commitment will be given to investigate the possible commemoration of the person in a different place in the future.

The Place Names Unit will recommend a replacement name and course of action to the Committee for approval.

The Committee's recommendation and draft Disallowable Instrument is referred to the Minister, or the Minister's delegate, for approval.

The Minister, or Minister's delegate, will consider the Committee's recommendation in conjunction with the other matters that are required to be considered under *the Public Place Names Act 1989*.

The approved instrument will be notified in the ACT Legislation Register and take effect on the day after it is notified.

The instrument will be presented to the Legislative Assembly within 6 sitting days of its notification. The Legislative Assembly has 6 sitting days from the date of presentation to make a motion to disallow or amend the instrument.

The ACT Cadastre and place names databases are updated to facilitate the change of place name on mapping and information systems.

- ***Does this happen a lot?***
- ***How many names have been reviewed in Canberra by the place names committee/directorate?***

Requests are infrequent with no change requests in some years. To date this year we have received two requests regarding existing names, one querying the recognised spelling of a street name.

- ***Has the committee previously looked at Haig Park or William Slim Drive? (I understand there have been some complaints previously)***

Refer to response above.

- ***Any idea of cost for these reviews?***

The reviews requested by the motion will be undertaken internally by the Directorate which may impact the delivery and timelines of other projects.

- ***Members of the voluntary place names committee have said both Haig and William Slim were past decisions made by a Commonwealth mechanism not under their remit. Does the committee itself need review?***

The motion states “review of the Terms of Reference and expansion of membership of the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city”.

- ***Anything else to add?***

Not at this time.

Name

Title

Business Area

Business Address

29 November 2018



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Obj ref: 18/36497

[REDACTED]
Co-Chair
ACT Place Names Committee

Cc: Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 26 November 2018 providing a statement on behalf of the ACT Place Names Committee (the Committee) in response to the Legislative Assembly motion put forward by Ms Bec Cody MLA.

I have shared the statement with the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mr Mick Gentleman MLA and it helped inform his contribution to the Assembly debate on the motion.

As you may be aware, on 28 November 2018, the Assembly passed a resolution on Place Name Guidelines, which I have attached to this letter.

The resolution calls on the ACT Government to undertake a number of actions, including reviewing the terms of reference and expansion of membership of the Committee and to review the Public Place Names Guidelines.

The Planning Delivery Division within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) will be undertaking this review.

To assist with this work, I am seeking the views of the Committee on the resolution and the actions listed in 2(a) to 2(d) of the resolution.

I also draw your attention to the request in item 2(d) for the ACT Place Names Committee to *“review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority.”* In relation to Haig Park, I ask that the Committee makes contact with the City Activation team in the City Renewal Authority who are currently developing a place plan for Haig Park.

I ask that the Committee undertakes this specific review (item 2(d)), and considers the other actions, and provides a response to me by Friday 29 March 2019. I acknowledge this is a tight timeframe, however this will enable the Government to consider its response and report back to the Assembly in the June 2019 sitting period.

If you wish to discuss any of these matters further, please contact James Bennett, the officer managing the review, on 6205 4877 or by email at jamesp.bennett@act.gov.au.

I have asked Mr Bennett to meet with you and Jeff Brown and to also attend the next Committee meeting to discuss the review with the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Brett Phillips
Executive Director, Planning Delivery Division
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

12 January 2019



Speaker

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

PLACE NAME GUIDELINES


At its meeting on Wednesday, 28 November 2018, the Assembly passed the following resolution:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the naming of many places in Canberra, including suburbs and streets, after historical persons;
 - (b) that the behaviour of some of those persons was criminal, reprehensible and/or abhorrent;
 - (c) the ongoing hurt caused in the community by the commemoration of villains as heroes;
 - (d) that the ACT Place Names Committee provides advice to establish policies for the naming of divisions (suburbs) and public places on Territory land in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT);
 - (e) the current role, responsibilities, membership and expertise, and operations of the ACT Place Names Committee is set out in its terms of reference which is available online; and
 - (f) the Public Place Names Guidelines, which are notified on the ACT Legislation Register, detail the established policies for the naming of new divisions, roads and other public places in the ACT; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city;

- (b) review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns;
- (c) ensure that the ACT Place Names Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards;
- (d) request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and
- (e) report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review."

Yours faithfully



Joy Burch MLA
Speaker

5 December 2018

From: [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)
To: [cityrenewal](#)
Cc: [Davis, SophieE](#)
Bcc: [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Placenames](#)
Subject: ACT Place Names Committee - naming of Haig Park - review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 24 January 2019 8:21:00 AM
Attachments: [Resolution - Place Name Guidelines.pdf](#)

Sophie Davis
Project Manager
City Activation Team
City Renewal Authority

CityRenewal@act.gov.au
SophieE.Davis@act.gov.au

Hi Sophie

As you may be aware, on 28 November 2018, the Assembly passed a resolution on Place Name Guidelines (copy attached). The resolution calls on the ACT Government to undertake a number of actions, including item 2(d), requesting the ACT Place Names Committee to review the naming of Haig Park as a priority. The committee response is due by late March to enable the Government to consider the matter and report back to the Assembly in the June 2019 sitting period.

I am aware that the City Renewal Authority is currently developing a place plan for Haig Park. I would appreciate an opportunity to consult with the City Activation team to determine whether there is scope to upgrade the existing interpretative signs and/or install additional signage to provide a fuller account of Haig's leadership of the Australian forces.

The ACT Place Names Committee is a voluntary, advisory committee appointed by the Minister for Planning and Land Management to provide expert advice about the naming of divisions (suburbs) and public places, including parks, and opportunities to commemorate the names of eminent Australians.

The committee has previously reviewed the appropriateness of Haig's commemoration in the park name in the context of criticism of his leadership in the First World War. To date the committee's view has been that the historical place name should remain as "...part of the fabric of Canberra's past". The committee has also previously recommended that it is not good practice to revisit the appropriateness of public place names in the light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinions and suggested that keeping the name is a way to encourage reflection and discussion about the First World War.

I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you in the next couple of weeks so that I can brief the committee members to assist their review of the Haig Park name.

Kind regards

Jeff Brown | Surveyor-General of the ACT and Co-chair, ACT Place Names Committee
Phone 02 6207 1965 | Fax 02 6207 1615 | Mobile [REDACTED]
Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information | Planning Delivery |
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. ACT Government
Dame Pattie Menzies House, Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 1908 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.actpla.act.gov.au



Speaker

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

PLACE NAME GUIDELINES


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 - (c) the ongoing hurt caused in the community by the commemoration of villains as heroes;
 - (d) that the ACT Place Names Committee provides advice to establish policies for the naming of divisions (suburbs) and public places on Territory land in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT);
 - (e) the current role, responsibilities, membership and expertise, and operations of the ACT Place Names Committee is set out in its terms of reference which is available online; and
 - (f) the Public Place Names Guidelines, which are notified on the ACT Legislation Register, detail the established policies for the naming of new divisions, roads and other public places in the ACT; and
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- (c) ensure that the ACT Place Names Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards;
- (d) request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and
- (e) report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review.”.

Yours faithfully



Joy Burch MLA
Speaker

5 December 2018

The name 'Haig Park' was determined under the provisions of the *National Memorials Ordinance 1928* in the Territory's first nomenclature gazette dated 20 September 1928.

Records held the ACT Place Names Unit in the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate show that it was the Chief Commissioner of the Federal Capital Commission, Sir John Butters, who proposed the commemoration of Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig of Bemersyde. It is likely that this proposal followed immediately after the death of Haig in January 1928.

The recommendation that "...the large park which intersects the divisions of Turner and Braddon be named Haig Park" was subsequently approved at a meeting of the Canberra National Memorials Committee chaired by Prime Minister Bruce on 12 September 1928.

Previous memberships of the ACT Place Names Committee have reviewed the appropriateness of Haig's commemoration in the context of criticism of his leadership in the First World War.

It was the committee's unanimous opinion in 2003, 2006 and 2013/14 that the historical place name should remain as "...part of the fabric of Canberra's past".

Previous committees have agreed that it is not good practice to revisit the appropriateness of public place names in the light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinions and suggested that keeping the name would be a way to encourage reflection and discussion about the First World War.

In December 2013 the former Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, advised Ms Gai Brodtmann MP, Member for Canberra, that the Haig Park Master Plan provided for the installation of commemorative artwork and undertook to ask the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate and ACT Heritage to investigate whether it would be appropriate to provide an account of Haig's leadership of the Australian forces, and to also acknowledge the centenary of the First World War, through the installation of artworks or interpretative signage.

In 2014 TAMS obtained funding to provide further background on Field Marshal Haig while at the same time acknowledging the centenary of the First World War. In October 2014, TAMS requested assistance from the ACT Place Names Committee to review the wording on the panels relating to Haig.

The intention was to replace and update the existing Canberra Tracks information panel (2010) on the three-way information signs (x2) to:

- Include new/revised wording to provide more context and background into the First World War and Haig's involvement; and
- Incorporate the First World War centenary logo (Australian War Memorial approval required); and.

Install a new three-way sign to be placed at the corner of Henty and Torrens Street.

The intention was to install the new signage to be unveiled on 22 April 2015 to launch ACT Heritage Week.

TAMS commissioned [REDACTED] to prepare the text for the new signs in consultation with ACT Heritage and the ACT Place Names Committee. The draft text was reviewed and endorsed by the historians, heritage practitioners and other members of the Committee.

The agreed [REDACTED] text was provided to TAMS in early 2015.

The [REDACTED] text was reviewed by TAMS Communications and The Australian War Memorial.

[REDACTED] comments during the review:
[REDACTED]

Signage incorporating the Headon text was not installed.

[The ACT Legislation Assembly passed the following resolution on 28 November 2018:](#)

9. PLACE NAME GUIDELINES

(2) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city;
- (b) review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns;
- (c) ensure that the ACT Place Names Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards;
- (d) request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and
- (e) report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review.

From: [Young, SarahAlexandra](#)
To: [Priestly, Sharon](#); [Bennett, JamesP](#)
Cc: [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Palm, Genevieve](#)
Subject: RE: ACT Place Names Committee meeting - request to share scope of review information [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Wednesday, 6 March 2019 1:54:15 PM

Hi Sharon,

[REDACTED] - I'll reply on behalf of James. We agree that the committee should be provided with the copy of the scope and method of review, however we should only make the attachments to the brief available to the members after the Minister has approved them.

You'll probably be advised of this at the same time we are, but we can let you know as soon as it has been approved.

Thanks,

Sarah

From: Priestly, Sharon
Sent: Wednesday, 6 March 2019 12:41 PM
To: Bennett, JamesP <JamesP.Bennett@act.gov.au>
Cc: Young, SarahAlexandra <SarahAlexandra.Young@act.gov.au>; Brown, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au>; Palm, Genevieve <Genevieve.Palm@act.gov.au>
Subject: ACT Place Names Committee meeting - request to share scope of review information [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi James

I am preparing the agenda papers on Jeff's behalf for the meeting of the ACT Place Names Committee on 19 March. Please note that Jeff has reordered the agenda so that the review will be discussed at the beginning of the meeting (ie Item 2).

Would it be appropriate for Jeff to share the details of your paper 'Scope and Method of Review' with the committee through the meeting papers? We could provide the text to our members in another format if it's not appropriate to provide a full copy of your completed form (Attachment A).

Also - I've not sure if it's important to note for the purposes of the review that the current place names guidelines (NI2014-643) deal with the naming of public places and that a division is not included in the definition of a public place under the Act. A division in relation to land means a division under the *Districts Act 2002*. There is a reference in the Ministerial Information Brief about the guidelines covering the naming of a division and a public place (para 7).

Kind regards

Sharon

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.planning.act.gov.au

From: [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)
To: [REDACTED];
Cc: [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Palm, Genevieve](#); [Bennett, JamesP](#); [Young, SarahAlexandra](#); [Anne McGrath](#)
Subject: ACT Place Names Committee -articles on renaming of public places to assist Review discussion [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 12 March 2019 4:53:00 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED] - [articles on the renaming of public places.docx](#)

Dear Committee

We are looking forward to our committee meeting on Tuesday 19 March which will include discussion about the Place Names Review and the naming of Haig Park and William Slim Drive. [REDACTED] has provided the attached note with links to articles about renaming public places which you might find useful.

Please note that we are also looking to obtain examples of renaming projects undertaken by other Australian jurisdictions for the committee's information eg QLD 2018 – renaming Mount Jim Crow and Mount Wheeler <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-15/mount-jim-crow-and-mount-wheeler-to-be-renamed/9762114>

Kind regards

Sharon

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

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SOME ARTICLES ON THE RENAMING OF PUBLIC PLACES:

“Should historical place names be changed to fit modern values? Historians debate.” *History Extra: The official website for BBC History Magazine and BBC World Histories Magazine*

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/should-historical-place-names-be-changed-to-fit-modern-values-historians-debate/>

Brenda Macdougall *Naming and Renaming: Confronting Canada’s Past*

Shekon Neechie *An Indigenous History Site*

<https://shekonnechie.ca/2018/08/01/naming-and-renaming-confronting-canadas-past/>

(Includes a comment that “...the *when* and *why* matters as much as the *who*”...)

Yale News “Report outlines principles for renaming campus buildings” December 2, 2016

<https://news.yale.edu/2016/12/02/report-outlines-principles-renaming-campus-buildings>

<https://secretary.yale.edu/services-resources/procedure-consideration-renaming-requests>

2017 decision to rename Calhoun College at Yale University -

<https://news.yale.edu/2017/02/11/yale-change-calhoun-college-s-name-honor-grace-murray-hopper-0>

<https://president.yale.edu/decision-name-calhoun-college>

From: [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Young, SarahAlexandra](#); [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Palm, Genevieve](#)
Subject: ACT Place Names Committee - Scope and Method of Review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 15 March 2019 5:00:00 PM
Attachments: [Attachment A - Scope and Method of Review -ACT Place Names Committee & G....pdf](#)

Dear Committee

We are looking forward to our meeting on Tuesday 19 March, commencing at 3pm. I've attached further information to assist the committee to consider/discuss Item 2 – ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review.

The attached document 'Scope and Method of Review' describes how the ACT Government will assess and review each item of the Assembly Resolution.

Please let me know if you have any particular dietary requirements for our light afternoon tea refreshments.

Kind regards

Sharon

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.planning.act.gov.au

From: Priestly, Sharon **On Behalf Of** Placenames

Sent: Friday, 8 March 2019 5:26 PM

To [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: Brown, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au>; Palm, Genevieve

<Genevieve.Palm@act.gov.au>; Priestly, Sharon <Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au>

Subject: ACT Place Names Committee - meeting papers Tuesday 19 March 2019 - attachments enclosed [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Committee

I have enclosed the meeting papers for our committee meeting set for **3pm on Tuesday 19 March 2019**. I hope the attachments are useful to assist the discussion for Item 2 – Review Place Names Guidelines. Please note, we will provide printed copies of all the information at the meeting.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and all the very best wishes for a relaxing Canberra Day!

Kind regards

Sharon

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE & GUIDELINES REVIEW



SCOPE AND METHOD OF REVIEW

The scope of the review of the ACT Place Names Guidelines was outlined in the Assembly Resolution passed on Wednesday 28 November 2018. This document describes how the ACT Government will assess and review each item of the Resolution.

Scope

The scope of the review of ACT place name guidelines was outlined as follows;

- (a) review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city;
- (b) review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns;
- (c) ensure that the ACT Place Names Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards;
- (d) request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and
- (e) report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review.

Table of scope and method

	Scope item identified in the Resolution	Method of review
a.1)	Review the terms of reference for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will use the ACT Government’s <i>Better Practice Toolkit</i>, an online resource to assist with managing the operation of ACT Government Boards and Committees, to review the terms of reference for the ACT Place Names Committee. > Recommendations made will based on ACT Government’s <i>Better Practice Toolkit</i> for appointments to Board and Committees.
a.2)	Review the expansion of membership for the Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will use the ACT Government’s <i>Governance Principles for Appointments, Boards and Committees</i>, released in March 2017 to review the membership of the ACT Place Names Committee. > Recommendations made will based on the ACT Government’s <i>Governance Principles for Appointments, Boards and Committees</i>.

b.1)	Review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will assess the <i>ACT Public Place Names Guidelines</i> against a cross-jurisdictional analysis of place naming guidelines for meeting current community standards in other jurisdictions.
b.2)	Review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they allow for greater community input.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will assess the <i>ACT Public Place Names Guidelines</i>, website and the community engagement strategy against ACT Government best practice and a cross-jurisdictional analysis of community input practices for naming public places in other jurisdictions.
b.3)	Review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that the community has the capacity to raise concerns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will assess the <i>ACT Public Place Names Guidelines</i>, website and government procedures. > The review will assess the accessibility of a complaints process for Public Place Names that members of the community feel do not meet community standards.
c)	Ensure that the Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will assess the <i>ACT Public Place Names Guidelines</i> and the Place Names Committee <i>Terms of Reference</i> to identify a mandate and process for the committee to consider community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards.
d)	Request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The Place Names Committee has been requested to review these names and provide input and options on the review items. The review will identify options for the Committee to consider the places names William Slim Drive and Haig Park. > Recommendations will be based on engagement with internal stakeholders and a cross-jurisdictional analysis of community input practices for naming public places in other jurisdictions.
e)	Report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review.	A final report of the ACT Government review will be tabled during the June 2019 sitting period.

Mr Brett Phillips
Executive Director
Planning Delivery Division
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Email: brett.phillips@act.gov.au

Dear Mr Phillips

ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review

I refer to your letter dated 22 January 2019 seeking the views of the ACT Place Names Committee (the committee) on the Assembly resolution dated 28 November 2018 and the specific actions listed in 2(a) to 2(d) of the resolution. Thank you for providing an opportunity for the committee to deliver a consolidated response to the resolution and contribute to the review of the ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines.

The committee meeting on 19 March 2019 provided a forum for our members to properly consider the resolution and formulate a response. The overview and accompanying written information from your representatives, James Bennett and Sarah Young, has assisted the committee to understand the context and background to the review. The meeting particularly appreciated the message that the Minister continues to value the committee's significant expertise and the positive contribution our members bring to place naming in the ACT.

The committee has considered each part of the resolution and responded accordingly:

Resolution 2(a): Review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.

It is the committee's view that the current terms of reference offer flexibility to ensure the membership can represent the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city. It is our understanding that the Minister can establish the membership according to the range of expertise and diversity provided by applicants responding to the expression of interest and also, through consultation undertaken in accordance with the ACT Government's committee appointment guidelines and governance principles. There is no minimum or maximum number of members specified in the terms of reference.

The current committee was appointed by the Minister in October 2017 following a publicly advertised expression of interest process. The membership comprises the Surveyor-General of the ACT, a representative of the National Capital Authority, two representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and eight others, all having a connection and commitment to the ACT.

The appointed members have experience or expertise in disciplines covering Australian history, Australian heritage, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture, anthropology, archaeology, cultural diversity, town planning, authoritative addressing and media.

It is the committee's view that the specific appointment of a young adult person, with relevant experience, would bring another perspective to the membership and provide for the views of younger people in the community to be particularly considered in the place names process.

Resolution 2(b): review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns; and Resolution 2(c) ensure that the ACT Place Names Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards.

As raised in correspondence dated 26 November 2018, the committee has concerns about the phrase "...community standards...". How does one generation determine community standards as opposed to another?

The committee is cognisant of community sensitivities and will continue to advocate for new place names which the members can reasonably presume will be acceptable to the community at the time the naming determination is made. This commitment is supported by the *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1)* which provide for "the desirability for the totality of public place names in the ACT to be reflective of diverse cultural situations" and for the avoidance of "derogatory or discriminatory terms or terms in poor taste".

The committee believes changes to the ACT Place Names website could improve existing opportunities for the community, both locally and nationally, to nominate names and/or to raise concerns in relation to a commemorated place name.

In relation to the community raising concerns, it is important that consideration is also given to the possible hurt caused to families whose commemorated family member could be subject to community scrutiny for alleged indiscretions (real or perceived) which could result in protracted public debate.

The committee recommends improving the community engagement process by developing criteria to require proponents to substantiate any request to revisit the naming of a division and/or public place by providing strong reasons, supported by rigorous evidence. This would assist the committee to investigate requests made in light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinion and facilitate timely advice to the Minister about whether a place name should be revoked or retained.

The committee may also recommend further information for the particular ACTmapi place name citation to additionally describe the commemorated person's historical legacy and encourage reflection and discussion in the community.

Resolution 2(d): Review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority.

William Slim Drive

The committee has been generally made aware of the allegations raised concerning the 13th Governor-General of Australia, Field Marshal Sir William Slim. In 2014, the former committee agreed–

- to wait and consider the outcome of any legal action in NSW and/or any recommendations resulting from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
- that it would like to be on the front foot ready to respond; and
- if a decision is made to rename the road it should not be named after a person.

At the meeting on 19 March, the current committee was provided for the first time with redacted copies of correspondence and responses relating to representations concerning the naming of William Slim Drive.

The committee has noted that the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was released in December 2017.

The committee's discussion has determined that it is not in a position to come to a view on the ethical, reputational and evidentiary issues current with respect to the name William Slim Drive.

It is the committee's recommendation that the ACT Government consider formally writing to the Federal Government (Prime Minister's Office) for advice on the substance of the allegations and the naming of the public place, commemorating a former Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Haig Park

Previous memberships of the committee have considered representations about the naming of Haig Park, which commemorates the influential and historically controversial, Field Marshal the Right Honourable the Earl Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Empire Forces in the First World War. Over the past one hundred years, Haig's record and reputation have undergone intense interrogation.

The point was made at the committee meeting on 19 March that a historical perspective on the significance of Haig's contribution, including his advocacy for returned service men and women as founding president of the British Legion, was available to the Canberra National Memorials Committee at the time the decision was made to name the park in 1928 – a decade after war's end. It is considered significant that the public place name was determined in the first nomenclature gazette published by the Federal Capital Commission on 20 September 1928.

It is the committee's recommendation that the historic place name remain and that the ACT Government investigate opportunities to provide additional interpretative signage in Haig Park (in both Braddon and Turner) to encourage community reflection and discussion about the First World War.

Further to this recommendation, Co-chair Jeff Brown, has confirmed that he and James Bennett met with the City Renewal Authority on 13 February 2019 to discuss opportunities for possible upgrades to the park signage to provide a fuller account of Haig's leadership of the Australian forces. The City Activation team has confirmed it will wait for the outcome of the review before determining any work required in relation to the naming and/or signage of the park.

On behalf of the committee, I look forward to learning the outcomes of the ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review. I hope it will identify opportunities to build on the existing strong place names processes in the ACT to provide for the commemoration of names into the future reflecting our diverse and inclusive community, both locally and nationally.

Yours sincerely



Co-chair
ACT Place Names Committee

28 March 2019

From: [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)
To: [David Headon](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Bcc: [Palm, Genevieve](#); [Priestly, Sharon](#)
Subject: 20190606 - ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review Report - copy enclosed for committee [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 6 June 2019 4:08:00 PM
Attachments: [0 - Response to Legislative Assembly Resolution of 28 November 2018 - AC....pdf](#)

[REDACTED]
Co-chair

ACT Place Names Committee

cc. Committee members

Dear [REDACTED]

This afternoon Minister Gentleman tabled the *ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review Report* in the Assembly. James Bennett has provided the enclosed copy of the Final Report for the committee's information.

Kind regards

Sharon

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.planning.act.gov.au



ACT
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ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE & GUIDELINES REVIEW

JUNE 2019

Executive summary

The ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review (the Review) has responded to the ACT Legislative Assembly motion of 28 November 2018 and investigated key processes supporting the naming of public places in the Territory. The Review identifies a number of options and opportunities to improve the processes and community input for naming public places. The Review found that the current system and processes for naming public places in the ACT are robust and thorough; however, the ACT Place Names Committee membership and terms of reference could be updated to reflect best practice ACT Government processes for boards and committees.

The Review recognises that the work of the ACT Place Names Committee (the Committee) has been well received by the community. The Review also recognises that the current naming procedures have not resulted in any place names that do not meet with community standards reflective of a modern, inclusive and progressive Canberra. The public place names specifically mentioned in the Assembly resolution are considered legacy issues, having been named many years ago and prior to ACT self-government.

The Review sets out options and recommendations and provides opportunities to expand community input and increase transparency in decision-making. It aims to find ways to make it easier and clearer for members of the community to raise concerns with the committee to identify instances where the naming of a place has caused hurt and distress to our community.

Part A Report on the review of the ACT Place Names Committee

This section of the report reviews the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.

Part B Report on the review of the ACT Public Place Names Guidelines

This section of the report reviews the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns.

Part C Report on the consideration of community proposals for place naming

The report considers whether the Committee and place-naming processes can consider community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards and how processes to raise complaints or provided feedback can be improved.

Part D Report on the review of specific place names

This section of the report provides context on the specific names mentioned in the Assembly Resolution, the Committee's advice and provides options for consideration by Government.

Part E Summary of Options and Recommendations

This section of the report outlines options and recommendations that are identified throughout the review report.

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Introduction

The ACT Place Names Committee & Guidelines Review (the Review) responds to the motion passed by the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2018. The resolution required the ACT Government to conduct a review of the ACT Place Names Committee, the Public Place Names Guidelines and associated processes. The Review also called on the ACT Place Names Committee to review the naming of two public places, Haig Park and William Slim Drive.

The resolution calls on the ACT Government to:

- a. review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city;
- b. review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns;
- c. ensure that the ACT Place Names Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards;
- d. request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and
- e. report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review.

The full Assembly resolution is provided at [Appendix 1](#).

The terms of reference and scope of the Review have been set by the Assembly in the resolution. Relevantly, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse delivered a recommendation that institutions should review their existing institutional honours, dedications and memorials to make sure that they do not honour perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

Method

The method for assessment of each item of the Review detailed below outlines the benchmarks and best practice examples used and informs what the recommendations and options are based on. More detail on the scope and method of review is provided at [Appendix 3](#).

Part A: Review the ACT Place Names Committee

In the Assembly motion, the ACT Government was called upon to review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.

The terms of reference for the Committee were assessed against the ACT Government's *Better Practice Toolkit*, an online resource to assist with managing the operation of ACT Government Boards and Committees.¹ In relation to the expansion of membership for the Committee, the ACT Government's *Governance Principles—Appointments, Boards and Committees in the ACT* (March 2017) provided a benchmark to assess the current Committee membership against.

Part B: Review the Public Place Names Guidelines

The Assembly motion called on the ACT Government to review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns.

The Review assessed the *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1)* (NI2014-643) (the Guidelines) against a cross-jurisdictional analysis of place naming guidelines in other jurisdictions. The Review also assessed the Guidelines, the place names website and the community engagement process against ACT Government best practice and a cross-jurisdictional analysis of community input practices for naming public places in other jurisdictions. The Review also considered the existing complaints process for members of the community to raise concerns over place names that they feel do not meet community standards, assessing it against other ACT Government complaints and feedback procedures.

Part C: Review the Committee's ability to consider community proposals

The Assembly motion also called on the ACT Government to ensure the Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards. The Review assessed the Guidelines and the Committee terms of reference to identify a mandate and establish a defined process for the Committee to consider community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards.

Part D: Review specific place names

The Assembly motion also called on the Committee to review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park. EPSDD wrote to the Chair of the Committee to advise of the review and to invite feedback on the items set out in the Assembly motion. The Committee was provided with relevant information to inform its review of the particular names identified. The Committee's response to the particular naming issues and other items has been provided in relevant sections of this Review. The ACT Government also wrote to the relatives of the Slim family and attempted to contact relatives of the Haig family to further inform the advice of the Committee back to the Review. No contact was made

¹ Available online at <https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/cabinet/governance>

with the Haig family, while the response from the Slim family is provided at [Appendix 5](#) to the Review.

Place Naming in the ACT

This section outlines the existing processes for the naming of public places within the ACT to provide important contextual information about the responsible agencies and the processes used. There are different processes for naming districts, divisions (suburbs), street names and other public places, with different entities responsible for naming.

Entity Responsibility

Table 1: Entity Responsibility

Entity	Authority & Legislation	Example
The Australian Government	Australian Electoral Commission	> Federal Electoral Divisions
	National Capital Authority (NCA) Canberra National Memorials Committee <i>National Memorials Ordinance 1928</i>	> Places on National Land in Designated Areas > (the Ordinance applies only in relation to National land, as defined in s 27 of the <i>Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988</i> (Cth) (PALM Act)) > (see note in the Guidelines – the ACT will consult with the Commonwealth (NCA) on naming of public places on Territory Land in Designated Areas. Designated Areas are specified under the National Capital Plan, as per s 10 of the PALM Act)
	<i>National Memorials Ordinance 1928</i>	> Places in the ACT named prior to self-government in 1988
The ACT Government	ACT Electoral Commission <i>Electoral Act 1992</i>	> Territory Electoral Divisions
	<i>Districts Act 2002</i>	> Districts
	<i>Public Place Names Act 1989</i>	> Divisions/Suburbs > Road names > Public Open Space > Geographical feature names
	<i>Education Act 2004</i>	> Government school or school related institutions
Non-government	Nil	> Building Names > Estate or vanity names > Private roads on leased land > Sportsgrounds

In addition, there are other buildings and places in the ACT named by other entities such as the Australian Government’s Department of Defence and Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, Canberra Airport, ACT Health, universities and non-government schools.

Electoral divisions

Federal electoral division naming is part of the process of conducting a federal redistribution. It is the responsibility of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). Examples in the ACT include the seats of Bean, Fenner and Canberra. The AEC submission guidelines apply to all stages of a redistribution. The AEC naming guidelines are considered at all stages of the process.

When someone makes a suggestion or comments on a suggestion that refers to a name, the offered name will be considered against the naming guidelines. If different names are offered in objections or comments on objections or at a public inquiry, they will also be considered against the naming guidelines.

ACT electoral divisions are named by the ACT Electoral Commission under the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Places located on National Land within designated areas

The National Capital Authority administers the naming of public places on National Land in designated areas, in consultation with the Canberra National Memorials Committee, empowered by the *National Memorials Ordinance 1928*.

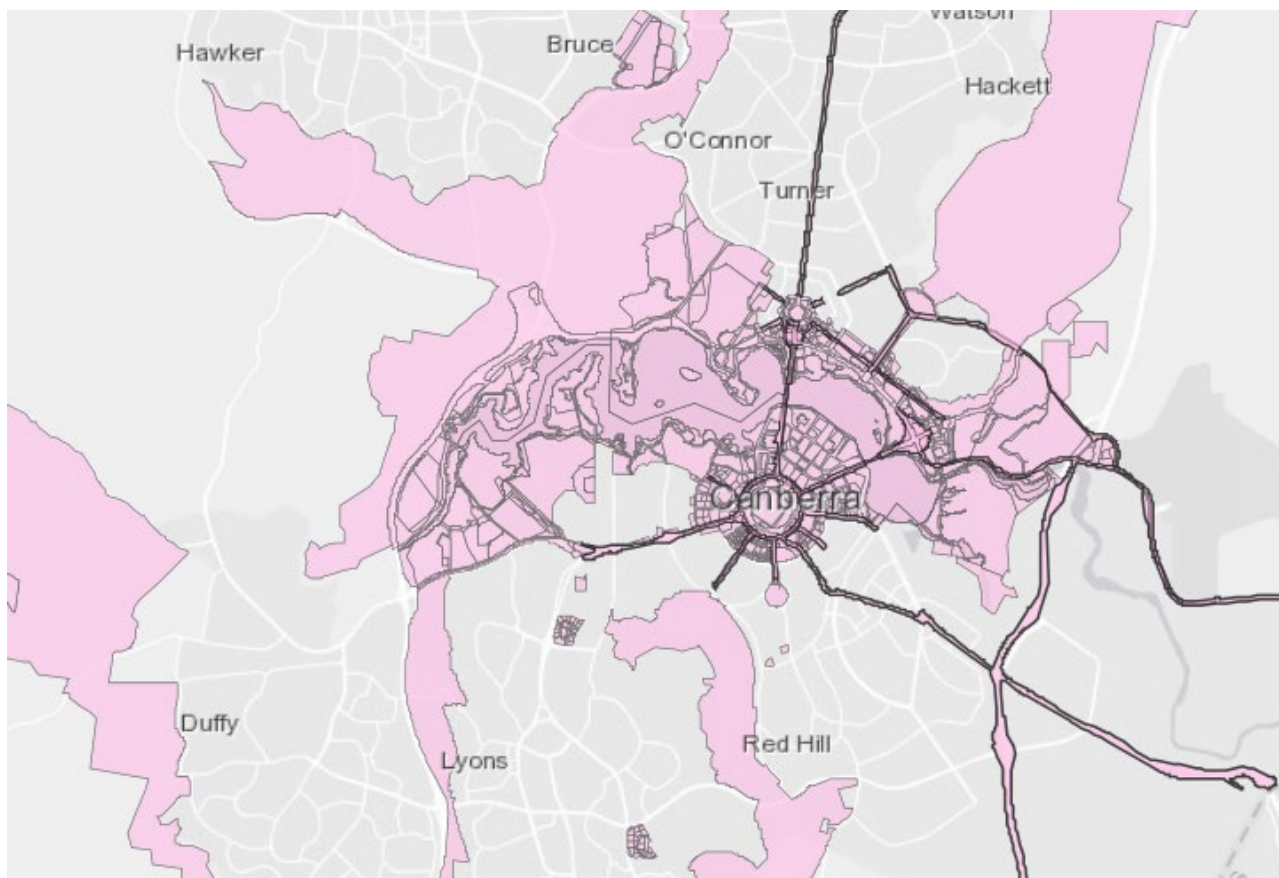


Figure 1: Map of NCA designated areas in Canberra shown in pink

Divisions and public places on Territory land in designated areas are named under the *Public Place Names Act 1989* in consultation with the National Capital Authority.

Designated areas include all major approach routes to Canberra, the Parliamentary Zone, Lake Burley Griffin and surrounding parklands, the Australian National University, Russell Defence Precinct and Duntroon (Australian Defence Force Academy). Designated areas also include the Inner Hills of the National Capital including Mount Majura and Mount Ainslie, Black Mountain, O'Connor Ridge, Red Hill, Oakey Hill, Mount Painter, the Pinnacle and Stromlo Forest.

Places named prior to self-government

The Commonwealth was responsible for the naming of places prior to 1989 under the 1928 Ordinance which provides for the location and character of national memorials, and the nomenclature of divisions and public places. Other Commonwealth ordinances, such as the *Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980*, under which the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve was named, provided the power to name other public places.

Districts

Districts in the ACT are named by the responsible Minister under the *Districts Act 2002 (ACT)*. There are 19 districts in the ACT. A district can comprise a number of divisions (suburbs). The current districts include Canberra Central, Woden Valley, Belconnen, Weston Creek, Tuggeranong, Gungahlin and the most recent, Molonglo Valley.

Divisions (suburbs), geographical features and roads

The legislation for the naming of public places in the Territory is the *Public Place Names Act 1989 (ACT)*. The Public Place Names Act was enacted following the establishment of self-government in the Territory.

The Public Place Names Act gives the Minister the power to determine the names of divisions (suburbs) and public places on Territory land. The meaning of the term public place is defined in section 2 of the Act and includes streets, geographical features and places the public is entitled to use, such as parks. The Act also provides an ability for the Minister to make guidelines about the naming of public places, which provide further guidance on considerations before decisions on place naming are made.

In practice, the Minister has delegated his functions under the Public Place Names Act to Senior Executive Service officers within EPSDD. Often, the Director-General of EPSDD, who is also the Chief Planning Executive, will make decisions as the Minister's delegate.

As outlined in further detail below, and in following sections of this report, the Committee has been established as an advisory Committee to provide advice to the Minister and/or Delegate on the naming of public places and contentious naming matters. Division names and naming themes are recommended to the Minister (or delegate) by the Committee.

A disallowable instrument is prepared to recommend the determination of a division/public place name to the Minister or delegate. Once the instrument has been approved, it is notified on the ACT Legislation Register and tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The instrument is subject to a six day disallowance period, in which a motion may be moved in the Assembly to amend or disallow the instrument.

The Place Names Unit in EPSDD provides secretariat support to the Committee.

This Review focusses on the naming of public places under the Public Place Names Act.

Part A Report on the review of the ACT Place Names Committee

This section of the report reviews the terms of reference and expansion of membership of the Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.

As outlined in the method section above, the Review addresses the membership and governance of the Committee by assessing the current processes against the ACT Government's *Governance Principles—Appointments, Boards and Committees in the ACT* and the *Better Practice Toolkit*.

ACT Place Names Committee's recommendation for the Committee's terms of reference and expansion of membership

Co-chair of the ACT Place Names Committee, Dr David Headon, provided a response from the Committee to item 2(a) of the Resolution regarding the Committee's terms of reference and expansion of membership. A full copy of the response is provided at [Appendix 2](#). The response is extracted below:

It is the committee's view that the current terms of reference offer flexibility to ensure the membership can represent the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city. It is our understanding that the Minister can establish the membership according to the range of expertise and diversity provided by applicants responding to the expression of interest and also, through consultation undertaken in accordance with the ACT Government's committee appointment guidelines and governance principles. There is no minimum or maximum number of members specified in the terms of reference.

The current committee was appointed by the Minister in October 2017 following a publicly advertised expression of interest process. The membership comprises the Surveyor-General of the ACT, a representative of the National Capital Authority, two representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and eight others, all having a connection and commitment to the ACT.

The appointed members have experience or expertise in disciplines covering Australian history, Australian heritage, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture, anthropology, archaeology, cultural diversity, town planning, authoritative addressing and media.

It is the committee's view that the specific appointment of a young adult person, with relevant experience, would bring another perspective to the membership and provide for the views of younger people in the community to be particularly considered in the place names process.

Terms of Reference

The current Terms of Reference for the Committee is provided at [Appendix 4](#). The document was updated in October 2017 for the Expression of Interest process to appoint the current committee.

The Terms of Reference have been prepared to provide Committee members and key stakeholders with a common understanding of the Committee's purpose, roles, responsibilities, operations, tenure and obligations.

The Terms of Reference reflect the role of the Committee as a non-statutory Ministerial advisory body and outline four overarching functions:

1. Advise the responsible Minister (or Minister's delegate) on all proposals for geographic and division (suburb) names and the themes to be adopted for naming roads and other public places on Territory land in the ACT.
2. Advise the ACT Place Names officers on proposed special commemorations or matters brought before members at committee meetings or by email.
3. Consider and advise on place name issues that arise from time to time.
4. Review proposed names for new roads and other public places and provide guidance to the Place Names officers as required.

The Terms of Reference were assessed against the *Better Practice Toolkit*. Overall, the current Terms of Reference perform well, however some opportunities for improvements have been identified.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to include a section on Powers of the Committee to reinforce the non-statutory and advisory nature of the Committee and outline its power/role in place names decision-making.
- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to establish a clear mandate and responsibility for the Committee to advise the Minister or delegate on contentious place naming issues, including where commemoration of particular names may no longer represent community standards. This will strengthen the role of the Committee to collect and source evidence to support their advice to the Minister or delegate, including information held by Government.
- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to outline the process for appointing the Chair/Co-Chairs, i.e. Ministerial appointment. The Terms of Reference should also consider whether there is a need for the appointment of a Deputy-Chair or acting arrangements should the need arise. This section should also detail any requirements or restrictions on who can be appointed to the role of Chair.
- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to outline the operations of the Committee, including who provides Secretariat support, how often the Committee will meet, who can call a meeting and who can attend meetings, what conditions are required for a meeting to proceed (quorum) and how the Committee will capture and document its decisions/advice.
- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to outline the process by which the Committee undergoes regular monitoring or evaluation of its performance, for example through the EPSDD Annual Report.

Expansion of membership

The ACT Government policy on boards and committees' appointments seeks to achieve and maintain 50% representation of women and increase the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability, and persons from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Review notes that the current ACT Government process for appointments to boards and committees mandates consultation with the agencies responsible for women, LGBTIQ and multicultural affairs to identify suitable candidates for consideration.

For the current Committee, Minister Mick Gentleman MLA appointed members following a public expression of interest process conducted in June 2017. All members were appointed for a period of three years commencing on 1 October 2017. The appointments will expire on 30 September 2020.

The current membership of the committee comprises 12 people and achieves 50% representation of women.

The current Terms of Reference for the Committee states that membership may consist of:

- > a chairperson with relevant experience
- > the Surveyor-General of the ACT
- > a representative with an understanding of local heritage
- > representatives with a background in, or knowledge of, Australian history (local and/or national)
- > a representative from the local media
- > a representative with a multicultural background
- > an Indigenous representative
- > a representative of the National Capital Authority.

The current membership of the Committee has representatives from each of these categories. The current membership has a high proportion of members with qualifications and expertise in Australian and local history, as this is considered an important skillset for the Committee. The current number of members, 12, is considered suitable and it is not considered necessary to increase the number of members on the Committee.

The Review notes that a number of members have been appointed for multiple three-year terms. This was due to a significant number of new appointees to the Committee membership and the need to ensure some continuity of membership and experience on the new Committee.

The membership of the Committee has been assessed against the Government's *Governance Principles—Appointments, Boards and Committees in the ACT* and the *Better Practice Toolkit*.

Overall, the membership requirements in the Terms of Reference are broadly representative and reflect a diverse membership; however, the categories of membership could be expanded to further reflect Canberra's standing as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

- > The membership section of the Terms of Reference should be amended to ensure representatives on the Committee reflect a broader diversity in age, experience and identity, including adding the following representatives:
 - A young person (under the age of 30)
 - A representative with a background in, or knowledge of, Indigenous languages.
- > The expression-of-interest process for new Committee appointments should include a broad and multi-faceted communications approach that targets new members and seeks to reach a diverse range of candidates.
- > EPSDD consider adopting a remuneration or participation payment policy to remove barriers to Committee participation and to recognise the expertise and contribution of Committee members.

Part B Report on the review of the ACT Public Place Names Guidelines

This section of the review assesses the *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1)* (NI2014-643) (the Guidelines) against an analysis of place naming guidelines for meeting current community standards in other jurisdictions. This section also reviews the Guidelines in relation to opportunities for community input and the ability for the community to raise concerns or make complaints.

Introduction

The Guidelines are a notifiable instrument made under section 4A of the *Public Place Names Act 1989*. Under s 3 of the Public Place Names Act, before the Minister or delegate makes a decision about the naming of a public place, he or she must consider the Guidelines.

This section of the review assesses the guidelines for community standards, community engagement and dual naming against a number of jurisdictions in Australia and internationally.

Place naming forms an important part of the land release and estate development planning process for new divisions. Therefore, it is important that the process for the naming of public places, such as roads and public parks, is efficient and timely so as not to cause unnecessary delays.

Jurisdictional analysis

An analysis of other jurisdictions in Australia identified that most place-naming processes have a component of public engagement and established guidelines that require names to meet community standards or avoid discriminatory and inappropriate names.

The statutory process to name public places in the ACT is unique compared to that applied in other jurisdictions in Australia. In the ACT, the legislation provides for commemorative naming to formally recognise, from a national viewpoint, the names of people who have made important contributions to Australia, things characteristic of Australia and words from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander vocabulary.

The Northern Territory is the only other state/territory jurisdiction directly responsible for the naming of public roads. In other jurisdictions, this function is generally devolved to local government and overseen by a state authority, such as the Geographical Names Board of NSW. In the ACT, public place names are determined according to the nomenclature theme assigned to the division (suburb) in which the place is located. The Committee advises the Minister about potential themes for new divisions on Territory land and is mindful about providing opportunities to commemorate the names of women and names to reflect an inclusive and diverse community.

	Reference to community standards	Community engagement component	Dual naming policy
ACT	Yes. Section 2 of the Guidelines states that derogatory or discriminatory terms or terms in poor taste should be avoided.	Partial. Consultation with commemorated person's relatives, close colleagues or a relevant professional organisation.	No formal policy, however the principle of dual naming of geographical features is supported and will be considered as proposals are made and opportunities arise.

		<p>Consultation with an appropriate cultural group before commemorating a word from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander vocabulary.</p> <p>Where a park is named in an existing neighbourhood, consultation is undertaken with the local community.</p>	
NSW	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) Guidelines for the determination of place names state that names shall be “appropriate to community sensitivities”.</p> <p>Section 7.1 of the GNB place naming policy identifies occasions where “people commemorated have later proven to be of poor character or otherwise thought to be unworthy.”</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The <i>Roads Regulation 2018</i> (NSW) requires statutory notification and allows for submissions on proposal to name a road.</p> <p>The GNB place naming policy requires Councils to provide evidence they have sought community feedback. The guidelines and procedures are aimed at ensuring community input, giving all interested parties a say in a naming decision.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>NSW has a dual naming policy for geographical features and cultural sites titled, ‘<i>The Dual naming supporting cultural recognition policy</i>’.</p>
WA	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Section 1.2.6 of Policies and Standards for Geographical Naming in WA allows for discriminatory, derogatory and inappropriate names and requests from the public to be assessed on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Section 1.8.1 of the Policies and Standards for Geographical Naming in WA requires consultation with the community.</p> <p>Use of deceased personal commemorative names requires evidence of broad community support for the proposal, among other requirements.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The use of dual naming is supported as a means of giving concurrent and shared recognition of two cultures</p> <p>Consultation with the relevant Aboriginal communities should be undertaken prior to any public consultation on the proposed name(s).</p>
SA	<p>Partial.</p> <p>SA Government’s Suburb, road and place names Geographical names guidelines do not reference community standards.</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>None required under the <i>Geographical Names Act 1991</i> (SA)</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The <i>Geographical Names Act 1991</i> (SA) provides for a dual geographical name to be assigned to a place, in order to retain and record</p>

	Each council prepares road name policy based on Guidelines for the Selection of Names for Roads in SA, which recommends that names, which are offensive or likely to give offence should not be used.	Naming and renaming proposals are listed on the Office of the Surveyor General website, and submissions or proposals are welcome.	both the Aboriginal and European nomenclature heritage of South Australia.
NT	None.	None.	None under legislation.
	None required under the <i>Place Names Act 1967</i> (NT). The Place Names Committee for the Northern Territory is established under section 5 of the Place Names Act, to make recommendations to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for the naming of a place.	The NT Place Names Act allows that the Place Names Committee can develop guidelines for notification. Names submitted are to be accompanied by supporting reasons, which can include community engagement. When a recently deceased person's name is suggested, the permission of a member of the family is required.	A dual naming system or use of alternate/alternative names may be used for the naming of a physical feature where no official or recorded name exists and where a name change is not possible or acceptable, but it is not enshrined in the legislation.
NZ	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
	The <i>New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008</i> defines categories of names that should be avoided, including names that are in poor taste or likely to cause offence and names that are discriminatory or derogatory in terms of race, gender, creed, political affiliation.	If the NZGB supports the naming proposal it notifies it on the Land Information New Zealand website, in newspapers and other publications, asking for supporting or objecting submissions from the public with reasons.	A number of New Zealand places have been changed to include the original Māori name of the place as well as the European name used for the last 100–200 years.

ACT Place Names Committee's recommendation for greater capacity to raise concerns and community input

Co-chair of the ACT Place Names Committee, Dr David Headon, provided a response from the Committee to item 2(b) of the Resolution regarding the Guidelines and ensuring that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns. A full copy of the response is provided at [Appendix 2](#). The response is extracted below:

As raised in correspondence dated 26 November 2018, the committee has concerns about the phrase "...community standards...". How does one generation determine community standards as opposed to another? The committee is cognisant of community sensitivities and will continue to advocate for new place names which the members can reasonably presume will be acceptable to the community at the time the naming determination is made. This commitment is supported by the Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1) which provide for "the desirability for the totality of public place names in the ACT to be reflective of diverse cultural situations" and for the avoidance of "derogatory or discriminatory terms or terms in poor taste".

The committee believes changes to the ACT Place Names website could improve existing opportunities for the community, both locally and nationally, to nominate names and/or to raise concerns in relation to a commemorated place name.

In relation to the community raising concerns, it is important that consideration is also given to the possible hurt caused to families whose commemorated family member could be subject to community scrutiny for alleged indiscretions (real or perceived) which could result in protracted public debate.

The committee recommends improving the community engagement process by developing criteria to require proponents to substantiate any request to revisit the naming of a division and/or public place by providing strong reasons, supported by rigorous evidence. This would assist the committee to investigate requests made in light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinion and facilitate timely advice to the Minister about whether a place name should be revoked or retained. The committee may also recommend further information for the particular ACTmapi place name citation to additionally describe the commemorated person's historical legacy and encourage reflection and discussion in the community.

Community standards

In Australia, community standards have evolved over time and will continue to evolve in the future. Community standards are informed by Australia's tradition of representative democracy, the role of the media, judicial authority in legal precedent or statute and, more recently, social media and the increasing role of deliberative democracy in decision-making. The decision-making apparatus of the ACT Government, including ministerial advisory committees will continue to adjust to community standards and values over time, as we have a commitment to new and better ways of doing things and not settling for how it has always been.

Despite the difficulty in defining particular community standards and that they can be transient, it is clear that the ACT's current community standards are those of a modern, inclusive and progressive city. Any new proposals for naming should be judged against current community standards. The

Committee is well-placed, as a body made up of community representatives, to advise the Minister or delegate on whether a proposed name conforms to current community standards. The need to be able to advise on community standards further highlights the need for the Committee to be a diverse representative body bringing together a number of views and backgrounds. It is important to note that since the establishment of the Committee, there have been no place-naming decisions that have raised issues of community standards. The particular names identified in the Assembly Resolution are legacy names that were decided under a different process.

The Guidelines make limited reference to the concept of community standards. The Guidelines refer to the desirability for the totality of public place names in the ACT to be reflective of diverse cultural situations (see cl 1(f) of the Guidelines). Clause 2 of the Guidelines also states that the following terms and names should be avoided:

- (a) *derogatory or discriminatory terms or terms in poor taste;*
- (b) *names contrived to circumvent other parts of these guidelines; and*
- (c) *terms which could be construed as advertising a commercial or industrial enterprise.*

It is observed that the Guidelines currently provide limited guidance to the Committee on the need to consider community standards and the meaning of the term. An important and necessary improvement to the Guidelines would be to require the Committee to consider community standards and to provide some guidance as to what such consideration would entail.

The NSW Geographical Names Board Policy provides a helpful comparison for guidance on community standards and is extracted below:

“Discriminatory or derogatory names are not acceptable. Such names are those perceived, at a given point in time, to be offensive, demeaning, or harmful to the reputation of individuals, or to social, ethnic, religious or other groups. It is recognised that the perception of ‘discriminatory’ or ‘derogatory’ may vary through time and from place to place. In response to requests from the public, the GNB will investigate the appropriate status of any names deemed to be discriminatory or derogatory.”

The Yale University’s *Report of the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming* provides a useful case study of the key considerations of values and community standards between generations as they relate to decisions on place naming and renaming places that may be at odds with the current values of the community. It is considered in more detail in Section C below.

Community input and engagement

The current legislated process for naming public places in the ACT does not contain a general community engagement component. The Guidelines only require that reasonable steps be taken to obtain permission from the person’s relatives, close colleagues or a relevant professional organisation before naming a public place after a person. While the Committee does consult with the community when naming a public park in an established neighbourhood, this is not formally reflected in the Guidelines. The Act also provides for consultation with an appropriate cultural group before commemorating a word from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander vocabulary.

The Review has considered the fact that while the public commemoration of a name is of great interest to the community, it is also a personal matter for the person’s relatives. The Guidelines only allow the names of deceased persons to be considered, with at least 12 months elapsing after the death of a person before that person’s name can be determined.

The ACT Government has committed to strengthening engagement and delivering meaningful, responsive, accountable and inclusive opportunities for genuine engagement. The ACT Government has also adopted principles of Open Government. The ACT Government is committed to transparency in process and information, participation by citizens in the governing process and public collaboration in finding solutions to problems and participation in the improved well-being of the community.

It is necessary that any community input or public consultation process balances the right of the community to provide feedback on proposed names with the right of the deceased person and their remaining relatives to not have their reputation unfairly tarnished. The Review notes the issues raised by the Committee in relation to the sensitivities that arise in the place-naming process. In responding to the Assembly Resolution, and in comparing the ACT's process to other jurisdictions, the ACT could benefit from the introduction of community input into the place-naming process so that all relevant information is before the decision-maker prior to making a naming decision. It is considered that there is a substantial public benefit in seeking to obtain all relevant and available information about a proposed name before the decision is made, rather than responding to feedback or complaints once a decision has been made.

Requiring the Committee to consider community engagement outcomes as supporting evidence to inform a recommendation to the Minister or delegate will provide the Committee members a clear remit and evidence of community support to make a recommendation. It will also provide an important opportunity for members of the community to comment on proposed naming and give them the capacity to raise concerns or provide further information to the Committee prior to final naming decisions being made.

In addition to the process for formally naming a place, the Review has identified other opportunities for community input in the broader place-naming process.

Community input opportunities in place-naming process:

- > Increase publicity and improve accessibility to the existing community input process for new naming proposals
- > Implement a process to encourage community input on new theme proposals for new divisions (suburbs)
 - Including implementing a process for community input/feedback on proposed nomenclature themes for a division (suburb)
 - Consider community feedback on a number of suitable options put forward by the Committee
- > Increased community input on names and words proposed for commemoration
 - Community feedback process, for example, Henry Rolland Park (i.e. support/not support/raise issues for proposed names)
- > Community input on existing names
 - To be dealt with later in this report.

In addition to the opportunities for community input, it is recommended that updates be made to the place names website and to the communications strategy for place-naming proposals and decisions so the community is more aware and has the opportunity to become more engaged with the place-naming process.

The naming of Henry Rolland Park in Acton provides a recent example of community input into a place-naming decision. The naming process for West Basin's new public park was the first time a place name was informed by a community vote using the ACT Government's community engagement

platform www.yoursay.gov.au. A five-week polling period was held with almost 1500 votes cast. Henry Rolland topped the poll with 684 votes.

Capacity to raise concerns

The Review notes that the Guidelines are a statutory instrument that are required to be taken into account by the Minister or delegate *before* making a naming decision. The capacity to raise concerns on proposed names has been considered above in the recommendation of a public consultation process on draft names. The capacity to raise concerns on existing names is considered below in Section C of the Review.

Recommendations

The Review recommends that:

- > the Guidelines be updated to require the Committee to consider current community standards before naming a place after a person and to provide some guidance as to what such consideration would entail.
- > community input is sought on potential themes for new divisions, including nominating new themes and consulting on potential themes raised by the Committee
- > the Government invite increased community feedback on proposed names, seeking community input prior to the formal decision being made
 - This could be in the form of a call for community feedback, noting the need to balance community input with the rights of families, such as through the Yoursay website.
- > the Guidelines be updated to require the decision-maker to consider the result of any community feedback process on the draft name.
- > updates be made to the place names website and to the communications strategy for place naming proposals and decisions so that the community is more aware and has the opportunity to become more engaged with the place-naming process.

Part C Report on the consideration of community proposals for place naming

The Assembly Resolution called on the ACT Government to ensure the Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards. This section considers the Committee processes for receiving feedback and complaints from the community on existing names and suggests providing further detail on the process and considerations for when renaming will be considered.

Mandate to consider community feedback

Given the Assembly Resolution and the existing responsibility for the naming of places resting with the Minister or delegate, the Review has felt it necessary to clarify that the Committee has a mandate to receive and consider community proposals for place naming. It has been the experience to date that feedback or complaints about particular names have been provided to the Minister or ACT Government to respond. In some instances, correspondence has been sent directly to the Committee, or the Minister has asked the Committee to consider and advise on a particular issue.

The Review proposes that going forward, the Committee has a mandate to receive community complaints and provide advice to the Minister or delegate on the appropriate course of action. To achieve this, it is necessary to update the terms of reference for the Committee to include such a responsibility. It is also necessary to update the place names website to provide a mechanism for the community to make, and the Committee to receive, such complaints. This is dealt with in more detail below.

Receiving community proposals on existing names

As mentioned above, most community proposals about existing names have been made to the ACT Government, not the Committee. While the place names website has a form to nominate a person for commemoration, there is no specific process for lodging complaints or providing feedback on existing names.

The Committee does have a policy, published on the Place Names website, for considering feedback about existing names and provides consideration for when a name change will be considered. This webpage does not provide a direct mechanism for making a name change proposal, nor does it detail a process for a proposal will be assessed and decided upon. This could be rectified by providing a feedback/complaints portal with an easy to complete form that directly relates to providing feedback or complaints about existing names.

The ACT Government provides a general complaints/feedback mechanism through the Access Canberra website and this could be used to provide such feedback.² However, the place names website would benefit from a dedicated online portal for providing feedback/making complaints as this is the most likely approach a member of the community would take.

As noted in the previous section, the Committee agreed that there are opportunities to improve existing processes for the community to nominate names and raise concerns for existing names.

² Available at <https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/ask/>

Renaming

The Committee has a policy for renaming existing names which is published on the place names website.³ The policy advises that changing long-established place names is generally not preferred unless there is good reason to the contrary (for example, to avoid ambiguity, duplication or offence).

The policy on renaming existing names also sets out a number of considerations where a proposal has been received to alter or change a public place name. Where a name change proposal has been received, consideration is given to:

- > whether the name causes offence to the public (for example, names that are derogatory or in any way offensive)
- > impact of a name change on residents, businesses or organisations using the current name as part of their address
- > confusion caused to members of the public using out-of-date maps carrying the original name
- > costs involved in publicising a name change to residents, essential service providers and the general public.

Where a change of name is considered necessary, consideration is to be given to the Guidelines when selecting a new name for the place.

There are a very limited number of examples of when a place name has been changed or a name has been revoked. These include:

- > the revocation of the name Studio Road in 2018 due to the realignment of Stockdill Drive for the development of the division of Strathnairn, with no residential or commercial addresses attached to the road
- > Wilpena Street, Harrison, revoked in 2006 because the place name duplicated the name of a private road within the University of Canberra. The name Whiskey Bay Street was determined in its place to commemorate the Tasmanian geographical feature. In 2007 Whiskey Bay Street was renamed Flagstone Street following a complaint from a resident who considered the name to be offensive. Support for the change of name was gained from all neighbouring property owners.
- > Caley Place, Narrabundah was renamed in 2001 because of apparent addressing confusion relating to duplicate numbering in Caley Crescent. The recommended name Roach Place was not supported by residents (Cockroach). Following further consultation the name Mosman Place was determined. Francis Roach Lane was later named in Kingston.
- > Wells Station Drive was revoked in 2009 to amend the spelling to reflect the correct historical property name i.e. Well Station Drive, Gungahlin.
- > Minnie Bruce Street, Franklin was revoked in 2007 following consultation with a family member who requested commemoration of the writer's full name—Mary Grant Bruce. The suggested name of three words did not conform to addressing standards and the road was renamed Morris West Street.

³ Available at

https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_names/place_name_policies/existing_names

As noted in the previous section, the Committee provided input to the Review on community proposals for revisiting place names. The Committee helpfully suggested that further criteria could be developed to assist the community with providing relevant information to the Committee to accompany any complaint.

These criteria could be developed and added to the existing renaming policy. This would provide a clear process and guidance to the community about how the Committee will assess any feedback or complaints, and the factors they will consider when developing their advice for the Minister or delegate.

When developing these criteria, a useful point of reference is the Yale University's *Report of the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming*, which is provided as a case study below.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- > The Committee develop a feedback/complaints process and publish it on the place names website. The process should detail how a member of the community can provide feedback/complaints, provide an online portal for providing the feedback and provide information on how the Committee will assess the feedback and advise the Minister or delegate.
- > The Committee update the renaming policy to provide further criteria to assist the community in providing relevant information for the Committee's consideration, and providing the criteria against which the Committee will assess community proposals.
- > Improvements be made to the place names website to develop an online portal for providing feedback to the Committee on naming proposals, renaming proposals and other feedback.

The Yale Committee advised that renaming would 'typically prove warranted only when more than one principle listed here points toward renaming; even when more than one principle supports renaming, renaming may not be required if other principles weigh heavily in the balance.'⁴

The Yale University has also published a process for how applications will be processed, assessed and decided.⁵ After a name has been considered under this process, it will not be considered again absent a material change in known facts and circumstances.

More information on the Yale Committee's review and final report is available at <https://president.yale.edu/advisory-groups/presidents-committees/committee-establish-principles-renaming-0>

⁴ Report of the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming, (2016), available online at https://president.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/CEPR_FINAL_12-2-16.pdf, p 19

⁵ Available online at <https://secretary.yale.edu/services-resources/procedure-consideration-renaming-requests>

Part D Report on the review of specific place names

This section of the report provides the Committee's response to the Assembly for the Committee to review particular names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park. The Review provides the Committee response and other relevant information for the Government to consider. The review of specific names is limited to Slim and Haig as the Committee, and the Government, are not aware of any other place names that are causing community disquiet.

ACT Place Names Committee Review of William Slim Drive

Introduction

William Slim Drive in the Belconnen District was named on 13 April 1976. The road is named to commemorate Field Marshal Sir William Joseph "Bill" Slim, (1891–1970) a British military commander and the 13th Governor-General of Australia (1953–1960).

The Government is aware of public allegations made against Sir William Slim. These have been widely published in local and national media since 2007. These allegations were part of a larger story of child abuse at Fairbridge Farm in NSW, which has since seen significant compensation paid to survivors. The Government has also received correspondence from alleged victims and others requesting that the name of William Slim Drive be changed. Redacted versions of this correspondence were provided to the Committee to fully inform their consideration of the matter before providing advice.

Also, the Government is aware that the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse did not make any adverse public findings about any individuals. The Government has been informed that allegations against Sir William Slim were made to the Royal Commission in private submissions.

There have been no complaints made through the Access Canberra complaints portal since the 2016 (when the portal became operational).

About the Royal Commission

The Royal Commission was established in 2013 in response to allegations of sexual abuse of children in institutional contexts that had been emerging in Australia for many years.

The Royal Commission was not a court of law and could not make decisions about criminal matters. Rather, the Commission delivered recommendations based on what they learned during public hearing. The Royal Commission final report included a finding that institutions should review their existing institutional honours, dedications and memorials to make sure that they do not honour perpetrators of child sexual abuse. The Royal Commission suggested that governments and institutions should respond fully to requests from survivors in relation to such matters, including as part of providing appropriate redress.⁶

⁶ Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Final Report, Volume 17 – Beyond the Royal Commission (p 11)

When considering this matter further, it is also relevant to note that the ACT is a human rights jurisdiction, committed to protecting the rights of children and young people, including their right to special protection, because of their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. This commitment extends to maximising the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people and their connection to family, community, culture, education and employment. These commitments are evident in the *Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)* and principles contained in the ACT Children and Young People's Commitment 2015–2025.

ACT Place Names Committee Recommendation for William Slim Drive

Co-chair of the ACT Place Names Committee, Dr David Headon, provided a response from the Committee to item 2(d) of the Resolution regarding the request for the Committee to review the naming of William Slim Drive and Haig Park. A full copy of the response is provided at [Appendix 2](#). The response is extracted below:

The committee has been generally made aware of the allegations raised concerning the 13th Governor-General of Australia, Field Marshal Sir William Slim. In 2014, the former committee agreed—

- to wait and consider the outcome of any legal action in NSW and/or any recommendations resulting from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;*
- that it would like to be on the front foot ready to respond; and*
- if a decision is made to rename the road it should not be named after a person.*

At the meeting on 19 March, the current committee was provided for the first time with redacted copies of correspondence and responses relating to representations concerning the naming of William Slim Drive.

The committee has noted that the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was released in December 2017.

The committee's discussion has determined that it is not in a position to come to a view on the ethical, reputational and evidentiary issues current with respect to the name William Slim Drive.

It is the committee's recommendation that the ACT Government consider formally writing to the Federal Government (Prime Minister's Office) for advice on the substance of the allegations and the naming of the public place, commemorating a former Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Correspondence with Slim Family Representative

As part of the review, the descendants of Sir William Slim were provided with the opportunity to provide input into the review. A response to the review by descendants of Sir William Slim is provided at [Appendix 5](#). A short extract of the response is provided below:

"...if the street name is to be changed as a result of the allegation of child abuse against our Grandfather by less than a handful of people, my family would object in the strongest possible terms."

The full response has been considered in developing the options for consideration and will be used to inform any future decisions. It has been published with permission from the author.

Options

Given the sensitive nature of renaming a public place, the circumstances of the allegations made outside of being tested in a formal court process and the fact the alleged perpetrator is deceased, the review presents two options to Government for consideration. The Government should carefully consider the precedent it may set for similar scenarios in the future when making this decision. In informing a decision, the Government may wish to write to the Australian Government seeking further advice, as suggested by the Committee. Also, the Government has announced funding for the duplication of William Slim Drive which is a further consideration in any future naming decision for this public road.

The following options are available to Government:

Option 1. No name change

Option 2. Change the name

ACT Place Names Committee Review of Haig Park

Introduction

The name 'Haig Park' was determined under the provisions of the *National Memorials Ordinance 1928* in the Territory's first nomenclature gazette, dated 20 September 1928. Records held by the ACT Place Names Unit in EPSDD show that it was the Chief Commissioner of the Federal Capital Commission, Sir John Butters, who proposed the commemoration of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig of Bemersyde. It is likely that this proposal followed immediately after the death of Haig in January 1928.

The ACT Government has received occasional feedback that the name Haig Park is inappropriate as it commemorates Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, the Commander of the British Expeditionary Force during World War I. The success of Field Marshal Haig's military career is contested, with significant criticism of the Commander's military strategies. Some historians consider that Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's relentless pursuit of victory came at a huge cost of life, and as a consequence had a role as architect of some of the greatest slaughters.

The Government has received correspondence and has noted the renaming of Haig Park being the subject of local media interest through articles, letters to the editor and opinion pieces. Redacted versions of this correspondence was provided to the Committee to fully inform their consideration of the matter before providing advice.

There have been no complaints made through the Access Canberra complaints portal since the 2016 (when the portal became operational).

It is also noted that this is not a new issue and has been considered by previous Committees. Most recently, in 2014, the Committee recommended retaining the park name and supported a project to prepare new interpretative signage that told the contested history of Haig's wartime service.

The ACT Government unsuccessfully attempted to make contact with a representative of the Haig family.

Haig Park Place Plan—City Renewal Authority (CRA)—Community Engagement

Community engagement for the Haig Park Place Plan was conducted in three phases over approximately 18 months (early 2017 to mid-2018). Concern about the name of Haig Park was raised on very few occasions and was an issue of concern for very few people; it was raised on fewer than 10 occasions throughout the three phases of engagement.

The engagement included workshops, community information sessions, online surveys and face-to-face discussions and briefings. 160 people attended two community workshops. CRA spoke with more than 520 people in face-to-face discussions, including numerous community drop-in information sessions. CRA met with almost 20 stakeholder groups, visited more than 300 local businesses and had contact with approximately 450 people at community presentations and meetings.

The Haig Park Place Plan campaign reached more than 18,000 people via social media, email and letter box. The CRA received more than 2100 pieces of feedback about the future of Haig Park: 720 people provided feedback via the ACT Government Yoursay website and via online surveys and received 227 email or written comments and submissions.

Below are some examples of feedback that raised concerns about the name of Haig Park. There has also been support from the public to retain the name.

Email/written submissions (extracted below as written)

“My suggestion is that we change the name from Haig Park to Monash Park in memory of Sir John Monash. Haig was incompetent and responsible for the deaths of many Australian soldiers. He used men as cannon fodder and was known as The Butcher. Monash, on the other hand, was strategic and clever and he valued the life of Australian men. We don’t need a beautiful park named for a hopeless British General. Let’s change the name to honour one of our own?”

“I’m glad to hear Haig Park will be upgraded—one of the things in need of change is the name. Field Marshal Haig represents the very worst about Australia’s relationship with Britain. He should not continue to be memorialised in such a central part of our capital. There are many Australian and British historical figures who would be more appropriate, such as Sir John Monash. I understand a change has previously been considered and rejected by the Place Names Committee (<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/push-to-remove-douglas-haigs-name-from-park-20140810102j2t.html>). Now might be a good time to seek the public’s views on the name.”

“I feel strongly that the name needs to be changed—Haig was not a good man and crazy to have such a significant parcel of land named after him and...”

Facebook

“Let’s start with removing Douglas Haig name from the park name.”

“Remove some of the trees to make it easier to see through and safety to walk through, and re-name it -Haig was an out of his depth WW1 general who contributed to the deaths of thousands of allied troops”

Discussion board

“Please change the name Haig Park—Haig was a general responsible for many deaths and...”

ACT Place Names Committee recommendation for Haig Park

Co-chair of the ACT Place Names Committee, Dr David Headon, provided a response from the Committee to item 2(d) of the Resolution regarding the request for the Committee to review the naming of William Slim Drive and Haig Park. A full copy of the response is provided at [Appendix 2](#). The response is extracted below:

Previous memberships of the committee have considered representations about the naming of Haig Park, which commemorates the influential and historically controversial, Field Marshal the Right Honourable the Earl Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Empire Forces in the First World War. Over the past one hundred years, Haig's record and reputation have undergone intense interrogation.

The point was made at the committee meeting on 19 March that a historical perspective on the significance of Haig's contribution, including his advocacy for returned service men and women as founding president of the British Legion, was available to the Canberra National Memorials Committee at the time the decision was made to name the park in 1928 – a decade after war's end. It is considered significant that the public place name was determined in the first nomenclature gazette published by the Federal Capital Commission on 20 September 1928.

It is the committee's recommendation that the historic place name remain and that the ACT Government investigate opportunities to provide additional interpretative signage in Haig Park (in both Braddon and Turner) to encourage community reflection and discussion about the First World War.

Options

It is considered that the following options are available to Government. The Government should consider the precedent it may set for similar scenarios in the future when making this decision.

Option 1. No name change, but new signage detailing contested history

Option 2. Co-naming of the park (as a geographical feature with a local Aboriginal name)

Option 3. Change the name

Part E Summary of Options and Recommendations

This section of the report summarises the options and recommendations provided throughout the Review report.

The Review has specifically identified opportunities to:

- increase community participation in and visibility of, the process for naming public places
- ensure the Committee’s operations continue to reflect best practice governance
- ensure the Committee remains diverse in its membership and representative of the community.
- ensure the supporting guidelines, policies and processes remain up to date and best practice.

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendations for the Committee Terms of Reference

- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to include a section on Powers of the Committee to reinforce the non-statutory and advisory nature of the Committee and outline its power/role in place names decision-making.
- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to establish a clear mandate and responsibility for the Committee to advise the Minister or delegate on contentious place naming issues, including where commemoration of particular names may no longer represent community standards. This will strengthen the role of the Committee to collect and source evidence to support their advice to the Minister or delegate, including information held by Government.
- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to outline the process for appointing the Chair/Co-Chairs, i.e. Ministerial appointment. The Terms of Reference should also consider whether there is a need for the appointment of a Deputy-Chair or acting arrangements should the need arise. This section should also detail any requirements or restrictions on who can be appointed to the role of Chair.
- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to outline the operations of the Committee, including who provides Secretariat support, how often the Committee will meet, who can call a meeting and who can attend meetings, what conditions are required for a meeting to proceed (quorum) and how the Committee will capture and document its decisions/advice.
- > The Terms of Reference should be updated to outline the process by which the Committee undergoes regular monitoring or evaluation of its performance, for example through the EPSDD Annual Report.

Recommendations for the Committee expansion of membership

- > The membership section of the Terms of Reference should be amended to ensure representatives on the Committee reflect a broader diversity in age, experience and identity, including adding the following representatives:
 - A young person (under the age of 30)
 - A representative with a background in, or knowledge of, Indigenous languages.
- > The Expression of Interest process for new Committee appointments should include a broad and multi-faceted communications approach which targets new members and seeks to reach a diverse range of candidates.
- > EPSDD consider adopting a remuneration or participation payment policy to remove barriers to Committee participation and to recognise the expertise and contribution of Committee members.

Recommendations for the Guidelines, including community standards, community input and capacity to raise concerns

- > The Guidelines be updated to require the Committee to consider current community standards before naming a place after a person and to provide some guidance as to what such consideration would entail.
- > Community input is sought on potential themes for new divisions, including nominating new themes and consulting on potential themes raised by the Committee.
- > The Government invite increased community feedback on proposed names, seeking community input prior to the formal decision being made:
 - This could be in the form of a call for community feedback, noting the need to balance community input with the rights of families, such as through the Yoursay website.
- > The Guidelines be updated to require the decision-maker to consider the result of any community feedback process on the draft name.
- > Updates be made to the place names website and to the communications strategy for place-naming proposals and decisions so that the community is more aware and has the opportunity to become more engaged with the place-naming process.

Recommendations for the consideration of community proposals and renaming

- > The Committee develop a feedback/complaints process and publish it on the place names website. The process should detail how a member of the community can provide feedback/complaints, provide an online portal for providing the feedback and provide information on how the Committee will assess the feedback and advise the Minister or delegate.
- > The Committee update the renaming policy to provide further criteria to assist the community in providing relevant information for the Committee's consideration, and providing the criteria against which the Committee will assess community proposals.
- > Improvements be made to the place names website to develop an online portal for

providing feedback to the Committee on naming proposals, renaming proposals and other feedback.
Recommendations for William Slim Drive and Haig Park
<u>William Slim Drive options</u> Option 1. No name change Option 2. Change the name
<u>Haig Park options</u> Option 1. No name change, but new signage detailing contested history Option 2. Co-naming of the park (local Aboriginal name) Option 3. Change the name

Resources List

- *Public Place Names Act 1989*
https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/alt_a1989-31co/
- Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1) (NI2014-643)
<https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2014-643/>
- Terms of Reference for the ACT Place Names Committee:
https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_names/place_names_committee/terms_of_reference
- Better Practice Toolkit:
<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/cabinet/governance>
<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/the-office-for-lgbtqi-affairs/terms-of-reference#charter>
- NSW Place Names Policy:
http://www.gnb.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/220148/GNB_Place_Naming_Policy_Sep2018.pdf
- WA Geographic Policy:
[https://www0.landgate.wa.gov.au/docvault.nsf/web/PS_LD/\\$file/1574-Geographic-names-policies.pdf](https://www0.landgate.wa.gov.au/docvault.nsf/web/PS_LD/$file/1574-Geographic-names-policies.pdf)
- UK honours and titles revocation
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/9052828/Honours-Forfeiture-Committee-how-does-it-work.html>
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/having-honours-taken-away-forfeiture>
- Henry Rolland Park example
<https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/naming-west-basins-new-public-park>
<https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/about/community-engagement>
- *National Memorials Ordinance 1928 (ACT)*
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2009B00009>
- Yale University renaming policy and process
<https://news.yale.edu/2016/12/02/report-outlines-principles-renaming-campus-buildings>
<https://secretary.yale.edu/services-resources/procedure-consideration-renaming-requests>
- Final Report- Volume 17 Beyond the Royal Commission
Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Attorney-General's Department
<https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/final-report>
- Constitution of the Order of Australia made under the Letters Patent
<https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/Order%20of%20Australia/Order%20of%20Australia%20Booklet%2012th%20Edition%20V2%20-2018.pdf>
<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/.../310d0e7a-7669-4313-bbc6-22e6e69565e>

o **Media**

<https://medium.com/@cukrovj/the-rolls-royce-sicko-britains-greatest-war-hero-who-sexually-abused-migrant-children-2bb993dfed63>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2581264/British-military-commander-considered-one-UKs-greatest-World-War-Two-generals-accused-molesting-children-sat-Rolls-Royce.html>

<https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths/current-projects/belconnen/william-slim-drive-duplication>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/postcolonial-blog/2017/aug/25/statues-are-not-history-here-are-six-in-australia-that-need-rethinking>

<https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/inquiry-to-expose-sexual-abuse-of-british-child/8309506>

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2015/s4240947.htm>

Appendices

	Title
Appendix 1:	Assembly Resolution ACT Place Names Committee & Guidelines Review
Appendix 2:	ACT Place Names Committee Response to Review
Appendix 3:	Scope and Method of Review
Appendix 4:	ACT Place Names Committee – Terms of Reference
Appendix 5:	Response to Review from Slim Family Representative



Speaker

Mr Mick Gentleman MLA
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister

PLACE NAME GUIDELINES

At its meeting on Wednesday, 28 November 2018, the Assembly passed the following resolution:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the naming of many places in Canberra, including suburbs and streets, after historical persons;
 - (b) that the behaviour of some of those persons was criminal, reprehensible and/or abhorrent;
 - (c) the ongoing hurt caused in the community by the commemoration of villains as heroes;
 - (d) that the ACT Place Names Committee provides advice to establish policies for the naming of divisions (suburbs) and public places on Territory land in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT);
 - (e) the current role, responsibilities, membership and expertise, and operations of the ACT Place Names Committee is set out in its terms of reference which is available online; and
 - (f) the Public Place Names Guidelines, which are notified on the ACT Legislation Register, detail the established policies for the naming of new divisions, roads and other public places in the ACT; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city;

- (b) review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns;
- (c) ensure that the ACT Place Names Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards;
- (d) request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and
- (e) report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review.”.

Yours faithfully



Joy Burch MLA
Speaker

5 December 2018

ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE & GUIDELINES REVIEW



SCOPE AND METHOD OF REVIEW

The scope of the review of the ACT Place Names Guidelines was outlined in the Assembly Resolution passed on Wednesday 28 November 2018. This document describes how the ACT Government will assess and review each item of the Resolution.

Scope

The scope of the review of ACT place name guidelines was outlined as follows;

- (a) review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city;
- (b) review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards, allow for greater community input and capacity to raise concerns;
- (c) ensure that the ACT Place Names Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards;
- (d) request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and
- (e) report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review.

Table of scope and method

	Scope item identified in the Resolution	Method of review
a.1)	Review the terms of reference for the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will use the ACT Government’s <i>Better Practice Toolkit</i>, an online resource to assist with managing the operation of ACT Government Boards and Committees, to review the terms of reference for the ACT Place Names Committee. > Recommendations made will based on ACT Government’s <i>Better Practice Toolkit</i> for appointments to Board and Committees.
a.2)	Review the expansion of membership for the Committee to ensure it continues to be representative of the diversity of Canberra as a modern, inclusive and progressive city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will use the ACT Government’s <i>Governance Principles for Appointments, Boards and Committees</i>, released in March 2017 to review the membership of the ACT Place Names Committee. > Recommendations made will based on the ACT Government’s <i>Governance Principles for Appointments, Boards and Committees</i>.

b.1)	Review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they meet with community standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will assess the <i>ACT Public Place Names Guidelines</i> against a cross-jurisdictional analysis of place naming guidelines for meeting current community standards in other jurisdictions.
b.2)	Review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that they allow for greater community input.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will assess the <i>ACT Public Place Names Guidelines</i>, website and the community engagement strategy against ACT Government best practice and a cross-jurisdictional analysis of community input practices for naming public places in other jurisdictions.
b.3)	Review the Public Place Names Guidelines to ensure that the community has the capacity to raise concerns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will assess the <i>ACT Public Place Names Guidelines</i>, website and government procedures. > The review will assess the accessibility of a complaints process for Public Place Names that members of the community feel do not meet community standards.
c)	Ensure that the Committee considers community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The review will assess the <i>ACT Public Place Names Guidelines</i> and the Place Names Committee <i>Terms of Reference</i> to identify a mandate and process for the committee to consider community proposals relating to place names that no longer meet community standards.
d)	Request the ACT Place Names Committee review particular non-residential place names that have been the subject of significant community disquiet, such as William Slim Drive and Haig Park, as a priority; and;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The Place Names Committee has been requested to review these names and provide input and options on the review items. The review will identify options for the Committee to consider the places names William Slim Drive and Haig Park. > Recommendations will be based on engagement with internal stakeholders and a cross-jurisdictional analysis of community input practices for naming public places in other jurisdictions.
e)	Report to the Assembly during the June 2019 sitting period on the outcomes of this review.	A final report of the ACT Government review will be tabled during the June 2019 sitting period.



ACT Place Names Committee Terms of Reference

Introduction:

This document sets out the roles and responsibilities of the ACT Place Names Committee.

It provides guidance on the Committee's purpose, roles, responsibilities, operations, tenure and obligations.

Role of the ACT Place Names Committee

The Committee has been established to:

1. Advise the responsible Minister (or Minister's delegate) on all proposals for geographic and division (suburb) names and the themes to be adopted for naming roads and other public places on Territory land in the ACT.
2. Advise the ACT Place Names officers on proposed special commemorations or matters brought before members at committee meetings or by email.
3. Consider and advise on place name issues that arise from time to time.
4. Review proposed names for new roads and other public places and provide guidance to the Place Names officers as required.

Responsibilities of the ACT Place Names Committee

5. To assess the suitability of eminent Australians and Australiana, or things characteristic of Australia, for commemoration in ACT nomenclature.
6. When selecting or endorsing draft division or public place names, the Committee must consider the provisions of the *Public Place Names Act 1989* and relevant addressing guidelines and standards.

Membership and expertise

7. Membership is appointed by the Minister, for a three year period, and may consist of:
 - a chairperson with relevant experience
 - the Surveyor-General of the ACT
 - a representative with an understanding of local heritage
 - representatives with a background in, or knowledge of, Australian history (local and/or national)
 - a representative from the local media
 - a representative with a multicultural background
 - an Indigenous representative
 - a representative of the National Capital Authority.

Membership of the Committee is on a voluntary basis. There is no minimum or maximum membership and two or more people can be appointed to fulfil each category.

Operation of the Committee

8. The Committee will meet when convened by the chair, but at least twice a year.
9. Members will be expected to provide advice on place names matters via email on a regular basis.
10. Members may be called upon occasionally to speak publicly on behalf of the Committee. Depending upon the subject this will be the most appropriate member as deemed by the Committee Chair.
11. Where the Committee is unable to reach clear agreement on a division name, or public place name, the Chair will either:
 - Defer the issue to the following meeting if time allows;
 - Suggest the issue be further researched and a decision made out of session;
 - Refer to the Minister with recommendations highlighting dissenting views; or
 - Reject the name.

From: [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)
To: [COE](#)
Cc: [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Placenames](#)
Subject: ACT Place Names - Office of Alistair Coe MLA - submission to rename William Slim Drive - [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 1 July 2019 8:43:44 AM

Sarah Suine
Office Manager
Office of Alistair Coe MLA
Leader of the Opposition
ACT Legislative Assembly
cc Jeff Brown
Co-chair
ACT Place Names Committee

Hi Sarah

Thank you for forwarding an email from [REDACTED] concerning the announcement by Minister Gentleman about the renaming of William Slim Drive. Our office will make sure [REDACTED] submission is considered by the ACT Place Names Committee. In the meantime, we have created a record in our research database noting the late [REDACTED] important contribution to motor sport in local, national and international competitions.

Kind regards

Sharon Priestly

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.planning.act.gov.au

From: COE

Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 4:39 PM

To: Placenames <Placenames@act.gov.au>

Cc: Coe, Alistair <Alistair.Coe@parliament.act.gov.au>

Subject: FW: New Drive name. Suggested new name to replace William Slim Drive is [REDACTED], with the recent passing of [REDACTED] his [REDACTED],

Good Afternoon,

I am forwarding the below email to the Place Names Committee for consideration.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Suine

Office Manager

Office of Alistair Coe MLA

Leader of the Opposition

ACT Legislative Assembly

P: 02 6205 0101

E: sarah.suine@parliament.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2019 4:12 PM

To: BARR Reception <BARR@act.gov.au>; BERRY <BERRY@act.gov.au>; BURCH <BURCH@parliament.act.gov.au>; CODY <CODY@parliament.act.gov.au>; FITZHARRIS <FITZHARRIS@act.gov.au>; Gentleman, Mick <Mick.Gentleman@act.gov.au>; ORR <ORR@parliament.act.gov.au>; PETTERSSON <PETTERSSON@parliament.act.gov.au>; RAMSAY <RAMSAY@act.gov.au>; No-Reply @ STEEL <STEEL@parliament.act.gov.au>;

smith@parliament.act.gov.au

Cc: RATTENBURY <RATTENBURY@act.gov.au>; LE COUTEUR <LECOUTEUR@parliament.act.gov.au>

Subject: New Drive name. Suggested new name to replace William Slim Drive is [REDACTED], with the recent passing of [REDACTED] his [REDACTED],

Ladies & Gentlemen, may I take a few moments of your valuable time please.

May I suggest new name to replace William Slim Drive be [REDACTED].

With the recent passing of [REDACTED]

in any bunch of names put forward.

[REDACTED] name was & still is in many places a household name having [REDACTED]

During all these years his recognition of the ACT through advertising & events was always out in the public domain.

I therefore put [REDACTED] forward as a worthy contender.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Bcc: [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Placenames](#)
Subject: Australian Capital Territory correspondence regarding William Slim Drive in Canberra - attachment enclosed
Date: Friday, 12 February 2021 3:52:00 PM
Attachments: [20210212 - letter from Jeff Brown addressed to \[REDACTED\] - renaming of William Slim Drive.pdf](#)

OFFICIAL

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I have enclosed correspondence addressed to you from Jeff Brown, Surveyor-General of the ACT and Co-chair, ACT Place Names Committee, ACT Government.

Kind regards

Sharon Priestly

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Level 1, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.planning.act.gov.au

From: [Priestly, Sharon](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Placenames](#)
Subject: Place Names - new guidelines and rename William Slim Drive - instruments notified
Date: Monday, 15 February 2021 12:31:06 PM

OFFICIAL

Dear Committee

Over the past 18 months the committee has provided expert advice to help us to respond to the recommendations of the ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review. As part of this work two instruments were notified on the ACT Legislation Register on Friday 12 February:

The new [Public Place Names \(Naming of Public Places\) Guidelines 2021](#) is notified in NI2021-72; and

The disallowable instrument to change the name of William Slim Drive is notified in DI2021-25 at [Public Place Names \(Belconnen District\) Determination 2021](#).

Later today we are expecting Minister Steel and the Commonwealth Government to announce the commencement of road duplication works in Belconnen. There may be some media about renaming William Slim Drive as an extension of Gundaroo Drive.

We are looking forward to updating you further at our meeting on Tuesday 2 March at 3pm.

Kind regards

Sharon Priestly

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Level 1, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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From: [Priestly, Sharon](#)
To: [Brown, Jeffrey](#)
Cc: [Mollett, Anthony](#)
Subject: FW: Place names to meet community - 2019 William Slim Drive renaming media statement
Date: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 3:27:00 PM
Attachments: [20190607 - Media Statement - Place names to meet community standards - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[William Slim Dr Interview ABC Canberra Radio.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Jeff

I've drafted some points to help you to prepare for your interview. I've also included some brief points about Haig Park signage, new guidelines and Weston Park roads YourSay consultation.

Kind regards
Sharon Priestly

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) | ACT Government

Level 1, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.planning.act.gov.au

From: Laris, Tim <Tim.Laris@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 16 February 2021 2:42 PM
To: Brown, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au>
Cc: Mollett, Anthony <Anthony.Mollett@act.gov.au>; Priestly, Sharon <Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Place names to meet community - 2019 William Slim Drive renaming media statement

Jeff.

Good luck with your interview on ABC Drive shortly after 5:00 this afternoon!

Here's the Minister's 2019 statement as requested (see attached).

Will also see if we can get hold of the William Slim Drive talking points that our media team prepared for the Minister.

Tim

From: Laris, Tim
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2021 12:50 PM
To: Priestly, Sharon <Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au>
Cc: Brown, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au>; EPSDD Media <EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au>;

Ryan, Siobhain <Siobhain.Ryan@act.gov.au>

Subject: Place names to meet community - 2019 William Slim Drive renaming media statement

Thanks Sharon.

That's a very handy Minister Gentleman media statement for us to have on hand in terms of keeping comms messaging consistent.

As mentioned Jeff, whenever the William Slim Drive name change does get announced by the Minister let any calls from journalists who have your number go through to your message bank then let our media bods (Adam and Matt) know on [REDACTED].

Tim

Tim Laris he/his | **Engagement Officer**

02 6207 5424 | [REDACTED] | tim.laris@act.gov.au |

Communications | Engagement and Executive Support

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Snowgum, Level 4, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.facebook.com/enviropplan | www.environment.act.gov.au | www.planning.act.gov.au | www.act.gov.au | www.linkedin.com/in/timlaris

From: Priestly, Sharon <Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2021 12:10 PM

To: Laris, Tim <Tim.Laris@act.gov.au>; Brown, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au>

Subject: Media Statement 2019 - Place Names to meet community standards - Haig Park signage not resolved yet

OFFICIAL

Hi Tim and Jeff

I haven't found Talking Points yet re the Minister's 2019 announcement about renaming WSD but I've enclosed a copy of the Media Statement (prepared by James Bennett?) which might assist us. One item which is still outstanding is signage in Haig Park. In 2019 James wrote to the City Activation, CRA, asking if they could work with us to implement the decision, including the installation of new signage, as part of the Haig Park place plan process. We contacted CRA in Nov 2020 and in late Jan 2021 Doug Millen, Engagement Officer CRA, undertook to follow up a response.

Kind regards
Sharon Priestly

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

Phone 02 62050057

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Level 1, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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Place names to meet community standards

Released 06/06/2019

William Slim Drive is set to be renamed following a review into place names in the ACT.

The review tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly today followed community interest in existing place names, particularly Haig Park and William Slim Drive.

The ACT Government is ensuring that commemoration of people through our roads, parks and public places is consistent with a modern, inclusive and progressive Canberra.

I intend to rename William Slim Drive following careful consideration including allegations made to the ACT Government, a submission made by the Slim family and the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

I have asked the Place Names Committee for further advice on the process and new naming options and I expect to formally rename the road on duplication.

Child sexual abuse is abhorrent and we need to ensure our public place naming does not cause ongoing hurt to Canberrans.

I have decided to keep the name of Haig Park and install new signage telling the contested history of Field Marshal Haig's wartime legacy. This will recognise differing views and help inform discussion around Australia's experience in WWI.

The Place Names Review found robust processes exist for place naming in the ACT.

It also made recommendations about ensuring the Committee has processes to ensure place names meet community standards and suggested improving avenues for community input into the place naming process.

I have agreed to all recommendations put forward in the review and have requested that they be implemented within the next 12 months.

This will include introducing a set of principles for considering renaming proposals and developing a transparent online feedback and complaints process.

A copy of the review is available at:


https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_names
[www.planning.act.gov.au/
 \(https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_names\).](https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_names)

- Statement ends -

Section: Mick Gentleman, MLA

https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/gentlema
[n](#) | Media Releases

Media Contacts

Name	Phone	Mobile	Email
James Webber	02 6205 7402		james.webber@act.gov.au (mailto:james.webber@act.gov.au)

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[«Minister Media Releases](#)

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(https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au)



(https://www.act.gov.au)

Interview ABC Canberra radio – William Slim Drive

- The ACT Government has announced that William Slim Drive will be renamed as a continuation of Gundaroo Drive.
- This coincides with the start of stage 1 works to upgrade the road.
- You have advised Transport Canberra and City Services.
- The renaming of the road by Minister Gentleman follows careful consideration including allegations made to the ACT Government, a submission made by the Slim family and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse final report, including a finding that institutions should review their existing institutional honours, dedications and memorials.
- We recognise that Field Marshal Sir William Slim made a strong contribution as a military leader, a post-war advocate for returned soldiers and as a Governor General of Australia. However, the government believes that the naming of William Slim Drive has an association and legacy that contravenes our values as a Territory.
- The family representative has been advised of the decision.
- The disallowable instrument DI2021-25 must be presented in the Assembly within 6 sitting days of its notification and then tabled for 6 sitting days. We expect this will happen during the March/April sitting period. During this time the determination can be subject to a motion to amend or disallow the naming determination. The Minister will have an opportunity to respond.
- The ACT Place names Renaming Policy provides:
If the place name being considered for revocation commemorates a personal name, and the name is considered to cause offence, it is preferable that the replacement name is not of another person but some other feature or object.

HAIG PARK SIGNAGE

- In June 2019 Minister Gentleman announced his decision to keep the park name and install new signage telling the contested history of Field Marshal Haig's wartime legacy. This will help recognise differing views and help inform discussion around Australia's experience during WWII.
- You are consulting with the City Renewal Authority about signage as part of the Haig Park place plan process.

RESPONSE TO REVIEW:

- Revised Place Names Guidelines

The Review prompted several changes to the 2014 Place Names Guidelines which contain the policies, rules and requirements that underpin public place naming in the ACT.

The new Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021 require consideration to be given to the '...desirability for the totality of public place names in the ACT to be reflective of diverse cultural situations and cognisant of community sensitivities.

The Guidelines also provide for community input and feedback in the place-naming process.

- Community consultation

Mention Weston park roads? YourSay consultation until late March; invitation to select one of three themes – Wayfinding, Birds and Trees.

We welcome suggestions of names for new roads and parks – online nomination form – search ACT Place names to find the page.

Use ACTmapi to find out the origin and significance commemorated place names in the ACT.