

**From:** [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)  
**To:** [Mapiva, Bradley](#); [Mudford, Mary](#); [Placenames](#)  
**Cc:** [Brown, Jeffrey](#)  
**Subject:** ACT Place Names - request to consult the [REDACTED] - further information  
**Date:** Friday, 12 February 2021 10:07:39 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image005.jpg](#)

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OFFICIAL

Bradley Mapiva  
Traditional Custodian Coordinator  
Traditional Custodian Engagement  
Good morning Bradley

I apologise for the delay in responding to your email. Thank you for undertaking to consult the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] Language Group about changing the offensive feature name. We haven't set a firm timeframe to remove the name but Minister Gentleman has asked that we progress the process quickly. If possible, I think it will be good if we can complete the whole process, including the instrument to approve the new name, before the term of our current ACT Place Names Committee finishes on **30 June 2021**. We will also consult with the New South Wales Geographic Names Board.

*Thank you for your support.*

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](http://www.planning.act.gov.au)

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**From:** Mapiva, Bradley <Bradley.Mapiva@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Thursday, 11 February 2021 10:22 AM

**To:** Mudford, Mary <Mary.Mudford@act.gov.au>; Placenames <Placenames@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** Brown, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: ACT Place Names - request to consult the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - feature name map enclosed

OFFICIAL

Good morning Sharon,

Thank you for following up.

I will liaise with the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] today regarding new name suggestions.

Could you please confirm when you would like the name by?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Traditional Custodian Coordinator

Traditional Custodian Engagement

Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate

Email: [bradley.mapiva@act.gov.au](mailto:bradley.mapiva@act.gov.au) | Post: GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



**From:** Mudford, Mary <[Mary.Mudford@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Mudford@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 February 2021 4:01 PM  
**To:** Placenames <[Placenames@act.gov.au](mailto:Placenames@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Mapiva, Bradley <[Bradley.Mapiva@act.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Mapiva@act.gov.au)>; Brown, Jeffrey <[Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au](mailto:Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: ACT Place Names - request to consult the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - feature name map enclosed

OFFICIAL

Hi Sharon,  
Thank you for your email, please liaise with Bradley Mapiva, Secretariat. Bradley will be able to work with the committee and the [REDACTED] to source an appropriate Ngunnawal name.

Kind Regards

**Mary Mudford**

Assistant Director, Traditional Custodian Engagement  
Strategic Partnership and Innovation | Environment Division  
Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate  
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | Post: GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone: 02 6207 5179 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: [mary.mudford@act.gov.au](mailto:mary.mudford@act.gov.au)

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal People as the Traditional Custodians of this land – and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge their continuing culture and connection to Country and community and the contribution they and the broader ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community make to the ACT and region.

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**From:** Priestly, Sharon <[Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of** Placenames  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 February 2021 12:18 PM  
**To:** Mudford, Mary <[Mary.Mudford@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Mudford@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Brown, Jeffrey <[Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au](mailto:Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** ACT Place Names - request to consult the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee - feature name map enclosed

OFFICIAL

Mary Mudford  
Traditional Custodian Engagement  
[Mary.Mudford@act.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Mudford@act.gov.au)

cc Jeff Brown,  
Co-chair, ACT Place Names Committee

Hi Mary

Thank you again for providing an opportunity for Jeff Brown to meet with the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] on 1 October 2020. During the meeting [REDACTED]

drew our attention to an offensive feature name, [REDACTED], in the south of the ACT on the border with NSW. Minister Gentleman has asked our office to expedite the removal of the offensive name.

We would appreciate your help to discuss the renaming of the feature in consultation with the [REDACTED] and ACT Parks and Conservation (Namadgi National Park). We will also advise the NSW Geographical Names Board that the ACT is intending to change the offensive name and ask for its advice about the name of a nearby watercourse. I have enclosed a map showing the location of the offensive feature name to assist the renaming discussion.

The [REDACTED] may be willing to offer a word from the Ngunnawal language; or a name in keeping with the character and tradition of the location; a name having historical or local significance; or a name suggestive of the peculiarity of the geographical feature.

If the [REDACTED] is able to suggest a new name we will check that the same (or very similar) name is not already in use as a place name in the ACT so that we avoid any potential for addressing confusion, which could delay an emergency response to the location. We will then brief the ACT Place Names Committee and prepare an instrument to recommend the name to Minister Gentleman.

We appreciate this opportunity to work with you and the [REDACTED] towards removing the offensive feature name.

Kind regards

Sharon Priestly

Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer

**Phone 02 62050057**

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

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**From:** [SS GNB](#)  
**To:** [Placenames](#); [SS GNB](#); [Michael Van Den Bos](#)  
**Cc:** [Gizette Waldron](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ACT Place Names to NSW GNB - intention to change ACT feature name  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 February 2021 1:47:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Hi Jeff/Sharon,

Thanks for reaching out regarding the place names – [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. NSW is definitely willing to work with you regarding these names.

It's great to see you have already started consultation with [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED], as I'm sure you are aware, sometimes this can be a challenging component of place naming.

In NSW, the Board are unable to propose a new name, so an application to rename the feature in NSW must be proposed by community, or even potentially by yourselves or Council on behalf of community.

The application will also need endorsement from the traditional land owners. Would you happy to know if [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] are in both ACT and NSW?

I'm happy to arrange a call at any time to discuss where the consultation is up to and see how we may be able to assist.

Please let me know if there is a time that suits.

Regards,

Simone

[Simone Reedy](#)

Place Name Manager, **Geographical Names Board**

Spatial Services | Department of Customer Service

**p** 02 6332 8241 |

**e** [simone.reedy@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:simone.reedy@customerservice.nsw.gov.au) | <http://gnb.nsw.gov.au/> |

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346 Panorama Avenue, Bathurst NSW 2795



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**From:** Priestly, Sharon <Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Placenames

**Sent:** Friday, 12 February 2021 11:43 AM

**To:** SS GNB <SS-GNB@customerservice.nsw.gov.au>; Michael Van Den Bos <Michael.VanDenBos@customerservice.nsw.gov.au>

**Cc:** Placenames <Placenames@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** ACT Place Names to NSW GNB - intention to change ACT feature name

OFFICIAL

Secretary

NSW Geographical Names Board

[SS-GNB@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SS-GNB@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)

Michael van den Bos

Senior Statutory Officer

Geographical Names Board

[Michael.VanDenBos@customerservice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.VanDenBos@customerservice.nsw.gov.au)

I have recently been made aware of a feature named [REDACTED], in the south of the ACT on the border with NSW. The ACT Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman MLA, has asked my office to expedite the removal of the offensive name.

I have noted that [REDACTED] (NSW) rises on the Brindabella Range at [REDACTED] <https://proposals.gnb.nsw.gov.au/public/geonames/bed367c3-9ef0-49eb-bb9b-5aa1173033e4>

I would appreciate advice from the Geographical Names Board about the ACT's intention to change the name of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I have enclosed a map showing the location of the feature in relation to the border to assist the renaming discussion.

I am currently consulting the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] to remove the offensive name. I have suggested the Elders may wish to offer a word from the Ngunnawal language; or a name in keeping with the character and tradition of the location; a name having historical or local significance; or a name suggestive of the peculiarity of the geographical feature.

I appreciate this opportunity to work with the GNB towards removing the offensive feature name on the ACT/NSW border.

Kind regards

Jeff Brown

**Jeff Brown** | Surveyor-General of the ACT and Co-chair, ACT Place Names Committee

Phone 02 6207 1965 | Mobile [REDACTED]

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development | Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information  
ACT Government

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(iii) Status of ongoing projects:

The Place Names Unit updated the meeting about completed projects and ongoing research.

Completed:

Eleven instruments have been approved since the committee meeting in April for roads in Coombs north, Denman Prospect 2, Greenway, Strathnairn 1, Taylor 2 (x4) and Wright north; and parks in Moncrieff and Throsby.

Denman Prospect 1 & 2 (Capital Estate Development) is now complete.

An instrument of 13 names is being prepared for the final set of names in Taylor 2 (stage 4) – due date 21 September.

Ongoing projects include:

Strathnairn 2 – agreement to liaise with People and Place Group and Ginninderry Local History Study – eg Blue Folk;

Lawson south; ‘Henry Lawson’s Australia’ – seven names previously agreed in 2015 will be provided to the current committee for review;

Whitlam 1 stage 1 – ‘Art and Culture’, approx. 16 names

Note the committee agreed the iconic ‘Blue Poles’ deserves consideration for commemoration in the suburb.

Denman Prospect 3 (land release to the west) – ongoing research for names for the next land release is ongoing.

Taylor Residential Estate 3, a pool of 30 – 40 names required;

Also in Taylor – several parks to be named; consider landscape architects Richard Clough and Kevin Taylor and also a nomination to be provided by SLA.

(iv) Tudawalli Pl, Chapman – named in 1973.

A resident has queried the spelling of Tudawalli Place; should it read Tudawali?

The road commemorates Aboriginal man, Robert Tudawalli (1929–1967). In 1952 he was chosen by Charles Chauvel and his wife Elsa for the leading male role in the motion picture Jedda (1955).

Research by the Place Names Unit favours the spelling ‘Tudawali’ but there are also Northern Territory Administration records, media articles and correspondence in our file from Mrs Elsa Chauvel, spelt as ‘Tudawalli’.

The advertising poster for Jedda reads ‘Tudawali’.

Jeff Brown confirmed that the process to change a road name includes consultation with residents/property-owners and if agreed, the revocation of the original naming determination and the making of a new determination.

█ spoke about the strength of Robert Tudawali (Tudawalli) in addition to his acting career – as an activist; advocate of Aboriginal rights including the Wave Hill walk-off. David recommended Frank Hardy’s ‘The Unlucky Australians’;

One option is to leave the place name as it is and update the place names search to inform the other spelling of his name recorded throughout his life.

██████████ and ██████████ support the principle of doing the work to research his name and consult stakeholders.

██████████ suggested finding a document with his signature.

**Action:**

- ██████████ will consult ██████████;
- the Place Names Unit will consult AIATSIS and the NFSA; and
- the Place Names Unit will keep the committee informed.

- (v) Sharon Priestly will represent ACT Place Names at the annual meeting of the Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) to be hosted this year by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) in Wellington. The agenda includes discussion about the sensitivities associated with the commemoration of words from Indigenous languages.

**Item 6: Next meeting**

A tentative date of **Tuesday 13 November** will be circulated for consideration by the committee. Jeff Brown will invite Minister Gentleman.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

Sharon Priestly  
ACT Place Names  
4 September 2018

**ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 13 November 2018 (3pm–5pm)**

**Venue:** Exec Boardroom Level 3 South Building, DPMH 16 Challis St Dickson

**Committee:** Mr Jeff Brown (Co-chair), [REDACTED] (Co-chair), [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED].

**EPSDD:** Mr Brett Phillips, Executive Director, Planning Delivery

**Secretariat:** Sharon Priestly, Genevieve Palm

**Presenters:** Simon Cox, Suburban Land Agency – Senior Project Director; Greenfields Molonglo

**Apologies:**

**AGENDA:**

1. Introduction and meeting apologies;
2. Minutes of previous meeting (4 September 2018) including:
  - Legacy terminology eg Aboriginal place names
  - Commemoration of [REDACTED]
  - Tudawali Pl, Chapman
3. 3.30pm: Division of Whitlam – Estate Development Plan (Simon Cox)
  - Character of the division (suburb); construction and development; first land release
4. Media – “Push for review of ‘hurtful’ place names”
5. Other Business:
  - Status of ongoing projects – road names;
  - United Nations 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages;
  - Permanent Committee for Place Names 2018 report
6. Next meeting – March/April 2019

5. Investigate renaming Tudawalli Pl, Chapman – named in 1973.

Kaye Price has consulted Frank Hardy's 'The Unlucky Australians' which includes the actor's autobiography. His name is recorded in the book as Robert Tudawali;

The National Film and Sound Archive also supports Tudawali:

The NFSA collection uses the spelling "Tudawali" -

<http://colsearch.nfsa.gov.au/nfsa/search/summary/summary.w3p;adv=yes;page=0;query=tudawali;resCount=10>

This spelling is also published in the Australian Dictionary of Biography:

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/tudawali-robert-11889>

Spelling is inconsistent in the credits in the films 'Jedda' and 'Dust in the Sun':

'Dust in the Sun' uses the spelling "Tudawali", whereas the credit in Jedda is "Tudewalli".

Documentation associated with Jedda, such as lobby cards, use the spelling "Tudawali".

Andrew Pike & Ross Cooper 'Australian Film, 1900-1977' (Oxford University Press) - a key reference text on Australian feature films - uses the spelling "Tudawali".

**Options:**

1. Agree to commence the administrative process to consult residents/property owners of ten residential blocks in Tudawalli Place Chapman about the intention to amend (revoke) the spelling of the road name to Tudawali Place; and/or
2. Consult Robert Tudawali's [REDACTED] about the intention to amend the road name.

**ITEM 3: 3.30pm – Whitlam – Estate Development Plan; land release**

Presentation by Simon Cox, Suburban Land Agency – Senior Project Director; Greenfields Molonglo

The Estate Development Plan for Whitlam 1 has been lodged for Development Approval in DA 201834628.

Documents detailing the design of the suburb are available for public review until 21 November 2018 on [the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate website](#)

Approximately 40 road names in Whitlam 1 including two avenues.

#### ITEM 4: Media – “Push for review of ‘hurtful’ place names”

Raised in the media by Bec Cody MLA on 29 Oct 2018 and reported in The Canberra Times; ABC Radio Canberra; ABC Canberra TV and the RIOTACT.

The motion for possible debate reads–

\*8 **MS CODY:** To move—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; and

(c) the ongoing hurt caused in the community by the commemoration of villains as heroes; and

(2) calls on the ACT Place Names Committee to review existing place names in the ACT to ensure they meet the community standards, and provide advice on necessary revisions.

*(Notice given 30 October 2018. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks – standing order 125A).*

The general process to change a public place name is at **Attachment A**.

Examples of ‘hurtful’ place names reported in the local media/Letters to the Editor:

**Batman** Street Braddon – John Batman (1800-1839) pioneer of settlement at Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, 1835;

Captain **Cook** Crescent and the suburb of Cook (also commemorates PM Sir Joseph Cook);

**Haig** Park – Field Marshal the Right Honourable the Earl Haig, KT GCB OM GCVO KCIE (1861-1928); Commander-in-Chief of the British Empire Forces during World War I;

*The Place Names Committee has previously reviewed the commemoration of Field Marshal Douglas Haig in the context of criticism of his leadership in the First World War. It has been the committee’s unanimous opinion (2003, 2006 and 2014) that the historical place name should remain as “...part of the fabric of Canberra’s past”. The committee’s view has been that it is not good practice to revisit the appropriateness of public place names in the light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinions. The committee has also expressed the view that the park name can encourage reflection and discussion about the First World War.*

**Jardine** Street – Alexander William Jardine (1843–1920) - explored from Rockhampton to Cape York, Queensland, 1864-65; elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society for this exploration;

**Stirling** Avenue, Watson and the suburb of Stirling – Sir James Stirling (1791-1865) British naval officer and colonial administrator; governor of Western Australia;

**William Slim** Drive – Sir William Slim KG; GCB; GCMG; GCVO; GBE; DSO; MC; KStJ; (1891-1970) Governor-General of Australia, 1953-60;

Suburbs of **Aranda and Waramanga** – In 1964 John Gorton, as Leader of the Opposition, put forward a recommendation to name Canberra suburbs after the Aboriginal cultural groups 'Arunta' and 'Waramunga'. The suburbs of Aranda and Waramanga were approved following consultation on phonetics with the Institute for Aboriginal Studies.

Our website entries for these suburbs read:

*Aranda - Name of an Aboriginal cultural group of Central Australia, also known as Arunta. 'Arunta' has an English meaning of 'white cockatoo' (A.W. Reed).*

*The suburb of Waramanga is named to commemorate the Warumungu Aboriginal people in the Tennant Creek district of the Northern Territory. The Warumungu language is spoken in Tennant Creek and its surrounding communities. Also known as 'Warramunga'.*

**Possible action:**

The Committee to:

1. consider developing criteria to respond to requests to revisit the naming of a division and/or public place in light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinions;
2. invite interested parties to submit a request to review a division and/or public place name giving reasons to substantiate the request;
3. review public submissions received within the specified lodgement timeframe;
4. provide advice to the Minister about whether a division and/or public place name should be revoked or retained;
5. provide advice to the Minister about whether further information should be included in the ACTmapi citation for the relevant division/public place name to additionally describe the commemorated person's historical legacy and encourage reflection and discussion.

#### ITEM 4: Media – “Push for review of ‘hurtful’ place names”

##### What criteria is applied to change a place name in the ACT?

Consider the reasons for a request to change a place name, such as:

- 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.

Investigate the basis for the change of name request to determine how to proceed.

Consult with other agencies, with knowledge relevant to the request, to establish whether the grounds for the name change are justified. For addressing issues seek advice from Australia Post and the ACT Emergency Services Agency.

Consult with property owners, residents and/or businesses using the place name to establish the impact of a potential change of address and to determine if a change of name is supported.

Make a decision about whether the request is reasonable and determine if the matter requires referral to the ACT Place Names Committee. If the Committee agrees that a change of name is warranted, research a replacement name in accordance with the *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1)* (guidelines) <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2014-643/>

If the name to be revoked:

- commemorates a person with national standing, who may also have other national commemorations, act in collaboration with the relevant Commonwealth authorities;
- 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;
- commemorates a personal name, 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 instrument will be referred to the Minister, or the Minister’s delegate, for approval.

### **Examples of approved changes to road names:**

Wilpena Street in 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 in Narrabundah was renamed because of apparent addressing confusion relating to duplicate numbering in Caley Crescent. Roach Place was chosen to replace Caley Place however residents did not support the name (Cockroach). Further consultation was carried out and the name Mosman Place was determined. Francis Roach Lane was later named in Kingston.

Well Station Drive, Gungahlin – Wells Station Drive revoked in 2009 to amend spelling to reflect the correct historical property name.

Part Gribble Street, Gungahlin renamed Efkarpidis Street for addressing reasons;

In 2007 Minnie Bruce Street, Franklin was revoked following consultation with a [REDACTED] who requested commemoration of the writer's full name – Mary Grant Bruce. The road was renamed Morris West Street.

## ITEM 1: Welcome and meeting apologies

Co-chair, Jeff Brown opened the meeting at 3.10pm and invited all present to introduce themselves. The meeting congratulated [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] will deliver his lecture about Prime Minister George Reid (First Eight Project) at Parliament on 4 December 2018 and undertook to issue an invitation to the committee through the Place Names Unit.

## ITEM 2: Minutes of previous meeting (4 September 2018)

1. Review draft minutes including terminology to explain the origin of places named to commemorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander words.

**Action:** Progressively amend citations in the place names database to read as appropriate.

2. Commemoration of [REDACTED] - Motion passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 31 October 2018.

- Mr Mark Parton MLA motion to rename the Tharwa Bridge.
- Minister Gentleman's amending motion was passed:

That this Assembly:

- (1) calls on the ACT Place Names Committee to:
  - (a) consider a substantial tribute to Mr Val Jeffery which adequately reflects his passion and commitment to Tharwa; and
  - (b) consult with the Jeffery family, the Tharwa and wider Canberra community on the best way to commemorate the life and legacy of Mr Val Jeffery.

**Action:** prepare a courtesy letter from the Co-chair to the [REDACTED].

3. Margaret Hendry School in Taylor

**Action:** The Education Directorate will coordinate a school event in late term 1 2019 to recognise the naming. The intention is to invite members of our committee.

4. Taylor nomenclature theme – the committee's amendment has been endorsed by the Minister ie 'Architecture, town planning and urban design'.

**Action:** The Place Names Unit will apply the revised theme to research for Taylor 3.

5. Investigate renaming Tudawalli Pl, Chapman – named in 1973.

Jeff Brown acknowledged assistance from Kaye Price to consult Frank Hardy's 'The Unlucky Australians' and confirmed information provided by The National Film and Sound Archive also favours the spelling 'Tudawali' .

**Action:**

Consult Robert Tudawali's [REDACTED] about the intention to amend the road name before undertaking any process to consult residents/property owners in Tudawalli Place about the possible action to amend (revoke) the spelling of the road name to Tudawali Place.

#### ITEM 4: Media – “Push for review of ‘hurtful’ place names”

Start 3.55pm; committee member [REDACTED].

This issue was raised in the media by Ms Cody MLA on 29 Oct 2018. Jeff Brown noted that he has given several media interviews at short notice. An interview with ABC TV was televised nationally. Surveyor-Generals in other jurisdictions have asked Jeff to keep them informed.

The meeting considered the wording of the prospective motion from Ms Cody which may be debated in the Assembly on 28 November 2018:

**MS CODY:** To move—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; and
- (c) the ongoing hurt caused in the community by the commemoration of villains as heroes; and

(2) calls on the ACT Place Names Committee to review existing place names in the ACT to ensure they meet the community standards, and provide advice on necessary revisions.

*(Notice given 30 October 2018. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks – standing order 125A).*

Discussion points raised during the meeting included:

- Very important to communicate the message that the committee is sensitive to the views of the community – be careful and genuine in the tone of the response; welcome the opportunity for a discussion;
- Statement from the committee before the motion goes to the assembly; keep succinct;
- The committee’s work is generally well publicised in the community;
- Restate the purposes of the committee and principles of naming, noting the criteria in the legislation;
- A committee statement “this is impossible” shouldn’t be the first argument;
- Positive statement to reinforce that there is a review mechanism in place and the committee is open to people bringing concerns to its attention;
- Place naming is marking people of significance with mixed histories;
- Issue of ideas changing over time; how can place names reflect community standards? Social and cultural historians know well that community standards/values are not set in stone; perceptions of commemorated individuals will change over time;
- Very important for the committee to be aware of the implications of the prospective motion;
- The committee does not want to be put in a position to examine legacy place names and make an assessment of an individual;
- Difficult to determine contemporary views as factual in relation to some aspects of Australian history;
- Villains and Heroes – problem of language; no one leads a perfect life; the commemorative place names process is marking people of significance and they will all have their histories;

- A review could be deeply problematic; changes to place names can impact the timely delivery of emergency services; difficult to reach community consensus about changing addresses;
- Were this to become a substantive move, the moral criteria must be established as to where you draw the line; who is in, who is out? – Impossible;
- What are ‘community standards’? Standards and attitudes can evolve; change over time and changed perceptions;
- Impossible for the committee to establish moral criteria that are clear cut;
- Opportunity to expand the knowledge of Australian history and encourage interrogation of names put forward for review; names requested for review should be accompanied by evidence justifying the request;
- Members spoke of the work of the Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB). The criteria established by ADB can be subject to criticism; the original work in ADB is not altered but it can publish supplementary information;
- Brief to Minister setting out the administrative load and the consequences?
- A place name can encourage reflection and discussion as discussed by the former committee in relation to the naming of Haig Park;
- Further information can be included in the website citation for the relevant division/public place name to additionally describe the commemorated person’s historical legacy and encourage reflection and discussion;
- The committee does not have a general objection to a review of individual or specific names, but does not consider a whole scale review is appropriate;
- No need to include options for changing place names in this initial statement to the Minister.

Brett Phillips provided advice about the process for the prospective motion to be debated in the Assembly.

Jeff Brown reminded the meeting about the statutory naming process - disallowable instrument publicly notified in the legislation register and tabled for 6 sitting days in the Assembly.

Sharon Priestly gave an example of a motion made in the Assembly to amend an instrument (in Gungahlin to include the names of more women). This led to an amendment in the legislation to provide that the Minister must consider gender balance when determining a new division or public place name.

The meeting agreed that if supplementary information is included in an entry to further explain the origin and significance of a place name, then this could be done by updating the database/website entry – no need for a formal instrument.

**Action:** Committee motion agreed 13 November 2018:

Statement from Co-chair, [REDACTED] to Minister Gentleman, which reflects the committee position; before the motion goes to the assembly; keep succinct.

Two parts to the statement:

1. Four areas of the motion require response:
  - ‘criminal, reprehensible and/or abhorrent’;
  - the hurt must be articulated by the individual feeling that hurt;
  - the idea of review of a place name should be put on the individual to come forward;
  - community standards change/evolve over time; are not set in stone;
2. Respond based on the strength of the processes already in place and then point out the issues were such as a review to go ahead.

**From:** [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Palm, Genevieve](#); [Priestly, Sharon](#)  
**Subject:** ACT Place Names Committee meeting 19 March 2019 - Assembly Resolution and Place Names Review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 February 2019 9:18:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [20190122 - Brett Phillips letter to \[REDACTED\] - invite for comment.pdf](#)  
[20190122 - Letter attachment - Resolution - Place Name Guidelines.pdf](#)  
[2017 - ACT Place Names Committee - Terms of Reference 2017.docx](#)

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Dear Committee

We are looking forward to the committee meeting scheduled for **Tuesday 19 March commencing at 3pm**. The agenda will include discussion about the [ACT Legislative Assembly Resolution](#) dated 28 November 2018 (copy below).

I have enclosed a copy of correspondence from Brett Phillips, [Executive Director, Planning Delivery \(EPSDD\)](#) to Co-chair, [REDACTED] about the Assembly Resolution and the Place Names Review. Brett has requested the committee to provide its views on the resolution, and the specific actions listed in 2(a) to 2(d), **by Friday 29 March 2019**.

I have also enclosed a copy of the [Committee Terms of Reference](#) and a link to the *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1)* – NI2014-643 <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ni/2014-643/default.asp>

[ACT Legislation Assembly Resolution \(28 November 2018\)](#):

## 9. PLACE NAME GUIDELINES

- (1) 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.

Please contact Jeff directly if you have any questions about the Assembly Resolution/Place Names Review. *I will be on leave from Monday 18 February until Monday 4 March.*

Kind regards

Sharon

for **Jeff Brown** | Surveyor-General of the ACT & 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](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au)



**ACT**  
Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

Obj ref: 18/36497

[REDACTED]  
Co-Chair  
ACT Place Names Committee

Cc: [Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au](mailto: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.

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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](mailto: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

22 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

## 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.

## **ITEM 1: Welcome and meeting apologies**

Co-chair, Jeff Brown opened the meeting at 3.10pm and introduced James Bennett and Sarah Young, Project Review team, Planning Delivery Division.

The meeting congratulated [REDACTED], [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## **ITEM 2: ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review**

**Purpose:** to consider the ACT Legislative Assembly resolution passed on 28 November 2018 and provide the committee's views on the resolution, and the specific actions listed in 2(a) to 2(d) of the resolution, to the Executive Director, Planning Delivery in EPSDD by Friday 29 March 2019.

The Project Review team distributed two sets of information to the committee members comprising copies of redacted representations and responses about the naming of Haig Park and William Slim Drive. The point was made that the committee had not accessed this information previously.

James Bennett addressed the meeting on behalf of the Project Review team and provided context and background about the Assembly resolution, the review and tight reporting timeframe:

- the resolution calls on the ACT Government to make a good process even better;
- the Minister is aware of the positive contribution of the committee and the Place Names Unit;
- requesting the committee to prioritise advice about the naming of Haig Park and William Slim Drive;
- provides an opportunity for resolution of ongoing issues;
- confirmed advisory role of the committee; political powers can make a different decision;
- encourage committee input into other items to make a positive contribution for place naming into the future eg increase community participation, provide an easy process to raise concerns, complaints and nominations;
- draft report due by end of March 2019;
- the Project Review team has looked at processes in other naming jurisdictions;
- consolidated committee response to Executive Director due 29 March to feed into Review Report;
- undertaking to confirm whether the committee will be given an opportunity to respond to the Review Report before it is recommended to the Minister;
- the review document will be on the public record once it is discussed in the Assembly.

James Bennett acknowledged the good discussion/points raised at his face-to-face meeting with both co-chairs in February 2019 and the importance of doing a better job "shining a light on the committee's work and its protocols".

There was committee discussion about the reference to "significant community disquiet" and issue of "community standards". James Bennett clarified that the Legislative Assembly has determined there is significant community disquiet – passed in resolution, cannot be defined; the committee to respond and raise the issue – how do we ensure the committee nominates names that are acceptable to the current community?

Further to the issues relating to William Slim Dr and Haig Park, the meeting agreed that a defined process is required to prepare the committee for future, similar situations.

If issues are publicised the committee will require very clear protocols to manage community feedback.

There was discussion about increasing scrutiny of public figures by the community/media, protracted public debate, sensitivities and repercussions. Other jurisdictions/countries are dealing with similar issues. Links to articles giving examples was provided to the committee on 12 March including: Brenda Macdougall *Naming and Renaming: Confronting Canada's Past, Shekon Neechie An Indigenous History Site* - "...the *when* and *why* matters as much as the *who*..."

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

The Project Review team left the meeting at 3:40pm. The meeting broke for a short refreshment and reconvened at 3:45pm

At 3:45pm, Co-chair Jeff Brown called on the meeting to consider paragraph 2 of the resolution in order:

**Resolution 2(a):** Review the terms of reference and expansion of membership for the ACT Place Names Committee.

Discussion -

- the current Terms of Reference already provide for flexibility in the membership;
- no mandatory requirement for minimum or maximum numbers;
- Minister can form the committee on the basis of the expertise of respondents to the public expression of interest;
- Consider advertising EOI more broadly;
- appointments undertaken in accordance with the ACT Government's committee appointment guidelines and governance principles;
- discussion about specifying a quorum in the TOR – 50% of membership plus one?
- the specific appointment of a young adult person, with relevant expertise, would bring value to the committee;
- is there a gap in current membership by not having a Ngunnawal representative?
- protocols for diversity (find example of another committee which has articulated protocols for diversity);
- 2020 EOI will not limit the committee to 12 members if there are applications which the Minister considers will bring another perspective or demonstrate particular expertise.

**Committee response:**

- reiterate the EOI process complies with governance principles; range of expertise in membership;
- TOR – no prescribed minimum or maximum membership;
- suggest targeting a younger person (with relevant expertise) to bring the youth perspective to the place names discussion eg target universities and technical colleges for younger persons (with relevant expertise) for contribution in regard to present-day community standards.

**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.

Discussion-

- guidelines – consider the wording in relation to consulting relatives;

- the guidelines already require avoidance of “derogatory or discriminatory terms or terms in poor taste” — opportunity to articulate issue of community standards;
- feeling that community standards is a “nonsense in contemporary historical thinking”;
- improve access to website documents to submit feedback/complaints;
- develop criteria requiring proponents to substantiate any request to revisit the naming of a division and/or public place by providing strong reasons for the request; evidence based;
- criteria 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;
- commemorated family member can be subject to scrutiny for alleged indiscretions (real or perceived) which could result in protracted public debate;
- opportunities to amend the particular ACTmapi place name citation to additionally describe the commemorated person’s historical legacy and encourage reflection and discussion in the community;
- suggestion to amend the guidelines to reference the term “community standards”;
- publicise examples of recent names which reflect inclusive community, cultural diversity;
- provide examples of names which have involved the community eg Rosalie Gascoigne Park and Rosemary Dobson Park.

**Committee response:**

- reiterate the committee’s concern about the phrase “...community standards...”.
- how does one generation determine community standards as opposed to another?
- the current guidelines already 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”;
- reaffirm the message that the committee is cognisant of community sensitivities and will continue to advocate for place names which can be reasonably presumed to be acceptable to the community at the time the naming determination is made.

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.

The committee has previously noted that place names commemorate deceased people and we need to afford them, and their family, procedural fairness and substantiate allegations before acting to remove or change an established name.

## Committee response:

Haig Park – the name commemorates the historically controversial Commander-in Chief of the British Forces in the First World War, Field Marshal Earl Haig.

Previous memberships of the committee have considered representations about the naming of Haig Park and whether it is appropriate to continue to commemorate Haig, in the context of criticism of his leadership and his strategies.

In the past, committee representatives have spoken on local radio about the naming of the park and its support to retain the name.

The point was made at the meeting that there was already a historical perspective about the leadership of Haig available to the decision makers at the time the park was named in 1928 – a decade after war's end (ie the Canberra National Memorials Committee). In the first round of naming, people still thought on balance that his name should be commemorated in the National Capital. It is significant that the determination of the park name was published by the Federal Capital Commission in its first nomenclature gazette dated 20 September 1928.

Haig's advocacy for veterans and their families after the war was also raised at the meeting.

There was a suggestion that if a decision is made to rename the park consideration could be given to its early common name – the Windbreak.

Jeff Brown confirmed that the City Activation team (City Renewal Authority) is prepared to look at new signage in the park. It will wait for the outcome of the Review and the Assembly Resolution.

**Committee response** - 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.

**ACTION:** The Place Names Unit will draft the Committee response to the Executive Director (ED), Planning Delivery; circulate draft by Friday 22 March and ask for quick turnaround; forward agreed copy to ED by due date - Friday 29 March

### ITEM 3: Minutes of previous meeting (13 November 2018)

- Place Names Unit to investigate status of future nature play park in Tharwa and progress discussion with Jeffery family; intention to inform the community of the intention to name the space to commemorate the late Mr Val Jeffrey;
- Place Names Unit still trying to identify and contact Robert Tudawali's [redacted] about the renaming of Tudawali Pl, Chapman – named in 1973.

### ITEM 4: Other Business

- (i) Update website – supplement gazettal information with direct accounts of the origin and significance of the names Canberra and Russell? **Not discussed; carry over to next meeting.**



**ACT**

Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

**ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 6 August 2019 (3pm–5pm)**

**Venue:** Exec Boardroom Level 3 South Building, DPMH 16 Challis St Dickson

**Committee:** Mr Jeff Brown (Co-chair), [REDACTED] (Co-chair), [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED], [REDACTED].

**EPSDD:** Mr James Bennett

**Minister Gentleman’s Office:** Ms Louise Crossman, Planning Adviser

**Secretariat:** Mrs Sharon Priestly, Mrs Genevieve Palm

**Apologies:** Mr Brett Phillips, Executive Group Manager, Planning Delivery

**AGENDA:**

1. **Introduction and meeting apologies**
2. **Review ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines**  
Update on the outcome of the review – James Bennett and Louise Crossman (30 mins)
  - Summary of the recommendations and draft implementation plan (Attachment A).
  - Detailed summary of the Options and Recommendations (Attachment E).
3. **Minutes of previous meeting - 19 March 2019 (Attachment B).**
4. **Commemoration of Indigenous people and language**
  - (i) Meeting with United Ngunnawal Elders Council (27 June 2019);
  - (ii) Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) – workshop Alice Springs.
  - (iii) Naming public parks.
5. **Other Business**
  - (i) Parks
  - (ii) Appointment of Committee for 2020-2023;
  - (iii) Commemoration of former Prime Minister Bob Hawke;
  - (iv) Media
  - (v) Molonglo Valley District – update about major infrastructure;
  - (vi) Status of ongoing projects.
6. **At 4pm: Decision to rename William Slim Drive**
7. **Set next meeting date: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> November?**

## **ITEM 2: Review ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines**

Response to Assembly Resolution, 28 November 2018 – Review Report tabled 6 June 2019.

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.

The Government has agreed to all recommendations in the review to be implemented within the next 12 months.

The recommendations include:

- (i) Processes to ensure place names meet community standards;
- (ii) Introduce a set of principles for considering renaming proposals;
- (i) Improve avenues for community input into the place naming process;
- (ii) Develop a transparent online feedback and complaints process;
- (iii) Review the Committee Terms of Reference;
- (iv) Decision to rename William Slim Drive – refer Item 6.

**A Summary of the Options and Recommendations is at Attachment E.**

### **ACTION:**

1. Implement the review recommendations;
2. Consider the Draft Implementation Plan through Stages 1-3 (Attachment A);
3. Investigate the process to rename William Slim Drive and new naming options;
4. Respond to the Minister's letter concerning William Slim Drive (Attachment D).

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Agree to implement the recommendations in stages as suggested in Attachment A;
2. Agree to commence with the **recommendations listed as Stage 1**. That is:
  - (i) Update the place names website and 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;
  - (ii) Develop a feedback/complaints process and publish it on the place names website;
    - detail how a member of the community can provide feedback/complaints;
    - provide an online portal for feedback/complaints;
    - provide information on how the Committee will assess the feedback and advise the Minister or delegate;
  - (iii) Update the renaming policy to provide further criteria to assist the community in providing relevant information for the Committee's consideration, and provide the criteria against which the Committee will assess community proposals;
  - (iv) Improve the place names website to develop an online portal for providing feedback to the Committee on naming proposals, renaming proposals and other feedback.
3. Provide advice to the Minister on the process and new naming options for William Slim Drive.  
**See Item 6: Decision to rename William Slim Drive.**

- (ii) Appointment of Committee for 2020-2023; expect EOI in June/July 2020;
- (iii) Commemoration of former Prime Minister Bob Hawke – Hawker exists;
- (iv) Media – William Slim; Haig Park; Whitlam launch; UNEC (RiotACT 11/7/2019);
- (v) Molonglo Valley – update about major infrastructure
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
- (vi) Status of ongoing projects including Strathnairn 2, Taylor 3 and Whitlam 1.

**ITEM 6: At 4pm – Decision to rename William Slim Drive**

Minister Gentleman wrote to the Committee on 6 June 2019 (Attachment D). The Minister has requested the Committee to consider whether it is appropriate to adopt the name of an existing adjoining road (ie extend the name Gundaroo Drive), or whether there are any names of **prominent women** or **indigenous words** which could be considered.

The Minister has asked the Committee to consult the community and provide the outcome when providing him with naming options.

**NOTE:**

- In June 2014 the former Committee recommended that if a decision is made to rename the road it should not be named after a person; there could connotations replacing the name of a person whose legacy has been contested with another personal name.
- [REDACTED] suggested the word ‘Wahlenbergia’ (Royal Bluebell – floral emblem of the ACT) – noting that ‘Bluebell’ is already commemorated in Bluebell St O’Connor.
- In 2016 the ACT Government announced its intention to upgrade William Slim Drive to a dual carriageway between Ginninderra Drive and the Barton Highway. The draft design was released in February 2019.
- One renaming option is to extend the name Gundaroo Drive, Gungahlin across the Barton Highway roundabout through to Ginninderra Drive, Belconnen.
- On 26 July 2019 the Chief Minister commented on Chief Minister’s Talkback (ABC Radio Canberra) that the duplication/dual carriageway will be major connection between Gungahlin and Belconnen; appropriate to rename the road with an Aboriginal word and announce the name at the opening ceremony to launch the completion of the duplication work.
- Consider Ngunnawal words eg ‘Galumbany’ which possibly translates to an English meaning of "me, you, we, together".
- Consider the commemoration of the name of an Indigenous woman.

**Action:** Provide advice to Minister Gentleman on process/new naming options for William Slim Drive.

**ITEM 7: Set next meeting date: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> November?**

Close meeting at 5pm.

**ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 6 August 2019 (3pm–5pm)**

**Venue:** Exec Boardroom Level 3 South Building, DPMH 16 Challis St Dickson

**Committee:** Mr Jeff Brown (Co-chair), [REDACTED] (Co-chair), [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

**EPSDD:** Mr James Bennett

**Minister Gentleman’s Office:** Ms Louise Crossman, Planning Adviser

**Secretariat:** Sharon Priestly, Genevieve Palm

**Apologies:** [REDACTED]

**AGENDA:**

1. **Introduction and meeting apologies**
2. **Review ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines**
  - Update on the outcome of the review – James Bennett and Louise Crossman (30 mins)
  - Summary of the recommendations and draft implementation plan (Attachment A).
  - Detailed summary of the Options and Recommendations (Attachment E).
3. **Minutes of previous meeting** - 19 March 2019 (Attachment B).
4. **Commemoration of Indigenous people and language**
  - (i) Meeting with United Ngunnawal Elders Council (27 June 2019);
  - (ii) Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) – workshop Alice Springs.
  - (iii) Naming public parks.
5. **Other Business**
  - (i) Parks
  - (ii) Appointment of Committee for 2020-2023;
  - (iii) Commemoration of former Prime Minister Bob Hawke;
  - (iv) Media
  - (v) Molonglo Valley District – update about major infrastructure;
  - (vi) Status of ongoing projects.
6. **At 4pm: Decision to rename William Slim Drive**
7. **Set next meeting date:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**ITEM 1: Welcome and meeting apologies**

Co-chair, Jeff Brown opened the meeting at 3.10pm and introduced James Bennett and Louise Crossman.

The meeting offered belated congratulations to [REDACTED]

Jeff Brown welcomed committee member [REDACTED] to the meeting.

**ITEM 2: Review ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines**

Response to Assembly Resolution, 28 November 2018 – Review Report tabled 6 June 2019.  
The Minister’s letter dated 3 June was tabled in the meeting papers.

The meeting noted the recommendations including:

- (i) Processes to ensure place names meet community standards;
- (ii) Introduce a set of principles for considering renaming proposals;
- (iii) Improve avenues for community input into the place naming process;
- (iv) Develop a transparent online feedback and complaints process;
- (v) Review the Committee Terms of Reference.

The meeting also noted the Minister’s decision to rename William Slim Drive and retain the name Haig Park.

James Bennett addressed the meeting about the Review Report and provided a summary of the recommendations. James Bennett and Louise Crossman spoke further to explain the reasons for the Minister’s decision to rename William Slim Drive and not change the name of Haig Park.

Robust discussion followed about “community standards” and questions from the committee about what demonstrates evidence; has allegation topped evidence and is the decision to rename a value judgement?

There was discussion about preparing principles to address the difficult question of community standards to:

- provide a strong framework for the Place Names Unit research;
- enable the committee to consider any requests to rename a place name; and
- enable the committee to advise the Minister about contentious renaming issues.

Kaye Price and Allen Mawer have requested that the minutes formally record their strong disappointment about the decision to rename William Slim Drive.

#### Recommendation to Review the Committee Terms of Reference

James Bennett addressed the meeting about the Terms of Reference including:

- o Expansion of the committee to provide for the membership to include a younger person and a person with a background in Indigenous languages.

There was discussion centred on the membership representing a diversity of ideas. The committee agreed that (ideally) the membership should include a representative having an innate connection to Indigenous culture; not practicable to look for a person to advise on Indigenous languages.

The committee’s previous advice to the Minister has recommended the appointment of a young person with relevant qualifications/experience.

James Bennett invited the committee to provide feedback on how “we go about getting the right person”.

Jeff Brown thanked James Bennett and Louise Crossman for their assistance and advice. The meeting broke at 3:45pm for short refreshments and reconvened at 4pm.

#### **Recommendation:**

The committee’s recommendation is to amend the Terms of Reference to provide for the membership to include a person with a background in Indigenous culture.

**Action:** The committee agreed to provide advice/input to assist with the implementation of the Review Report recommendations.

#### **ITEM 3: Minutes of previous meeting 19 March 2019 (Attachment B).**

The meeting noted that the committee’s letter dated 28 March 2019 in response to the Assembly resolution, was tabled in the Assembly with the Final Review Report.

#### ITEM 4: Commemoration of Indigenous people and language

(i) The meeting noted the Minister's letter dated 2 July 2019 requesting the committee to investigate the naming of a park in O'Connor to commemorate an Indigenous name/word – Minister's decision to not progress with 'Toll Dale'.

- The members discussed how to engage with local Aboriginal people and other stakeholders in the community, including local residents in O'Connor;

(ii) [REDACTED];

(iii) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] questioned whether it would be feasible/appropriate to ask UNEC if the group would be prepared to suggest a list of language words names preapproved by the Elders for consideration by the Place Names Committee as opportunities to name local parks are identified.

[REDACTED] suggested a representative of our committee could offer to meet/engage with UNEC about a 'store' of names.

[REDACTED] offered to be directly involved in a two-way conversation with UNEC.

[REDACTED] spoke about community engagement pointing out the importance of consulting widely beforehand to provide an opportunity for feedback especially as a word could have a different meaning, or sensitivity, in other cultures represented in our diverse community.

#### Action:

- Seek direction/advice about engagement with UNEC and identify stakeholders;
- Ask UNEC if they are willing for their language to be recognised through the naming of local parks and if so, how they would like the process to be carried out;
- Draft new consultation policy a part of the process to implement Review Report Recommendations;
- Brief Minister Gentleman accordingly.

[REDACTED]

Jeff Brown provided a summary of his attendance (with Genevieve Palm) at the June UNEC meeting including his offer of future regular meetings to discuss place names. Letter to UNEC dated 16 July 2019 to clarify the issues raised at the meeting and request advice about opportunities to commemorate words from the Ngunnawal language in Taylor 3 (to recognise architecture, town planning and/or urban design).

The committee discussed the call from UNEC to rename significant local features including Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie and Mount Majura. The meeting confirmed its support for the International/National principle of dual naming ie to reinstate a traditional name, provided by the traditional land custodians, to a natural feature eg Uluru/Ayers Rock.

### Haig Park

UNEC has raised the question of renaming Haig Park to recognise Ngunnawal culture/language; some members have engaged in the City Renewal Authority (CRA) project to revitalise the park. Jeff Brown advised the committee that there appeared to be some confusion at the UNEC meeting about the Minister's decision to retain the name Haig Park.

After the UNEC meeting Jeff Brown contacted CRA to confirm the Minister's decision to retain the name.

### CRA community consultation – Haig Park

The meeting noted the City Renewal Authority (CRA) website consultation at <https://www.haigparkcbr.com.au/Experiments/First-Nations>

### **Action:**

- Jeff Brown will address the next Executive Management Board (EMB) meeting to canvas a whole of directorate approach to progress dual naming in the ACT, including Heritage, Parks and Conservation and Environment;
- Jeff Brown will keep the committee informed of progress.

- (iii) Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) – workshop Alice Springs May 2019.  
The annual PCPN meeting will be hosted by the Australian Hydrographic Office in Wollongong on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.

Sharon Priestly provided a brief account of the PCPN workshop including:

- discussion about empowering Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples concerning opportunities to recognise languages through place names;
- acknowledgment that Indigenous people may not be willing to 'give up' a word for the purpose of place naming;
- recognition that we should not impose our ideas onto a particular cultural group about how to recognise words from their language or apply timeframes to obtain permission;
- discussion about asking Indigenous cultural groups if they are willing for their language to be recognised and if so, how they would like the process to be carried out.

- (iv) Naming public parks – the meeting noted Minister Gentleman supports the commemoration of Indigenous people/words through the naming of public parks; the Minister has been briefed by the directorate about sensitivities, consultation, engaging with UNEC etc.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Priestly, Sharon](#); [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Palm, Genevieve](#); [Placenames](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ACT Place Names Committee - draft meeting minutes enclosed  
**Date:** Thursday, 5 September 2019 7:22:40 PM

---

Dear Sharon

Fine by me. I would like my name to be associated with [REDACTED] in recording disappointment at the decision to rename William Slim Drive (item 2).

Regards

[REDACTED]

---

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

**Sent:** Thursday, 5 September 2019 6:04 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Rebecca Sorensen (NCA) <rebecca.sorensen@natcap.gov.au>;

<samantha.faulkner@nhmrc.gov.au>

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

**Subject:** ACT Place Names Committee - draft meeting minutes enclosed

Dear Committee

I have enclosed the draft minutes from our committee meeting of 6 August 2019. I'd appreciate your feedback by **Monday 16 September** so that Jeff can brief the Minister about the committee's discussion and advice.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12 November 3-5pm

*Thank you again for your ongoing support.*

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](http://www.planning.act.gov.au)

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**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** [redacted] [Priestly, Sharon](#); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [Brown, Jeffrey](#); [Palm, Genevieve](#); [Placenames](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ACT Place Names Committee - draft meeting minutes enclosed  
**Date:** Friday, 6 September 2019 7:26:34 AM

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Hi Sharon,

I was disappointed to not be able to make the last meeting to be part of the important discussion over William Slim Drive.

Like [redacted], I'd like to have my views recorded about the proposed renaming.

[redacted]

Regards,

[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2019 7:23 PM  
**To:** 'Priestly, Sharon' <[Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au)>; [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
<[samantha.faulkner@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:samantha.faulkner@nhmrc.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** 'Brown, Jeffrey' <[Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au](mailto:Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au)>; 'Palm, Genevieve' <[Genevieve.Palm@act.gov.au](mailto:Genevieve.Palm@act.gov.au)>; 'Placenames' <[Placenames@act.gov.au](mailto:Placenames@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: ACT Place Names Committee - draft meeting minutes enclosed

Dear Sharon

Fine by me. I would like my name to be associated with [redacted] in recording disappointment at the decision to rename William Slim Drive (item 2).

Regards

**From:** Priestly, Sharon <[Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.Priestly@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 5 September 2019 6:04 PM

**To:**

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Rebecca Sorensen (NCA) [Redacted] [@natcap.gov.au](mailto:[Redacted]@natcap.gov.au);  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted] [@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:[Redacted]@nhmrc.gov.au)

**Cc:** Brown, Jeffrey <[Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au](mailto:Jeffrey.Brown@act.gov.au)>; Palm, Genevieve <[Genevieve.Palm@act.gov.au](mailto:Genevieve.Palm@act.gov.au)>; Placenames <[Placenames@act.gov.au](mailto:Placenames@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** ACT Place Names Committee - draft meeting minutes enclosed

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*Thank you again for your ongoing support.*

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  
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**ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 26 November 2019 (3pm–5pm)**

**Venue:** Exec Boardroom Level 3 South Building, DPMH 16 Challis St Dickson

**Committee:** Mr Jeff Brown (Co-chair), [REDACTED] (Co-chair), [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED], [REDACTED].

**EPSDD:** Mr Brett Phillips      **Secretariat:** Mrs Sharon Priestly, Mrs Genevieve Palm  
**Apologies:** [REDACTED]

**AGENDA:**

1. Introduction and meeting apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting – 6 August 2019
3. Appointment of the ACT Place Names Committee – proposal to extend current membership term by nine months until 30 June 2021
4. Review ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines

Begin discussion to implement the recommendations of the Review Report tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 6 June 2019.

- Review Committee Terms of Reference
- Review Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2014 (No 1)

***4pm 15 mins break for refreshments***

5. Other Business
6. Discuss next meeting date: consider Tuesday 18 February or 25 February 2020.

## ITEM 1: Introduction and meeting apologies

Jeff Brown recorded apologies received from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It was noted before the meeting that Brett Phillips [REDACTED].

Jeff acknowledged some recent professional achievements by committee members including:

- Allen Mawer's new book to be launched in Canberra on 28 November – *Uncommon Valour: The Story of the Victoria Cross*;
- [REDACTED] recent lectures in London and Edinburgh presented as part of First Eight Project exploring the private, public and political lives of Australia's first eight Prime Ministers: *So much more than a Prime Minister: Andrew Fisher (1862–1928)*;
- [REDACTED] – *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education: An Introduction for the Teaching Profession* (Third Edition).

Jeff invited all committee members to share their projects with the group and acknowledged that Allen's book is a well-timed resource for the Place Names team for 2020 research relating to 'valour and community service' in Jacka 2.

### Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting – 6 August 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting have been noted by Minister Gentleman.

Rename William Slim Drive – Jeff Brown confirmed the Minister has agreed to the Committee's recommendation to extend the name of Gundaroo Drive. Jeff advised the meeting that the timing of the instrument to revoke the road name, and explain the extension of the name Gundaroo Drive, is to be discussed within the EPSD directorate. The original indication was to change the name as part of the construction work to upgrade the road to a dual carriageway. (Note post meeting at this stage the work is expected to be completed in mid-2023).

Jeff confirmed he will correspond with the family of Sir William Slim to advise them of the statutory renaming process.

The Place Names Unit will prepare the disallowable instrument to revoke the name and explain the extension of Gundaroo Drive through to Ginninderra Drive. The instrument will be recommended to the Minister (or his delegate).

**Action:** Jeff Brown to seek advice from the EPSD directorate about the timeframe to formally revoke the name William Slim Drive.

### Item 3: Appointment of the ACT Place Names Committee

Jeff Brown consulted the committee members about the prospect of being appointed for a further nine months, ie from 1 October 2020 to 30 June 2021. He confirmed the Minister supports extending the term of the committee to enable the experienced and expert members to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Report and ensure the appropriate guidelines and policies are in place before the appointment of the next committee for 2021–2024. The proposal to extend the committee's term will also remove the appointment of the new membership from the special operating arrangements which apply in the caretaker period immediately before and after the ACT general election, scheduled for 17 October 2020.

Jeff confirmed the process to appoint the committee until 30 June 2021 will be undertaken in accordance with the procedures in the ACT Government document 'Governance Principles – Appointments, Boards and Committees' and include consultation with agencies responsible for women, multicultural affairs, ACT Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples etc. <https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/cabinet/governance>

The committee members will not be required to submit an application but there could be paperwork to be completed such as the Conflict of Interest Declaration.

There was discussion about the appointment of the committee for 2021-2024. Jeff confirmed it will be through an EOI process and include a broad and multi-faceted communications approach, in consultation with EPSDD Communications, to encourage applications from a diverse range of people to reflect our inclusive community.

██████████ queried the expansion of the committee membership in the draft Terms of Reference to include a young adult person. Jeff confirmed this change is in response to the recommendation in the Review Report but in effect the committee already meets this requirement through the membership of ██████████.

There was discussion about the extended contribution of some members who have served for two or more 3 year terms with ██████████ confirming she was a foundation member in 1999. There was further discussion about the diversity of the committee membership.

Jeff Brown restated that the usual practice is to refresh the membership of government committees periodically while retaining a level of continuity; important to finalise the implementation of the Review recommendations before the Minister appoints the next committee.

All members have indicated their willingness and availability to be considered to serve for an extended term until 30 June 2021.

**Action:** Jeff Brown will keep the committee informed about the appointment process.

#### **Item 4: Review ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines**

##### **(i) Review the Committee Terms of Reference**

Jeff Brown explained that the draft version of the revised Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) at Attachment B has been prepared in response to the Recommendations in the Review Report. The draft TOR responds to the recommendations to expand the membership; outline the operations of the committee and outline the process to monitor and evaluate the committee's performance.

The draft TOR is consistent with the template and instructions in the ACT Government document 'Governance Principles – Appointments, Boards and Committees' <https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/cabinet/governance>

##### **Title - ACT Place Names *Advisory* Committee**

Jeff Brown noted the first change in the draft TOR is the inclusion of the term 'Advisory' in the committee title. This accords with the Review recommendation to reinforce the non-statutory and advisory nature of the Committee and is consistent with other committees appointed to provide advice to ACT Ministers including the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Women; ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing and Survey Practice Advisory Committee.

There was discussion about the place names decision-making process to clarify that the Minister has the power to make a determination/decision and takes into consideration any relevant advice from the committee. There was further discussion recognising that the inclusion of 'advisory' is a description of the factual situation.

Paragraph 2 confirms what is currently the case – ie the committee provides advice on the development of policies and processes.

Paragraph 10 new words 'Cognisant of community standards'

The meeting questioned the inclusion of 'cognisant of community standards' in the draft TOR. What does this mean? Jeff Brown explained that further work to explain what this actually means in terms of place naming will be undertaken as part of the revision of the Renaming Policy in early 2020. The intention is to respond to the review recommendation to require the committee to consider current community standards before naming a place after a person and to provide some guidance on what such consideration will entail.

Paragraph 11 Membership and expertise

The meeting discussed the new draft requirements for a person with a background in Indigenous culture and a young adult person. The draft wording for a member with a background in Indigenous culture reflects the committee's discussion at the August 2019 meeting.

Jeff tabled feedback from [REDACTED] recommending 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture' which is consistent with the place names legislation which refers to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander vocabulary (not 'Indigenous vocabulary').

[REDACTED] questioned whether the revised TOR is an opportunity to be more prescriptive to include a member of the local Aboriginal community; the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet; an ultimate mark of respect to have a person representing the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC) on our committee which is dealing with the naming of places on their traditional land.

There was also discussion about whether the purpose of the TOR membership provisions is to invite people with particular qualifications. Is the goal and objective to achieve membership of someone representing the Ngunnawal Aboriginal community?

Jeff Brown confirmed that the intention of both the TOR and EOI is to provide for flexibility to enable the Minister to assess applications and appoint the most suitable committee membership. Jeff explained the Co-chair of UNEC has served previously on the Place Names Committee. An invitation to participate in the EOI was provided to agencies, including UNEC, as part of the appointment process for the current committee. This invitation will be extended in future EOIs. There is also the new group established by the directorate – the Traditional Custodians Caring for Country Committee.

The promotion/advertising of the EOI will be coordinated with EPSDD Communications in accordance with the Review Report recommendation to review how the appointment of the committee can be more widely promoted in the community.

After further discussion, including advice from [REDACTED], the meeting agreed to amend the draft TOR to read: *A person with a background in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultures.* Anne McGrath suggested writing EPSDD acronym in full. All other revisions were accepted by the committee.

(ii) Review the Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines

A draft version of the revised Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines was provided to the committee for review and further discussion. Jeff Brown clarified that the guidelines are recommended to the Minister and the approved copy is notified on the ACT Legislation Register (Notifiable Instrument). The first (and current) guidelines are notified on the Register in NI2014-643.

The meeting agreed to the draft revisions in Attachment C subject to:

- further discussion in early 2020 to explain 1(i) 'cognisant of community sensitivities';
- change 2(a) 'given point in time' to read 'at the time of the determination';
- change Point 7 to delete the word 'current';
- change Point 11 to replace 'that strives to accord' with 'while striving to accord'; and
- include a new Note 5 to provide an explanation of the Permanent Committee on Place Names Guidelines [referenced in 1(d)].

The amendments are shown in the revised Attachment C.

During the committee's discussion about the proposed Renaming Policy, [REDACTED] questioned whether there is an opportunity to use three words in a place name. The particular example is Mary Grant Bruce (1878-1958), children's author and journalist, especially known for the Billabong series. The author was originally commemorated in Franklin as Minnie Bruce Street but the place name was revoked in 2007 following consultation with a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] requested consideration be given to formulating a policy to enable three worded place names to be considered (plus the generic).

Jeff Brown explained that three words in a place name plus the generic (eg street/park) is inconsistent with the addressing standards and the PCPN naming principles. A long place name has the potential to cause addressing confusion and delay the timely delivery of emergency services.

(Post meeting: there are some exceptions existing in ACT place names including Marion Mahony Griffin View, Mount Ainslie named in 2013; also New South Wales Crescent, Old Well Station Road, Eric de Salis Street, Bill Kennedy Memorial Park, John Knight Memorial Park, Trevor Kaine Community Park, Willem Janszoon Commemorative Park and Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Square).

**Action:**

- Accept the committee's amendments to the revised Terms of Reference and the revised *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines* at Attachment C;
- Jeff Brown to provide a draft Renaming Policy for the Committee's evaluation and further input at the first meeting in 2020 and include an examination of the meaning of the references to 'cognisant of community standards/sensitivities' for further discussion.

At 4:15pm Jeff Brown called a short break for refreshments.

[REDACTED]

**PCPN Terms of Reference**

1. Provide a framework for delivery of consistent place naming practices
2. Provide a framework for delivery of comprehensive place names products
3. Facilitate provision of expert advice to government and industry for effective decision making relating to place names
4. Facilitate preservation of the heritage and cultural significance of place names

**Jurisdiction:** ACT Place Names

**Author:** Sharon Priestly

**Date:** 23 September 2019

**1. Staffing Arrangements – Sharon Priestly & Genevieve Palm**

The ACT Place Names Unit reports directly to Jeff Brown, Surveyor-General of the ACT and Co-chair, ACT Place Names Committee. We are located within the Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information. Genevieve and Sharon undertake the research for new public places in the ACT, including divisions (suburbs) roads and parks. Current projects include new greenfield estates in Gungahlin, west Belconnen and Molonglo Valley. All draft names are referred to the ACT Place Names Committee to make sure our research has not overlooked any sensitivities.

**2. Guideline, legislative or other regulatory developments (TOR 1)**

Response to ACT Legislative Assembly Resolution (28 November 2018) to review the ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines. The Review Report was tabled in the ACT Assembly on 6 June 2019. The government has agreed to implement all recommendations including:

- (i) Establish processes to ensure place names meet community standards;
- (ii) Improve avenues for community input into the place naming process; and
- (iii) Develop a transparent online feedback and complaints process;

The Minister also announced his decision to rename William Slim Drive (Governor-General Sir William Slim) and retain the name Haig Park (Field Marshal Douglas Haig).

We will work to implement the recommendations in consultation with the ACT Place Names Committee and sections within our directorate, including Communications and Legal Services.

**3. Community engagement or website developments (TOR 1)**

The ACT place names search tool is now available on [ACTmapi](#).

**4. Data management, system or product developments (TOR 2)**

The Spatial Data Management System (SDMS) stores land administration data for the ACT such as addresses, block boundaries, road centrelines, place names and survey control marks. SDMS is being redeveloped to implement the new Australian GDA2020 datum and improve the data to better support planning and service delivery. As a result, data displayed in ACTmapi will be in Map Grid of Australia 2020 (Zone 55), and web services will change to reflect the new data model. This is currently scheduled to occur in October 2019.

**5. Work with other groups and organisations (TOR 3)**

We consult with the National Capital Authority about the naming of public places on designated land, including areas adjoining Lake Burley Griffin. We also liaise with relevant professional organisations about proposals to commemorate personal names or words from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander languages. For example, the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). In regard to road names, we always consult the relevant cultural group before recommending the commemoration of a word from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander languages.

**6. Activities relating to toponymic, cultural and heritage information (TOR 4)**

**7. Other major projects or items of interest**

Rename William Slim Drive

This is the first time a decision has been made in the ACT to rename a public place for reasons other than addressing issues; changes to road design; or changes to planning/landuse. The Minister's decision to rename the road has prompted debate in the community. In making his decision the Minister considered the outcome of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse which delivered a recommendation that institutions should review their existing honours, dedications and memorials and focus the response on victims. The Minister has made it clear his decision is not a judgment of guilty in the criminal justice system, but a response to allegations [REDACTED]. It is the Minister's view that the name now has an association and legacy which "contravenes our values as a territory". He has made the decision so that the name "does not cause ongoing hurt to ACT citizens".

The current *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines* 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". We will work with our committee to revise the guidelines to address the difficult question of what constitutes 'community standards' and:

- provide a stronger framework to assist our place names research; and
- assist the committee to investigate requests to rename a public place made in light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinion.

We recognise 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.

## Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) – meeting report October 2019

Genevieve and Sharon attended the annual meeting of the Permanent Committee on Place Names hosted this year by the Australian Hydrographic Office in Wollongong in early October 2019. A teleconference is proposed for March/April 2020. Geographic Names Victoria has offered to host the 2020 meeting in Melbourne.

The committee is a standing committee of the Intergovernmental Committee of Survey and Mapping and comprised members from each of the State and Territory naming authorities in Australia, the New Zealand Geographical Names Board and other agencies with a place naming responsibility or interest.

The Committee membership includes: Geoscience Australia; Australian Antarctic Division; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; Australian Hydrographic Office; ACT Place Names; the National Capital Authority; Land Information New Zealand; Northern Territory – Dept. of Lands; Queensland – Dept. of Natural Resources and Mines; New South Wales Land and Property Information; Victoria – Dept. of Environment, Land, Water & Planning; Tasmania – Dept. of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment; South Australia – Dept. for Transport, Energy & Infrastructure; Western Australia – Landgate; Australian National Placenames Survey; Australian Geospatial Intelligence Organisation; Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Standards Australia

The PCPN Chair has provided the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) with an overview of place naming functions and complexities to build support and an appreciation of the work undertaken by PCPN. ICSM has appointed Jeff Brown as the ICSM sponsor on PCPN. Jeff will be the go-between for the two groups.

The meeting discussion included:

- Review of the terms of reference;
- Review of the PCPN Strategic Objectives;
- Review of the Principles for the Consistent Use of Place Names; and
- Review of the Place Names Reservation List

**Terms of Reference** - ICSM has requested a change to the structure; we discussed the revised draft – ongoing.

**Review of the Principles for Consistent Place Names** – Issues discussed included: Recognition method for more than one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language name for a specific feature; discussed definition of the concept of dual naming, alternative naming, composite naming and co-naming.

Discussions around collecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander names within official registers; Northern Territory is looking into sound files and recording pronunciations; the review will assist ACT to draft its Dual Naming policy in consultation with the Place Names Committee (2020).

The meeting discussed the term ‘dual naming’ eg Uluru/Ayers Rock.

The principle of “dual naming” a geographic feature aligns with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) principles that:

- the geographic names of indigenous groups are a significant part of the naming traditions of many countries;
- it is an important part of national identity that indigenous people have their geographic names recognised.

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names (UNGEGN) resolutions – reminder to jurisdictions to access UNGEGN resolutions (online) for learning opportunities and to consider contributing articles to regular UNGEGN newsletters. Consideration of how PCPN can engage and foster relationships with UNGEGN Pacific South West Division.

Genevieve provided a detailed presentation on place naming and cultural heritage and shared ideas about research methodologies; highlighted that the presentation is an Australian European perspective of Indigenous cultural heritage; discussed sources of Indigenous Cultural Heritage information.

There was discussion about First Languages Australia – the use of sound files, discussions around Aboriginal language which needs to be community driven, language revival is ongoing.

National Indigenous Language Strategy of Australia, recommendation that International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL) is extended to a decade.

ACT reported that the Spatial Data Management System (SDMS) is being redeveloped to implement the new Australian GDA2020 datum and improve the data to better support planning and service delivery; data displayed in ACTmapi will be in Map Grid of Australia 2020 (Zone 55), and web services will change to reflect the new data model.

**Place Names Reservation List** The confidential PCPN Place Names Reservation List is a central list of names earmarked for use as an address locality to assist jurisdictions to avoid the duplication of a locality/suburb name or the use of similar sounding names. Upon confirmation that a particular name is proposed, all PCPN jurisdictions are advised and asked to comment to eliminate duplication or similar sounding names before the process progresses. Proposed names that do not have any conflict are then added to the reservation list until such time as the proposal has either been completed or lapsed. Once complete, the name becomes official and if the proposal lapses, the name is subsequently removed from the reservation list. The list is reviewed at each PCPN meeting to ensure currency.

**Composite Gazetteer of Australia** – the new portal for the Composite Gazetteer of Australia is live <https://placenames.fsdf.org.au/>

The gazetteer describes place names given to natural and artificial geospatial features, including administrative areas, political regions, mountain ranges, rivers, bays etc. Place Names are assigned and managed by multiple jurisdictions around Australia and may have varying status: official, historical etc.

The jurisdictional upload process to the portal was discussed; general discussion around the future of the Composite Gazetteer ie. if feature extents can be provided, lines and polygons. Discussion about including road names in the gazetteer; not all jurisdictions collect road names; Lauren Carter from Geoscience Australia (GA) will report back on this.

Discussion on publication requirements (place names portal, linked data vocabulary). PCPN to continue discussions with Permanent Committee on Addressing (PCA) and Geoscience Australia to implement. PCPN members to consider what tools they might want on the Composite Gazetteer of Australia, i.e. measure distance tool. GA to provide an update on feature coverage; GA to publish survey within 4-6 months, review results at next PCPN teleconference.

PCPN confluence page for reports - requirements into the future and portal - changes and updates.

**New feature type catalogue** - a review of the feature classification is ongoing; a new standard has been developed, moving from the former 4-character code to a three-field classification system in order to: provide a standard for the national gazetteer, being a composite of the jurisdictional data; provide a better data analysis / extraction capability for uses of the gazetteer data.

The Chair provided an overview of a new process to capture proposed changes to the Feature catalogue; PCPN members to adopt latest version of Feature catalogue.

PCPN members agreed to retire the Committee for Geographic Names Australasia (CGNA) glossary of generic terms and remove from ICSM website.

**Maritime Gazetteer** – ACT undertaking to report back about who has responsibility for the Jervis Bay Territory.

NZGB Gazetteer – New Zealand provided an overview of the new NZGB gazetteer which utilises Leaflet software and a google esque (elastic) search functionality,

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 25 February 2020 (3pm–5pm)**

**Venue:** Executive Boardroom Level 3 South Building, DPMH 16 Challis St Dickson

**Committee:** Mr Jeff Brown (Co-chair), [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED].

**EPSDD:** Mr Brett Phillips

**Secretariat:** Mrs Sharon Priestly, Mrs Genevieve Palm, Mr Anthony Mollett

**Apologies:** Mr Brett Phillips; Ms Rebecca Sorensen; Mrs Genevieve Palm; Mr Paul Scholtens

**Not present:** [REDACTED]

**AGENDA:**

1. **Introduction and meeting apologies**
2. **Minutes of previous meeting - 26 November 2019**
3. **Review ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines**  
Continue discussion to implement the recommendations of the Review Report; review draft Renaming Policy – Attachment A1.
4. **Weston Park, Yarralumla – proposal to name internal roads**
5. **Other Business**
6. **Discuss next meeting date:** late June 2020?

### Item 1: Introduction and meeting apologies

The meeting opened at 3:10pm. Jeff Brown recorded apologies from [REDACTED]

Jeff introduced Anthony (Tony) Mollett to the committee and explained Tony's previous background in the directorate's Communications team. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised the committee about a program featuring Canberra airing later in the evening on SBS TV: 'Great Australian Railway Journeys'. David assisted the production of the program by providing an historical insight on Canberra as the national capital and taking the presenter, Michael Portillo, to the National Archives of Australia to view Marion Mahony Griffin's 'View from the Summit of Mount Ainslie'.

Jeff Brown [REDACTED]

Samantha provided the meeting with an interesting overview of the Institute's role and purpose—narrative of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, research, library, collections and publishing organisation including family research and collections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The meeting agreed to accept [REDACTED] offer to arrange a tour of the [REDACTED].

### Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting – 26 November 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting have been noted by Minister Gentleman.

#### (i) Rename William Slim Drive

**Action:** Jeff Brown still waiting on advice from the EPSD directorate about the timeframe to formally revoke the name William Slim Drive.

**(Post meeting note:** *If the disallowable instrument is able to be approved and notified by July 2020 it can be tabled for 6 sitting days in August. The tabling period would lapse after 28 August – the last sitting day before the ACT elections in October).*

#### (ii) **Weston Park roads** – refer Item 4 and Attachment D.

The Minister has been briefed about the proposal for community engagement to identify the preferred names for the internal roads. The Minister has requested that a diverse range of people and themes are commemorated. Jeff Brown addressed the meeting about the status of the unnamed minor roads in Weston Park; not created as 'gazetted' roads; naming does not fall under Place Names legislation (not under a formal instrument); the road layout/extent could change in the future or the roads could be removed altogether; not desirable to name the roads to commemorate personal names as the naming is not under statutory processes. It was noted the instrument to name Robert Boden Grove has been notified and tabled.

**Action:** Brief the Minister about the format of the community engagement and further explain why it isn't appropriate to commemorate personal names.

- (iii) An action item to do further work to respond to the review recommendation relating to current **community standards** was discussed in Item 3.

### **Item 3: Review ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines**

(This agenda item was discussed after Item 4)

**Purpose: Continue discussion to implement the recommendations of the Review Report.**

**Action: Review draft Renaming Policy – Attachment A1.**

Jeff Brown paraphrased the review recommendations including:

- processes to ensure place names meet community standards;
- draft principles for considering renaming proposals;
- improving avenues for community input into the place naming process.

The meeting discussion included a review of the terms ‘community standards’ and ‘community sensitivities’ to ensure consistency in the draft documents – Renaming Policy, Committee Terms of Reference and *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines*.

#### (i) Draft Renaming policy – Attachment A1

Jeff Brown explained that the drafting of the Renaming Policy has considered the Review recommendations; policies of other naming jurisdictions (eg NSW) and the Permanent Committee on Place Names (PCPN) guidelines, particularly in regard to consideration of offensive, discriminatory or derogatory names.

Three parts: Policy;

Online form asking for evidence; and

Operating procedures to guide process;

- Critical to set out the statutory authority of the renaming policy in the document, ie where the policy sits under legislation; a separate document will describe the process (standard operating procedure);
- [REDACTED] questioned how the committee will review a request to rename when the proponent believes the name is derogatory or offensive (Paragraph 6). He suggested describing the criteria etc. in the process document to make this clearer for the committee;
- Jeff Brown’s view is that a request to rename a place will be considered on a case by case basis; proposed online portal and form will ask for full information from the proponent;
- [REDACTED] suggested amending Paragraph 1 to make clear the requirement for the proponent to provide a compelling reason to substantiate their request;
- [REDACTED] recommended a statement to make it clear the committee will interrogate the request and then advise the Minister; make it clear the committee is not the decision maker. For example, there was confusion about the committee’s role in relation to the request to rename William Slim Drive;

## Correspondence and responses- Haig Park

	Correspondence	Response	Obj
a)	Email dated Monday, 4 August 2014 from (redacted) to Minister Gentleman	Response not provided	14/17859
b)	Phone call record 19 June 2006	Response recorded	
c)	Email dated 12 August 2004 from (redacted)	Email dated 12 August 2004 from Place Names Officer in acknowledgement	
d)	Email dated 23 May 2017 from (redacted)	Email response to (redacted)	
e)	01 February 2019	Response not provided	

## Media

Title	Description	Obj link
<i>Haig Park: time right to change its name</i>	Letter to the editor: [redacted] 24 April 2007	
<i>Haig Park: Retain the name!</i>	[redacted] reply to letter to the editor 28 April 2007	
-		
<i>Does Canberra risk rewriting the dark side of history?</i>	Opinion Piece by Ken Taylor published in The Canberra Times on 10 December 2018	
<i>Residents push to remove Haig's name from park</i>	Article by Noel Towell published in the Canberra Times on 11 August 2014	

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 4 August 2014 4:09 PM  
**To:** GENTLEMAN  
**Subject:** Historical/Future Planning of Haig Park (Braddon)

Mr M Gentleman MLA  
Minister for Planning  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
04/08/2014

Dear Minister,

**Historical/Future Planning of Haig Park (Braddon)**

The 100 year anniversary of the commencement of the 'War to end Wars' (World War I) is an appropriate time to examine the future of 'Haig Park'.

You would be aware that Haig Park is named after Field Marshall Haig, the Commander of the British Expeditionary Force during World War I.

There has been previous calls for Haig Park to be renamed, given criticism of that Commander's military strategies and relentless pursuit of victory at the huge cost of life.

The Field Marshall's nicknames include 'Master of the Field', 'The butcher of The Somme' and 'Butcher Haig'.

The Forum would like to explore with government, the future use of Haig Park eg.

- I. Enhanced signage detailing the history of F.M. Haig and his relationship with the Australian government and military forces.
- II. Enhanced recreational usages, car parking, and tree plantings.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Priestly, Sharon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 December 2013 3:15 PM  
**To:** Priestly, Sharon  
**Subject:** 20060619 - request to rename Haig Park [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 June 2006 11:15 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: re name change

Joy

[REDACTED] has been contacted regarding the issue of renaming Haig Park.

[REDACTED] is of the view that anyone reading the book *British Butchers & Bunglers of World War One* by John Laffin would be appalled at Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig's role as architect of some of the greatest slaughters during WWI and anyone with responsibility for place naming would not permit his commemoration in Canberra's place names to continue.

[REDACTED] was advised that this issue was raised in 2003 following letters to the Editor, both in favour of and against renaming. On that occasion it was referred to the Place Names Committee for advice. The Committee did not support renaming. I pointed out that the name 'Haig Park' was gazetted on 20 Sept 1928 and was therefore part of Canberra's earliest nomenclature and part of its history.

[REDACTED] was also reminded that many public places are named after individuals who have made decisions that affected Australians. I suggested that keeping the name 'Haig' could be a way of recalling his actions and what he stood for. My advice was that renaming was unlikely unless significant community support was received for such a proposal.

[REDACTED] requested that the above book be recommended to the Minister for his advice.

Regards

Greg

**Greg Norman**

Principal Officer | ACT Land Information Centre | ACT Planning and Land Authority  
t: (02) 6205 0093 | m: 0418 609 599 | e: [greg.norman@act.gov.au](mailto:greg.norman@act.gov.au) | w: [www.actpla.act.gov.au](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 March 2019 1:38 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:**

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**From:** Priestly, Sharon **On Behalf Of** Placenames  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 May 2017 12:20 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** ACT Place Names Committee - response to request to rename Haig Park [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 May 2017 proposing that Haig Park be renamed to honour an Australian who has achieved in sciences, arts, or other intellectual fields. As you are aware, the ACT Government is developing a masterplan that sets out a long-term vision for the park while maintaining its heritage value <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/haigpark>

The ACT Place Names Committee has previously reviewed the commemoration of Field Marshal Douglas Haig in the context of criticism of his leadership in the First World War. It was the committee's unanimous opinion in 2003, 2006 and 2014 that the historical place name should remain as "...part of the fabric of Canberra's past". The committee's view is that it is not good practice to revisit the appropriateness of public place names in the light of further research, controversy or contemporary opinions. It also considers the park name can encourage reflection and discussion about the First World War.

I also believe it is important to consider the significance of the name within the context of the history of Canberra's formal nomenclature. 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 my office 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.

The ACT Place Names Committee values the contribution from the community into the naming of public places in the ACT. If you would like to propose the commemoration of an Australian who has achieved in sciences, arts or other intellectual fields, please complete the online nomination form at [http://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools\\_resources/place\\_search/place\\_names/proposal-for-commemoration](http://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_search/place_names/proposal-for-commemoration)

Thank you for providing your feedback about the naming of Haig Park. I hope you will contribute to the masterplan process. I understand feedback is open until 5pm, Friday 23 June 2017.

Kind regards

Jeff Brown

**Jeff Brown** | Surveyor-General of the ACT & Co-Chair, ACT Place Names Committee

Phone 02 6207 1965 | Fax 02 6207 1615 | Mobile [REDACTED]

Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 1908 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 May 2017 9:11 AM

**To:** Placenames

**Subject:** Haig Park

Dear Sir,

Haig Park is situated just to the north of the civic area of Canberra, straddling the main road as visitors enter the city. There is work currently being undertaken to redevelop it (within its heritage constraints) but this work does not extend to naming. I am advised by that project that the ACT Place Names Committee is the appropriate point to which to direct naming proposals.

Haig Park is named for the British Commander-In-Chief of the British Expeditionary Forces during World War 1, Earl Haig, who was completely incompetent and sent thousand of ANZACs as well as UK troops to pointless deaths. Surely a century later political sensitivities will have been laid to rest and we can change its name to something more appropriate for modern Australians.

I would like to suggest that it be renamed to honour an Australian who has achieved in sciences, arts, or other intellectual fields. We have Nobel and other prizewinners, as well as many less-honoured achievers who would be sound role models for future citizens and accordingly appropriately honoured in this way. Perhaps a form of public nomination could be undertaken to identify an appropriate individual.

I further suggest that renaming the park in parallel with the re-development would help to draw attention to both the renaming and the redevelopment.

Yours Faithfully

█

█

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**From:** Priestly, Sharon on behalf of Placenames  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 August 2014 1:32 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Place Names  
**Subject:** ACT Place Names - support to retain the name of Haig Park

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email to the ACT Place Names Committee supporting the committee's view that the name Haig Park should remain unchanged. The committee provides advice to the Minister for Planning about significant place naming matters in the ACT. I will make sure that your email is considered by the committee if it receives an application to rename the park.

It's lovely that you have such fond memories of growing up in the area of Haig Park. You must be very proud of your family's long association with the suburb of Turner.

Kind regards  
Sharon Priestly

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Sharon Priestly | ACT Place Names Officer Phone 02 62050057 Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information | Construction & Client Services Environment and Planning | ACT Government Dame Pattie Menzies House, Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)  
[http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools\\_resources/place\\_search](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_search)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 August 2014 12:43  
**To:** Placenames  
**Subject:** Haig Park

Dear Place Names Committee

Until I read the article in the Canberra Times (9th August), I was unaware that there was a proposal by a few persons to rename Haig Park.

My parents were allocated a house in [REDACTED] opposite Haig Park in 1940 and it is still owned and occupied by the family. Over the years many happy hours have been spent in Haig Park and also in the creek in the early days.

The article indicated that although your Committee had decided in the past to keep the name, the Braddon Forum could request a reconsideration. I would appeal to the Committee for historical reasons to retain the name Haig Park.

Yours sincerely  
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED  
7 FEB 1968  
CHIEF MINISTER  
OFFICE

The Chief Minister Mr Andrew Barr,

Dear Andrew,

may I raise a few matters with you relating to Haig Park and Lonsdale Street ?

First, the renaming of Barrier Park, created as a windbreak for Civic, to Haig Park, commemorating the Butcher of the Somme, a man who had little or nothing to do with the creation or development of Canberra. I would suggest that John Gaye was a far more significant figure for Canberra, the tireless editor of the Queanbeyan Age (who published poems and articles by my Great Uncle John), who campaigned for Federation and for this region as the future Capital. As well, phonemically it wouldn't be a great change, and people would adjust quickly, and concur with the need for a change.

Secondly, the lavatories at the Park are permanently putrid. There needs to be a sign up saying 'Please treat your community facility as you would your own, and leave it as you found it', or words to that effect. Also, a wooden seat would be good, rather than bare steel. It might foster community good will and inspire better manners.

Thirdly, Lonsdale Street used to have numerous benches for the elderly and infirm, now there is only one, and usually occupied by a red-faced lady with three teary toddlers and a baby in a pram. The benches were replaced by bicycle racks, and the new ones that look like the Flag Pole at Parliament House are hopeless for perching against, you just slide down. Maybe that was the idea, makes Lonsdale Street unnegotiable for the elderly -

anyway, with apologies for my crappy old typewriter, I remain,

**Norman, Greg**

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**From:** Bayliss, Lorraine  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 April 2003 10:34 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Norman, Greg  
**Subject:** Haig Debate

Dear All

There have been two letters to the Editor of the Canberra Times, [REDACTED] on 24/4 and a reply from [REDACTED] on 28/4 and Capital Times today carried a comment from [REDACTED] (29/4):

1. The first, calling for the name of 'Haig' Park to be changed because it honours Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig whose actions in battle earned him the title the 'Butcher of the Somme' and caused the death of thousands of Australian and British soldiers.
2. The other, saying to keep the name 'Haig' Park to remember that we sent men to serve under such a commander-in-chief - Lest We Forget.
3. Ian Warden reporting that there are other place names in the ACT that also commemorate people with unsavoury pasts.

Could you consider these letters for future discussion and advice please? I have attached the full content of the letters below.

Also some links for info:

[http://au.geocities.com/fortysecondbattalion/level2/leaders/general-butcher\\_haig.htm](http://au.geocities.com/fortysecondbattalion/level2/leaders/general-butcher_haig.htm)  
<http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-leaders/haig.htm>  
<http://www.graphics35.freemove.co.uk/dhaig/>

1. Haig Park: time right to change its name

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 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).

It is a generally accepted fact now that Haig was a dolt and a blunderer: he thought the machine gun to be an overrated weapon which could be dealt with by "grit and determination". Britain's World War I Prime Minister Lloyd George described him as "brilliant to the top of his army boots", while Winston Churchill said of him that he was "unequal to the prodigious scale of events". He threw legions of young men against barbed wire and into a maelstrom of machine gun fire because he failed to see, in the words of one historian, that a "dead man cannot advance, and that to replace him is only to provide another corpse." The RSL notes on its website that "As Commander-in-Chief of British forces on the Western Front, Haig was the epitome of all that Australians disliked about British generals". It also notes that in the immediate post-war era there was "a respect almost amounting to obsequiousness" about matters Empire, which explains why the park was named after Haig in the first place. 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. Lest this suggestion be mistaken for gratuitous Pom-bashing, in 1998 there was a movement in Britain for Haig's statue on Whitehall to be removed. It involved, among others, Alan Clarke - a former Tory MP, Defence minister and a distinguished military historian.

Perhaps it could be renamed Simpson Park, Kokoda Park or maybe just Memorial Park. Many older Canberrans remember it as The Pines. What it might be called is really beside the point: it's what it ought not be called.

2. HAIG PARK - retain the name!

Excising unsavoury aspects from historical prominence is not the way to go. In this, I strongly disagree with [REDACTED] (CT, April 24).

Yes, visit that park - and remember! Drink whisky if you must - make it Haig, and remember. Or delve into the history involved with that name!

It is important to know that we sent men to serve under such a commander-in-chief [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 conflict'.']

Haig: one who believed that horse-cavalry would be the deciding factor once a breakthrough was made in enemy lines; this in the time of machineguns; one who did little to improve his outlook when deaths in the hundreds of thousands followed his decisions.

It is important now, as in the past or the future, that we take a hard look at the fine print consigning our troops to any theatre of war.

Lest we forget; lest we not understand; lest we repeat the avoidable horrors of past events.

Lest valour and sacrifice be used as a veil to deny critical analysis and prevention.

# The Canberra Times

OPINION NATIONAL ACT CANBERRA

## Does Canberra risk rewriting the dark side of history?

By Ken Taylor

10 December 2018 – 12:00am

The questioning of the suitability of place names in the ACT that some people find offensive or unpalatable crops up from time, accompanied by lobbying of the ACT Place Names Committee to change certain names. One name that can be relied on to be the focus of sporadic objection is Douglas Haig after whom Haig Park is named.

Having been chair of the Place Names Committee from 1999 to 2009 I well recall at least two attempts – which the committee refused – to persuade the committee to expunge Haig's name from the park. The grounds for the objection were the same then as ACT Assembly member Bec Cody currently advocates.



Haig Park is named after Douglas Haig. MELISSA ADAMS

Haig as leader in August 1914 of the I Corps of the British Expeditionary Force, and particularly from 1915 when he became commander of the 1st Army, committed great masses of troops to unsuccessful offensives against the German trenches and gun emplacements protected by murderous machine gun strafing of attacking allied infantry. That this resulted in shocking slaughter of allied soldiers in what was seen as a war of attrition is undeniable.

But Haig was not alone in thinking this strategy was the way to conduct the war. Other senior army officers supported it, as did the German command. Is Haig to blame from an historical perspective? Here is the dark side of history.

What is usually glossed over by critics of Haig is that after the war he helped organise the British Legion and became its founding president. The legion's purpose was then - as it remains today - to give practical help to all men and women who have served in the forces in time of need, and to their widows and dependants.

He travelled throughout the British Empire collecting money for needy former servicemen. Does this mean we should temper criticism of his actions as commander in chief? Whether one thinks so or not, it ought to be weighed in the equation and blame game.

Of more serious concern are attempts to airbrush out past occurrences that someone finds unpalatable, thereby expunging evidence of someone or something from the human record and our history.

Such action is tantamount to what is meant by rewriting history and usually takes one of two forms: historical revisionism or plain denial. In the case of revisionism it is an approach to trying to change the way we perceive events or events in history.

Going down this path starts, if one is not careful, to smack of anti-intellectualism. I am of the view that recasting history and expunging people and events that someone finds unpalatable needs careful consideration as to what will be the consequences. What are the dangers? How will people's values be affected?

Human history and human actions have their dark side. To maintain a balanced society there is a need to recall the dark and the unpleasant aspects and try to learn from them.


In the case of Haig Park and reflections on Douglas Haig the revised interpretative signs are an encouraging starting point of coming to terms with the dark side of history. It is also germane to remember that the naming of Haig Park dates back to 1928 when ways of seeing the world were different. Are we in effect by demands to expunge Haig's name belittling people's thoughts, actions and values of 90 years ago.

Society changes and with it society's values. To try to sanitise the world by negating the past and effectively rewrite history, however unpleasant, can be fraught with unseen and unintended consequences.

One aspect that may not be of any consequences to those who want to annul history, but needs to be considered particularly where the annulling involves people's names or memory, is the view of surviving families. Since the current form of the ACT Place Names Committee was



instituted after self-government, the permission of the family must be given before any person's name may be used.



Douglas Haig was a British senior officer during the First World War.

Whether this was the case in 1928 and the Haig family's permission was sought I am unsure. Nevertheless if it were seriously considered that Haig's name should be struck down someone, it is to be hoped, would have the good grace and manners to do some research into this point.

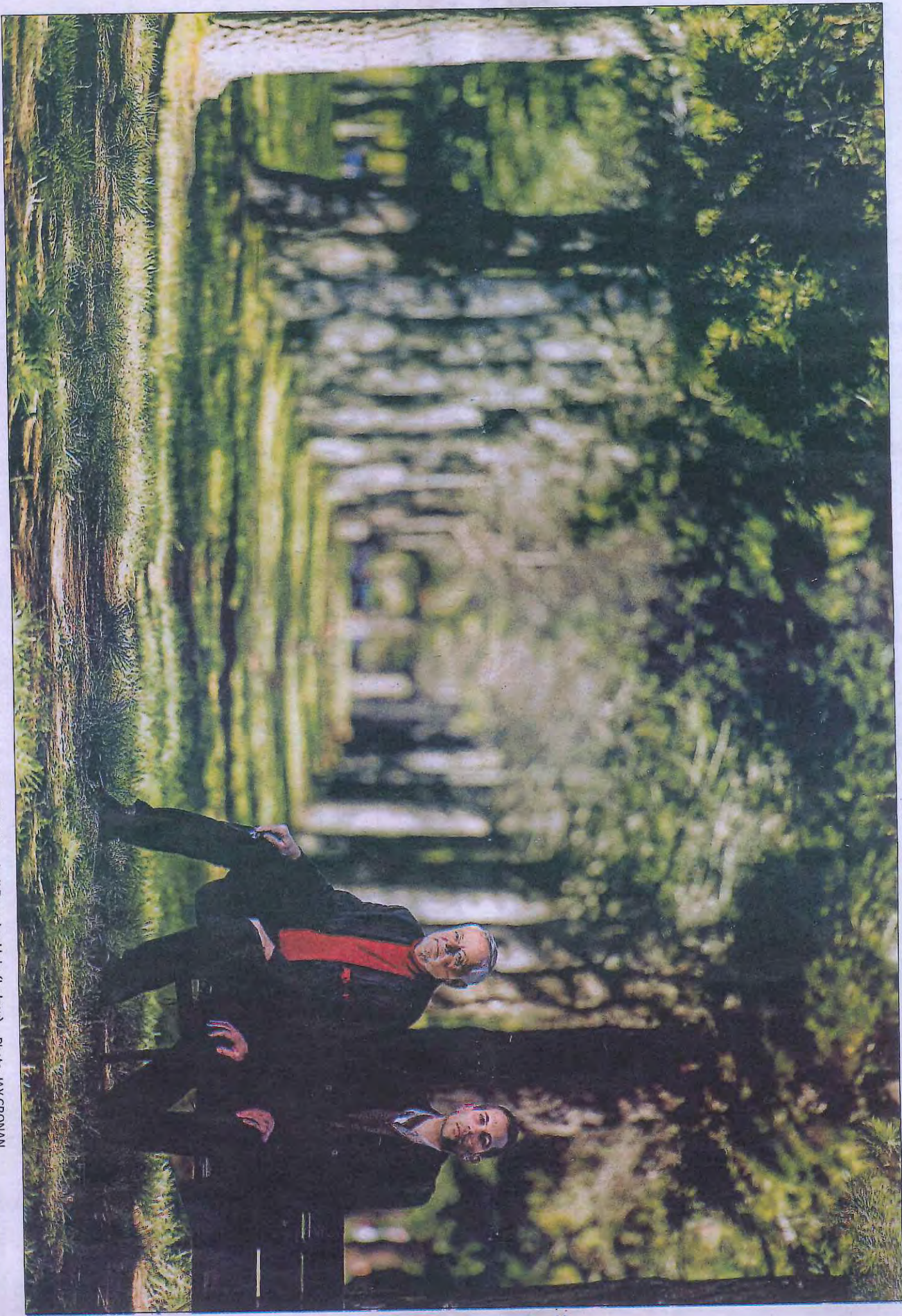
On this latter point and knowing most members I have every confidence in the ACT Place Names Committee's due diligence in reviewing the matter and sticking to matters of historical integrity.

**Professor Ken Taylor is at the Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies, Research School of Humanities and Arts, Australian National University.**

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# Residents push to remove Haig's name from park

CT 11/8/14



CALL FOR CHANGE: Peter Conway and Petros Drakakis want the ACT to consider dumping the name "Haig Park", named after Field Marshall Douglas Haig (below). Photo: JAY CROWMAN

By Noel Towell

A move by residents of Canberra's inner north to rename a local park looks set to reopen the bitter 100-year debate over Australian casualties in World War I.

The Braddon Forum has asked the ACT government to use the centenary of the war to consider dumping the name "Haig Park", arguing that the supreme commander of British and imperial forces in the war, Field Marshall Douglas Haig, has Australian blood on his hands.

The argument has raged for 100 years over the performance of Haig and his generals; whether they did the best they could in the circumstances or if British and



Haig, the architect of the British military's greatest disaster on the Somme in July 1916, has fallen, risen and fallen again. But for the Braddon Forum, local planning activists who claim no historical expertise, the name of Haig Park, just metres from the Australian War Memorial, just doesn't sit right.

Australian troops were indeed "lions led by donkeys".

In Australia the debate has pitted left against right, republican versus monarchist and young against old at various times as the standing of

Haig, the architect of the British military's greatest disaster on the Somme in July 1916, has fallen, risen and fallen again. But for the Braddon Forum, local planning activists who claim no historical expertise, the name of Haig Park, just metres from the Australian War Memorial, just doesn't sit right.

In their letter to ACT Planning Minister Mick Gentlemen, Braddon Forum members Peter Conway and Petros Drakakis have called for a rethink. "There have been previous calls for Haig Park to be renamed, given criticism of that commander's military strategies and relentless pursuit of victory at the huge cost of life," the two men wrote.

"The Field Marshall's nicknames include 'Master of the Field', 'the butcher of The Somme' and 'Butcher Haig'."

If a change of name, which was considered by the territory's Place Names Committee in 2003 and again in 2006, is off the agenda, the forum suggests the government could consider some interpretive signage explaining the much-maligned

military man's role in Australia's history. But military historian Peter Stanley of the Australian Defence Force Academy was scathing at the idea of the name change.

Professor Stanley conceded that Haig's reputation has been patchy over the decades, but to change the name of the park would be "grotesque revisionism".

"The park was named after Douglas Haig because at the time he was regarded – justifiably – as the general who had led the British empire's armies to victory on the Western Front," he said.

"Haig's reputation has been both attacked and defended. The thrust of current military historical thinking is that he did as good a job as could have been done.

"To rename the park would be grotesque and unjustifiable revisionism."

Mr Gentlemen said the Place Names Committee had decided the name was part of Canberra's historic fabric. "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." Mr Gentlemen said.

The minister said the Braddon Forum was free to approach the committee if it believed the war's centenary was an appropriate time to re-examine the name of the park.

## Correspondence and responses- William Slim Drive

	Correspondence	Response	Obj
a)	Letter dated 16 August 2017 from (redacted)	Response from Chief Minister to (redacted) dated 4 September 2017	17/23314
b)	Letter dated 13 January 2018 from (redacted), enc. Two previous emails.	Response from Chief Minister to (redacted) dated 20 February 2018	18/01218
c)	Email dated 27 September 2018 from (redacted),	Response from Chief Minister to (redacted) dated 07 December 2018	18/29302
d)	Original correspondence missing	Response from Chief Minister to (redacted) dated 08 March 2015	15/03240
e)	Letter dated 26 September 2017 from (redacted)	Response not included	17/27897
f)	Email dated 13 March 2014 from (redacted)	Response not included	14/06010
g)	Email dated 20 August 2018 from (redacted)	Response from Mick Gentleman MLA to (redacted) 18 September 2018	18/25148
h)	Original phone record not included	Response from SG to (redacted) dated 24 February 2015	
i)	Original correspondence missing	Response from Chief Minister to (redacted) dated 02 May 2018	18 06084

## Media

Title	Description	Obj link
<i>Call for street name change after sexual abuse allegations</i>	Article by Sally Prior published in The Canberra Times on 03 March 2018	
<i>Ditch Slim now</i>	Letter to the editor: Ann Darbyshire 08 March 2018	
<i>Draft design released for William Slim Drive duplication</i>	Chris Steel MLA Media Release 06 February 2019	





Andrew Barr  
GPO Box 1020  
Canberra  
ACT  
2601



13<sup>th</sup> January 2018

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Barr,

Please find enclosed a copy of two emails sent to you on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 and the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017, with regards to changing the name of the William Slim Drive.

I am concerned that as yet I have not received a reply to these emails and previous correspondence. Whilst I appreciate that you are very busy, this matter is of considerable importance to both myself as well as others (who I understand have also been in touch with your office).

As indicated I am keen to pursue this matter and respectfully ask for a meeting with you to discuss it.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

























# Call for street name change after sex abuse allegations

Sally Pryor

When Robert Stephens drives to his art gallery in northern Canberra each morning, he travels a road that brings back memories of a traumatic childhood.

But it's not the road itself that's the problem, it's the name: William Slim Drive, named after the man who was Australia's 13th governor-general.

He was also the man Mr Stephens says molested him when he was a child migrant living at Fairbridge Farm in NSW in the 1950s.

Mr Stephens was just eight years old when he left England in 1952 and arrived in Australia, where he was sent to Fairbridge Farm, of which Sir William Slim was patron.

He remembers climbing into the back of Slim's Rolls Royce with another boy, and being sexually assaulted.

It was just one of many such incidents at the farm, where violence, abuse and neglect was rife, and Mr Stephens was one of dozens of children who suffered.

Six decades later, Mr Stephens says the name of the large arterial road should be changed.

Although he has told his story to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in England, he says seeing a street



Robert Stephens on Friday with a sign pointing to William Slim Drive. Inset: Slim in 1966. Photo: Dion Georgopoulos

named after his abuser makes recovery difficult.

"For victims of this sort of abuse, it's with you forever," he said.

"You can do something about eliminating reminders, which William Slim Drive is every day, because I go down it every day. I have family in Canberra, I have five children in Canberra, so from my point of view it's a family thing.

"It's a situation that I'd like to be

resolved and I just want to see that name removed, it's as simple as that, because for me it's a constant reminder of the 1950s and what went on at Fairbridge Farm School in Molong."

The British inquiry handed down its report this week, and it urged the British government to compensate surviving former child migrants to Australia within 12 months.

David Chinis was another victim

of Fairbridge Farm, and has similar memories of being molested in the back of Slim's Rolls Royce.

Like Mr Stephens, he was a child migrant from England, and suffered horrific abuse during his time at Fairbridge.

"I gave evidence to the royal commission privately because it was too upsetting," he said.

"It never goes away. We were attacked by boys, men, for three or four years, every other day ... It



was freezing cold in Orange, we had no shoes, there were maggots in the food ...

"You just wonder how these things can happen, and how someone like Sir William Slim can get away with it."

Although he lives in Queensland, he and Mr Stephens have remained friends, and he is horrified to see Slim's name on a street sign each time he visits Canberra.

Mr Stephens said he had already approached the ACT government about having street name changed, but was worried that a decision on the matter had since been "buried in bureaucracy".

"It's a difficult thing to deal with because Slim in many respects had a brilliant military career, but in his private life, that's a totally different story. It's not palatable for a number of people to hear it, and that's the problem," he said.

"But as old as I am, you can't forget those things, as much as you'd like to. But when you're constantly reminded, it can be very difficult."



08 Mar 2018

Canberra Times, Canberra

Section: Letters • Article Type: Letter • Audience : 17,579 • Page: 18  
Printed size: 96.00cm<sup>2</sup> • Market: ACT • Country: Australia • ASR: AUD 2,459  
words: 237 • Item ID: 922366611

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Page 1 of 1

### **Ditch Slim now**

How many times will Robert Stephens have to tell his story of alleged sexual abuse at the hands of former governor-general Sir William Slim before there is some action to remove the latter's name from the Register of Public Places? ("Call for street name change after sex abuse allegations", March 3, p. 12.)

Failure to act on a known clerical abuser by former governor-general Archbishop Peter Hollingworth, was enough to lead to his resignation from the post and later suffer stringent criticism when giving evidence at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Robert Stephens has given evidence to the same royal commission as has David Cinis, another alleged victim of

the often brutal Fairbridge Farms system and of Sir William Slim.

The alleged abuse by Sir William Slim, a patron of the Fairbridge Farms system, would appear to follow the oft repeated path of abusers in targeting vulnerable children from a position of power and, in his case, considerable influence.

Regardless of the reasons why naming a major arterial road was chosen to

commemorate the undoubted brilliance of Slim's military career, now is the time for the nettle to be firmly grasped by the relevant ACT minister.

The Public Place Names Act appears on first blush to be silent on the matter of removing names but one assumes that there is room to act. Get on with it minister.

**Ann Darbyshire, Watson**

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## What is Open

### Government?

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Draft design released for William Slim Drive duplication

# Draft design released for William Slim Drive duplication

## Released 06/02/2019

Following funding in the 2018-19 ACT Budget for the design of the duplication of William Slim Drive between Ginninderra Drive and the Barton Highway, Minister for Roads Chris Steel today announced that the draft design is now available for public display.

“The draft design of the duplication has been informed by consultation with key stakeholders including Pedal Power. We are seeking further input now on the draft design before we move on to the next stage,” Minister Steel said.

Funding was provided in the 2018-19 ACT Government Budget to progress the design for the duplication of William Slim Drive between Ginninderra Drive and the Barton Highway.

Key features of the duplication include:

- two lanes in each direction between Ginninderra Drive and the Barton Highway
- 6.4 kilometres of new on-road cycle lanes
- new signalised intersection at Dumas Street/William Slim Drive
- additional bus stops and upgrading of existing ones.

“There are around 20,000 vehicle movements per day on William Slim Drive and with planned housing development in surrounding areas, we expect this is going to increase.

“There will be two drop-in information sessions this month where the project team will be available to answer questions in relation to the draft design. I encourage the community to take a look at the design and head along to one of the sessions,” Minister Steel said.

**Date:** Wednesday 20 February 2019

**Time:** 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm

**Location:** Training Room 1, Gungahlin Library

**Date:** Friday 22 February 2019

**Time:** 11 am to 1 pm

**Location:** Community Room, Belconnen Library

The draft design is available online at [www.tccs.act.gov.au](http://www.tccs.act.gov.au) and at the Belconnen and Gungahlin library branches.



**ACT**  
Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

**MEETING MINUTES: ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 27 October 2020**

**Venue:** 480 Northbourne Ave Dickson (Meeting Room 00.031) and online Webex meeting

**Committee:** Jeff Brown (Co-chair), [REDACTED] (Co-chair),

[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED].

**EPSDD:** Mr Brett Phillips, Executive Group Manager, Planning Delivery

**ACT Place Names:** Mrs Sharon Priestly, Mrs Genevieve Palm, Mr Anthony Mollett,  
Dr Cameron Muir

**Guests:** [REDACTED], Redbox Design Group (online)

**Apologies:** [REDACTED]

**Not present:** [REDACTED]

**AGENDA:**

1. Introduction and meeting apologies;
2. Minutes of previous meeting: 21 July 2020
3. **3:15pm – 3:30pm:** Coombs play space (park) – Redbox Design Group to brief the committee on themes and design elements; opportunity to incorporate the park's name into the design; construction scheduled to start March 2021 for completion November 2021;
4. Consultation about Ngunnawal language and place names;
5. Campbell – proposed YourSay consultation to name an established park;
6. Submission to name the boardwalk in Kingston Foreshore estate;
7. Other Business;
8. Next meeting date - early March 2021 (eg Tuesday 2nd or 16th March 2021).

**Action:**

- Jeff Brown will write to UNEC to invite the [REDACTED] to consider offering a name for the park, provide links to the design information and also offer the suggestion to embed [REDACTED] within the design;
- The Place Names Unit will provide Committee members with a PDF of the Redbox presentation on request;
- Sharon Priestly to contact Redbox to find out at what stage we will need to provide an indication of the number of letters for the name placeholder;
- Sharon Priestly to ask Redbox for permission to provide all or part of the presentation to UNEC.

**Item 4: Consultation about Ngunnawal language and place names**

- (i) Jeff Brown provided a summary of his meeting with the [REDACTED] attended online with Sharon Priestly on 1 October 2020. He confirmed the Committee membership includes the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] confirmed its support for the recognition of the Ngunnawal language/names through place names. [REDACTED] suggested [REDACTED] could consult the [REDACTED] about renaming [REDACTED] to recognise a Ngunnawal name. The meeting also raised details of a feature name considered offensive [REDACTED]. Jeff has undertaken to investigate the status of the name, located in the south of the ACT on the border with NSW. It is listed in the ACT gazetteer and shown on the 2003 series 1:25000 map. There is a similar feature name (creek) in adjoining NSW.

Following the meeting on 1 October it was agreed:

- Jeff will write to [REDACTED] about naming opportunities;
- [REDACTED] about ideas so that language group can check spelling against sketch words;
- [REDACTED];
- [REDACTED].

Jeff advised the Place names Committee that there has been no formal approach made by [REDACTED].

**Action:**

- Progress collaborative consultation with [REDACTED] about place naming opportunities;
- Investigate the status of the feature name on the ACT/NSW border and consult the NSW Geographical Names Board;
- [REDACTED].

(ii) **Gambay – First Languages Map:** [First Languages Australia](https://gambay.com.au/placenames) (FLA)

Jeff Brown provided the meeting with an overview about the Gambay Map, mapping languages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. First Languages Australia (FLA) and the ABC 'This Place' walking together project team provided a presentation to the recent Place Names Australasia Working Group (formerly PCPN). The Gambay Map site is now live at <https://gambay.com.au/placenames>. The official launch is expected around NAIDOC week, from 8-15 November 2020. FLA is intending to consult state and territory naming jurisdictions for input into the Gambay map.

Marilyn Truscott noted it would be interesting to view the Gambay map in comparison to the Tindale map record and acknowledged NAIDOC Week is being held at a later date this year.

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable  
Development Directorate**

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<b>To:</b>	Minister for Planning and Land Management	Tracking No.: 20/91995
<b>Date:</b>	10 December 2020	
<b>From:</b>	Surveyor General	
<b>Subject:</b>	ACT Place Names Committee Meeting Minutes – 27 October 2020	
<b>Critical Date:</b>	In the course of normal business	

- DDG, Sustainability and the Built Environment .../.../...

**Recommendations**

That you note the information contained in this brief;

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

Mick Gentleman MLA .....



16/12/2020

**Minister's Office Feedback**

please expedite work to remove offensive name noted at paragraph 11 and any other similar occurrences in the Territory.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**From:** [Priestly, Sharon](#) on behalf of [Placenames](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Placenames](#); [Palm, Genevieve](#); [Mollett, Anthony](#); [Muir, Cameron](#)  
**Bcc:** [Brown, Jeffrey](#)  
**Subject:** ACT Place Names Committee - 2021 update  
**Date:** Tuesday, 2 February 2021 4:14:00 PM

---

UNOFFICIAL

Dear Committee

I hope you have all had a relaxing start to the new year. I am looking forward to working with you and the Place Names team in the coming months to progress our projects. I thought it would be useful to update you about the status of some of our work and also, to set the date for our next meeting, which was tentatively set late last year for Tuesday 2 or 16 March 2021.

David and I have now scheduled the meeting for **Tuesday 2 March** (starting at 3pm) . I will confirm the meeting details and provide the draft agenda to you in the coming weeks.

**Response to the ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review Report:**

In early January I briefed the Minister about our response to implement the recommendations of the Review Report and change the name of William Slim Drive. The brief recommended the revised Public Place Names guidelines, the instrument to change the name of William Slim Drive, the new ACT Place Names Renaming Policy, new Terms of Reference for the ACT Place Names Advisory Committee and the communications plan to name the internal roads in Weston Park. We are anticipating the Minister's agreement to the brief as follows:

- (i) William Slim Drive – the disallowable instrument to change the road name to Gundaroo Drive is scheduled to be tabled in the assembly on Thursday 11 February 2021. We expect Minister Steel will announce the name change as part of the launch of the road duplication works, possibly in the week ending 5 February or early in the following week. The instrument will be tabled in the assembly for six sitting days. I will write to The Viscount Slim to confirm the timing.
- (ii) Approval of the *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021* – I will send you a link to the approved notifiable instrument after it is published on the ACT Legislation Register at <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/>
- (iii) Approval of the ACT Place Names Renaming Policy to provide criteria to assist the community and other stakeholders to understand how renaming issues are investigated and information to explain how a submission to rename a place is assessed. Subject to the Minister's support, the policy will be uploaded onto the Place Names webpages on the EPSDD website as soon as practicable at [https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools\\_resources/place\\_names](https://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/place_names) The new policy will assist us to investigate renaming several places, including [REDACTED]
- (iv) Approval of the revised Terms of Reference which will be applied in the upcoming EOI process to appoint the next committee. A reminder that the extended term of our current committee is due to expire on 30 June 2021. I will keep you updated about the EOI timing.
- (v) Approval to launch YourSay community consultation to name the Weston Park roads.

**Other priority Place Names work includes:**

- (i) Investigate the [REDACTED]. The Minister has directed we prioritise this matter.
- (ii) Investigate opportunities to commemorate **Dame Pattie Menzies GBE**, [REDACTED]

(iii) [REDACTED].

(iv) [REDACTED].

(v) [REDACTED].

(vi) **Yarralumla Brickworks** - progress a name for the access road to the redevelopment of the site. Genevieve wrote to the committee on 21 January inviting feedback on a preferred name among three proposed road names. The proposed names, pending family/professional consultation are [REDACTED].

Feedback is kindly requested by COB Friday 12 February 2021. It is noted the developer will be responsible for naming the remaining roads within the proposed community title site (subject to development and leasing approval).

(vii) Research road names for new estates including:

- **WHITLAM 3** (Arts and Culture) – approx. 20 names; names being considered include [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
for his name to be considered;

- **JACKA 2 stage 1** (Valour and Community Service); approx. 25 names; names being considered so far (under valour) include:

[REDACTED];

[REDACTED];

[REDACTED]  
Bay boat disaster);

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]);

[REDACTED]);

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]);

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]);

[REDACTED]);

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **MACNAMARA stage 1** (Science and Technology) – approx. 25 names; names

being considered include:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED];  
[REDACTED];  
[REDACTED];  
[REDACTED];  
[REDACTED];  
[REDACTED];  
[REDACTED].

(viii) Research a name for the proposed high level 227.5m **bridge over the Molonglo River** which will link the southern section of John Gorton Drive to the northern section.

(ix) Progress consideration of the proposed commemoration of architect **Colin Stewart in Kingston;** and

(x) Assist Education to shortlist names for **new schools in Throsby, Kenny and Whitlam.**

Thank you again for your continued support and expert advice. We are looking forward to providing the committee with further information about our ongoing projects when we meet on Tuesday 2 March 2021.

Kind regards

Jeff Brown

**Jeff Brown** | Surveyor-General of the ACT

Phone 02 6207 1965 | Mobile [REDACTED]

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development | Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Information  
ACT Government

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 1908 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.actpla.act.gov.au](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au)



**ACT**  
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Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

**ACT PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 2 March 2021 (3pm–4:30pm)**

**Venue:** 480 Northbourne Ave Dickson (Meeting Room 00.031) and online Webex meeting

**Committee:** Mr Jeff Brown (Co-chair), [REDACTED] (Co-chair), [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED].

**EPSDD:** Mr Brett Phillips, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning (available from 4pm)

**ACT Place Names:** Mrs Sharon Priestly, Mrs Genevieve Palm, Mr Anthony Mollett,  
Dr Cameron Muir

**Apologies:** [REDACTED]

**AGENDA:**

1. Introduction and meeting apologies;
2. Minutes of previous meeting: 27 October 2020
  - (i) Implement Recommendations of the Review Report – status update
  - (ii) [REDACTED]
  - (iii) [REDACTED]
  - (iv) Weston Park, five internal roads –status update;
  - (v) Kingston park
3. Appointment of the ACT Place Names Advisory Committee (1 July 2021-30 June 2024)
  - Expression of Interest process; timeframe
4. Commemoration of Dame Pattie Menzies GBE
5. Other Business
  - (i) Catherine Helen Spence – discuss possible further commemoration [REDACTED]
  - (ii) [REDACTED] – four personal names – further discussion
  - (iii) Green Square, Kingston – suggestion received to formally name the public space
  - (iv) Proposal to commemorate architect, Colin Stewart - update
  - (v) Kenny nature reserve – update
  - (vi) Status of ongoing projects
6. Consider next meeting date

**Item 1 – Introduction and meeting apologies;**

**Item 2 – Minutes of previous meeting: 27 October 2020**

- (i) **Implement Recommendations of the Review Report** – status update.
- new Terms of Reference for the ACT Place Names Advisory Committee, **Attachment A**;
  - *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2021* approved NI2021-72, **Attachment B**;
  - New ACT Place Names Renaming Policy, **Attachment C**;
  - Rename William Slim Drive approved DI2021-25, **Attachment D**; if the disallowable instrument is tabled on 30 March the six sitting days will lapse after 11 May 2021;
  - Haig Park signage– not resolved; we are consulting with the City Renewal Authority;

(ii)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Action:** prioritise a name for new park in Coombs; construction scheduled to commence in March 2021 for completion in November 2021 (subject to DA approval).

(iii)

[REDACTED]

**Action:** The Place Names Unit will keep our committee updated.

(iv) **Weston Park, five internal roads** –status update

YourSay consultation will run from 15 February until 28 March.

<https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/preserving-our-heritage/naming-our-places>

**Action:** The Place Names Unit will keep the committee informed of the results of the community poll.

(v) **Kingston park**, Section 62 at the end of Trevillian Quay (Kingston Foreshore estate)– a list of potential names was considered at the October 2020; also discussion about commemorating the name of a water plant. The naming has not progressed at this stage. There is a new opportunity to commemorate [REDACTED] in Hume (Industry and business).

**Action:** Consider reserving the unnamed park as a potential opportunity to commemorate [REDACTED] or a plant name. See also Item 4.

### Item 3 – Appointment of the ACT Place Names Advisory Committee (1 July 2021-30 June 2024)

Discuss the Expression of Interest process and timeframes.

### Item 4 – Commemoration of Dame Pattie Menzies GBE

The Member for Kurrajong, Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA, wrote to the Chief Minister in November 2020 requesting details of any proposals to formally recognise the legacy of Dame Pattie Menzies GBE.

Background: Dame Pattie Menzies House in Dickson was officially opened on 3 March 1997 by Mrs Heather Henderson, the daughter of Dame Pattie and Sir Robert Menzies, in the presence of Mr Gary Humphries, then Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Environment, Land and Planning.

The naming of Dame Pattie Menzies House recognised the long period of notable public service and significant community service which contributed to Dame Pattie’s appointment in 1954 as Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) to recognise ‘... years of incessant and unselfish performance of public duty in hospital work, in visiting, addressing and encouraging many thousands of women in every State of Australia, including very remote areas, and in the distinguished representation of Australia on a number of occasions overseas’.

Until August 2020 Dame Pattie Menzies House was occupied by the ACT Public Service. The building is privately owned and scheduled for redevelopment.

Commemoration of other significant women who were also the wives of prime ministers – Dame Zara St Gungahlin (2002); Dame Enid Lyons Place, Parkes (2011); Margaret Whitlam Pavilion, National Arboretum (2013); Hazel Hawke Av, Whitlam (2020).

#### Action:

- (i) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
The road will intersect with the extension of Roden Cutler Drive; **Attachment E**
- (ii) [REDACTED]; and
- (iii) Consider two unnamed parks in Kingston as a second option; **Attachment F**.

### Item 5 – Other Business

- (i) Catherine Helen Spence (1825-1910) – discuss commemoration [REDACTED]  
The suburb of Spence was named in 1972 to commemorate the name of William Guthrie Spence, Trade Unionist. Spence Place in Hughes was named in 1963 to co-commemorate the contribution of both William Guthrie Spence and Catherine Helen Spence (1825-1910), writer, preacher, reformer and feminist.
- (ii) [REDACTED] – four personal names suggested; further discussion; **Attachment G**
- (iii) Green Square, Kingston – suggestion received to formally name the public space.
- (iv) Suggestion to commemorate architect, [REDACTED] in Kingston– update.



**ACT**  
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# **Office of the Surveyor–General and Land Information**

## **ACT Place Names Renaming Policy**

# Contents

Introduction .....	3
Legislation: <a href="https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/">https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/</a> .....	3
Name Change Requests .....	3-5

## Introduction

The ACT Place Names Renaming Policy (the Renaming Policy) operates in accordance with the *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021* and sets out the matters to be taken into consideration when renaming of a place is being contemplated.

An application to revoke a place name is considered under the following legislation and in accordance with established administrative processes.

**Legislation:** <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/>

**Public Place Names Act 1989** – sets out the process and criteria for the naming of divisions and public places. Section 2 of the Act defines a “public place” as including “an avenue, road, street, geographical feature or place that the public is entitled to use, and any unleased land”.

Section 3 of the Act gives the Minister the power to determine the name of a division or public place. The determination of the Minister is a disallowable instrument and as such must be notified in the ACT Legislation Register.

**Legislation Act 2001** – Section 46 specifies that power given under an Act to make an instrument includes the power to amend or repeal the instrument.

**Districts Act 2002** - Part 3: Street Addresses

**Australian/New Zealand Rural and Urban Addressing Standard AS/NZ 4819-2011** – Section 4: Road Definition and Naming

## Name Change Requests

1. A request to change a place name may be initiated by a member of the general public, a local resident or property owner (the ‘proponent’) by contacting the ACT Government via the on-line portal on the ACT Place Names Website. Requests can also be made by email, written or phone correspondence with supporting information giving reasons for the request. As all official names and addresses are meant to be enduring, any proposals to change the name of a feature, administrative boundary or road, must include evidence of a compelling reason (or justification) for such a change, for example the proposal is deemed to be in the public interest for safety reasons.

The justification may include:

- (a) reports of addressing confusion;
  - (b) the proponent believing the name is discriminatory, derogatory or offensive and/or inconsistent with community sensitivities;
  - (c) a change to the road configuration;
  - (d) an error in the original place name determination; or
  - (e) a desire to recognise a person (now deceased) who had a strong connection with the place name location.
2. The Surveyor-General will investigate the basis for the change of name request to determine how to proceed.

3. The Surveyor-General will investigate the status of the place name to consider whether it is:
  - (a) an authoritative address;
  - (b) a name determined under legislation and situated on unleased Territory land;
  - (c) a name determined under legislation and situated on National land;
  - (d) a name on unleased Territory land which is in common use;
  - (e) a private road name.
4. If the naming of the place:
  - (a) is under the jurisdiction of the ACT Government, the Surveyor-General will inspect the location and consult with other agencies with knowledge relevant to the request to establish whether the grounds for the name change are justified. For addressing issues advice will be sought from Australia Post and the ACT Emergency Services Agency.
  - (b) is not under the jurisdiction of the ACT Government, such as a private building name or a place on National land, the Surveyor-General will refer the renaming request to the relevant agency or property owner.
5. The Surveyor-General and/or the Minister 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 Advisory Committee (the Committee) which encompasses a range of expertise. If it is decided that the change of name request is not justified the Surveyor-General will advise the proponent accordingly.
6. If the request relates to the proponent believing the name is derogatory or offensive the Committee will:
  - (a) decide whether a reasonable person, at the time the place was named, would consider the name to be discriminatory or derogatory or offensive. It is recognised that the perception of 'discriminatory', 'derogatory' or 'offensive' may vary through time and from place to place;
  - (b) consider whether the name may now be perceived by a reasonable person to be offensive, demeaning or harmful to the reputation of individuals, or to social, ethnic, religious or other groups;
  - (c) investigate new information relating to ethical, reputational and evidentiary issues.
7. The Surveyor-General 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. In making this decision the

Surveyor-General will consider advice received through the consultation process and the extent of any imposition to residents/property owners relating to a proposed change, including the number of properties affected by a possible change of address.

8. If a change of name is recommended the ACT Place Names Unit will research and consider a replacement name in accordance with *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021* (the 'Guidelines') in [NI2021-72](#) available on the ACT Legislation Register.
9. If the name being considered for revocation commemorates a person with national standing, who may also have other commemorations, the Surveyor-General will recommend the Committee act in conjunction with relevant authorities.
10. 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.
11. If the place name being considered for revocation commemorates a personal name, the Surveyor-General will take reasonable steps to 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.



**ACT**  
Government

Environment, Planning and  
Sustainable Development

# **Office of the Surveyor–General and Land Information**

## **ACT Place Names Renaming Policy**

# Contents

Introduction .....	3
Legislation: <a href="https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/">https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/</a> .....	3
Name Change Requests .....	3-5

## Introduction

The ACT Place Names Renaming Policy (the Renaming Policy) operates in accordance with the *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021* and sets out the matters to be taken into consideration when renaming of a place is being contemplated.

An application to revoke a place name is considered under the following legislation and in accordance with established administrative processes.

**Legislation:** <https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/>

**Public Place Names Act 1989** – sets out the process and criteria for the naming of divisions and public places. Section 2 of the Act defines a “public place” as including “an avenue, road, street, geographical feature or place that the public is entitled to use, and any unleased land”.

Section 3 of the Act gives the Minister the power to determine the name of a division or public place. The determination of the Minister is a disallowable instrument and as such must be notified in the ACT Legislation Register.

**Legislation Act 2001** – Section 46 specifies that power given under an Act to make an instrument includes the power to amend or repeal the instrument.

**Districts Act 2002** - Part 3: Street Addresses

**Australian/New Zealand Rural and Urban Addressing Standard AS/NZ 4819-2011** – Section 4: Road Definition and Naming

## Name Change Requests

1. A request to change a place name may be initiated by a member of the general public, a local resident or property owner (the ‘proponent’) by contacting the ACT Government via the on-line portal on the ACT Place Names Website. Requests can also be made by email, written or phone correspondence with supporting information giving reasons for the request. As all official names and addresses are meant to be enduring, any proposals to change the name of a feature, administrative boundary or road, must include evidence of a compelling reason (or justification) for such a change, for example the proposal is deemed to be in the public interest for safety reasons.  
The justification may include:
  - (a) reports of addressing confusion;
  - (b) the proponent believing the name is discriminatory, derogatory or offensive and/or inconsistent with community sensitivities;
  - (c) a change to the road configuration;
  - (d) an error in the original place name determination; or
  - (e) a desire to recognise a person (now deceased) who had a strong connection with the place name location.
2. The Surveyor-General will investigate the basis for the change of name request to determine how to proceed.

3. The Surveyor-General will investigate the status of the place name to consider whether it is:
  - (a) an authoritative address;
  - (b) a name determined under legislation and situated on unleased Territory land;
  - (c) a name determined under legislation and situated on National land;
  - (d) a name on unleased Territory land which is in common use;
  - (e) a private road name.
4. If the naming of the place:
  - (a) is under the jurisdiction of the ACT Government, the Surveyor-General will inspect the location and consult with other agencies with knowledge relevant to the request to establish whether the grounds for the name change are justified. For addressing issues advice will be sought from Australia Post and the ACT Emergency Services Agency.
  - (b) is not under the jurisdiction of the ACT Government, such as a private building name or a place on National land, the Surveyor-General will refer the renaming request to the relevant agency or property owner.
5. The Surveyor-General and/or the Minister 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 Advisory Committee (the Committee) which encompasses a range of expertise. If it is decided that the change of name request is not justified the Surveyor-General will advise the proponent accordingly.
6. If the request relates to the proponent believing the name is derogatory or offensive the Committee will:
  - (a) decide whether a reasonable person, at the time the place was named, would consider the name to be discriminatory or derogatory or offensive. It is recognised that the perception of 'discriminatory', 'derogatory' or 'offensive' may vary through time and from place to place;
  - (b) consider whether the name may now be perceived by a reasonable person to be offensive, demeaning or harmful to the reputation of individuals, or to social, ethnic, religious or other groups;
  - (c) investigate new information relating to ethical, reputational and evidentiary issues.
7. The Surveyor-General 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. In making this decision the

Surveyor-General will consider advice received through the consultation process and the extent of any imposition to residents/property owners relating to a proposed change, including the number of properties affected by a possible change of address.

8. If a change of name is recommended the ACT Place Names Unit will research and consider a replacement name in accordance with *Public Place Names (Naming of public places) Guidelines 2021* (the 'Guidelines') in [NI2021-72](#) available on the ACT Legislation Register.
9. If the name being considered for revocation commemorates a person with national standing, who may also have other commemorations, the Surveyor-General will recommend the Committee act in conjunction with relevant authorities.
10. 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.
11. If the place name being considered for revocation commemorates a personal name, the Surveyor-General will take reasonable steps to 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.

## Item 1 – Introduction and meeting apologies;

Co-chair, Jeff Brown opened the meeting at 3:00pm and welcomed the three committee members attending in person and the members joining by video conference. Apologies were recorded.

arrived at 3:15pm and joined the Webex meeting at 3:30pm.

## Item 2 – Minutes of previous meeting: 27 October 2020

### (i) Implement Recommendations of the Review Report – status update.

The committee was provided with the following documents before the meeting:

- Committee Terms of Reference (2021-2024);
- *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines 2021* (NI2021-72);
- the ACT Place Names Renaming Policy; and
- the instrument to rename William Slim Drive, DI2021-25;

Jeff Brown thanked the committee for its important response and contribution to the ACT Place Names Committee and Guidelines Review. He reaffirmed that the Review Report had established there are good, robust place naming processes and policies in place and that the committee and the Place Names Unit work well under the legislation. Jeff stated that he believed the review offered an opportunity to tweak and improve some areas including a revision of the *Public Place Names (Naming of Public Places) Guidelines* (notified on 12 February in NI2021-72) and the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ACT Place Names Advisory Committee, 2021-2024. He confirmed the TOR will be uploaded onto the Place Names website to assist the Expression of Interest process to appoint the next committee.

Jeff further acknowledged the committee's important contribution over the past three years to respond to numerous naming issues and actions and to formulate new documents to support place naming into the next three years.

- Rename William Slim Drive – Jeff Brown confirmed that the disallowable instrument is expected to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 30 March for six sitting days. The six sitting days will lapse after 11 May 2021. The name Gundaroo Drive is now displayed in ACTmapi extending from the Barton Highway to Ginninderra Drive.
- Haig Park signage– Jeff Brown advised the meeting that he is liaising with the City Renewal Authority to advance the Minister's decision to retain the park name and to install new signage to further explain Field Marshal Haig's wartime legacy. We have requested advice about the status of new text prepared by Dr David Headon in 2014/15 for the annual Heritage Festival, to provide further details about Haig and also the impact of World War I on the local region.

**Action:** The Place Names Unit will keep the committee updated.

(iii)



**Action:**



- The Place Names Unit will keep our committee updated.

(iv) **Weston Park, five internal roads** –status update

Jeff Brown reminded the meeting that the YourSay consultation commenced on 15 February and will run until 28 March <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/preserving-our-heritage/naming-our-places>

Tony Mollett provided the committee with a progress update; interaction peaked on 23 February, coinciding with the EPSDD Facebook post; as of early afternoon 2 March there has been 181 views, 135 visits, 116 visitors, 44 contributions and 42 contributors.

**Action:** The Place Names Unit will–

- Arrange for posters and further communication messages to promote the community poll; and
- Keep the committee informed of the results of the community poll.

(v) **Kingston parks** (Kingston Foreshore estate)

Jeff Brown reminded the members that a list of potential names to name the park at the end of Trevillian Quay was considered at the committee meeting in October 2020. There was also discussion about commemorating the name of a water plant. There is a second ‘point park’ which could also be named. The second landscaped site provides for views across the lake and river and includes a seated circular area at the point and fitness equipment. There was discussion about commemorating people with an association with early Kingston and who contributed to the community, including the sporting community. There was further discussion about commemorating non-personal names. Allen Mawer suggested the names [redacted] suggested a water plant name is reminiscent of the natural place before development.

[redacted] stated her preference for a personal name and [redacted] and [redacted] spoke about the community contribution of the wives of prime ministers. [redacted] provided an insight into the contribution of [redacted]



Jeff Brown acknowledged the important contribution of Co-chair, [REDACTED] and confirmed the TOR provides for the new membership to nominate the co-chair at the first meeting of the committee.

**Post meeting:** On 4 March, following advice from EPSD Communications, a decision was made to not advertise the EOI in The Canberra Times and instead, to boost promotion via social media.

**Action:**

The Place Names Unit will email the EOI advertisement to the committee members as soon as it is publicly available.

#### **Item 4 – Commemoration of Dame Pattie Menzies GBE**

The meeting noted that the Member for Kurrajong, Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA, wrote to the Chief Minister requesting details of any proposals to formally recognise the legacy of Dame Pattie Menzies GBE. The Chief Minister gave an undertaking that our committee would look for suitable opportunities. The Place Names Unit has identified opportunities for a road name in Jacka (Gungahlin) or a park name in Kingston.

The meeting was provided with information about the naming of Dame Pattie Menzies House in Dickson in 1997 and a current proposal to redevelop the building. Jeff Brown reminded the meeting that building names are not determined under our place names legislation; a building name is not generally considered to be an enduring name.

The committee considered the appointment of Dame Pattie Menzies in 1954 as Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) to recognise ‘... years of incessant and unselfish performance of public duty in hospital work, in visiting, addressing and encouraging many thousands of women in every State of Australia, including very remote areas, and in the distinguished representation of Australia on a number of occasions overseas’.

The committee noted that the commemoration of other significant women, also the wives of prime ministers, ie Dame Zara St Gungahlin (2002); Dame Enid Lyons Place, Parkes (2011); Margaret Whitlam Pavilion, National Arboretum (2013); Hazel Hawke Av, Whitlam (2020).

The meeting acknowledged the use of titles is not supported by ACT Place Names or by national (and international) jurisdictions and standard place naming guidelines/policies. There are some legacy names in the ACT including Lady Denman Dr, Dame Enid Lyons Place, Dame Zara St and Sir Harold Raggart Dr, Symonston. The National Capital Authority recently announced the naming of Sir Roland Wilson Place in Parkes.

There was agreement that the use of a title to create a three-worded place name may be acceptable for a park which is not an addressable location for property owners, residents etc eg [REDACTED].

There was discussion about the Jacka location and the intersection of Road 01 with an extension of Roden Cutler Drive. [REDACTED] provided details about the design of Road 01 and its connection with Roden Cutler Dr. He explained examples of suitable road types including ‘Way’.

Jeff Brown pointed out that Road 01 will be signposted from the major arterial road, Horse Park Drive.

[REDACTED]. The Commonwealth named R G Menzies Walk at Lake Burley Griffin to commemorate the prime minister's legacy.

A park in Kingston foreshore also provides a connection to the lake and possibly links to Dame Pattie's reputation as a passionate gardener.

The committee discussed potential naming options in the redevelopment of West Basin extending from Henry Rolland Park and future opportunities to commemorate a significant contribution; eminent Australian etc.

**Post meeting:** [REDACTED] provided his support to carry on the recognition of Dame Pattie Menzies and confirmed his personal preference for a park, rather than a street, "...perhaps more fitting with her character?".

#### **Action:**

- (i) Place Names will provide further information to the committee about the contribution made by Dame Pattie Menzies eg Australian Dictionary of Biography <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/menzies-dame-pattie-maie-27340>
- (ii) The committee may consider an opportunity to commemorate Dame Pattie Menzies through the naming of [REDACTED]
- (iii) Jeff Brown and [REDACTED] will arrange to consult [REDACTED]; and
- (iv) The committee may consider one of the two unnamed parks in Kingston as a second option, noting the name [REDACTED] would be acceptable.

#### **Item 5 – Other Business**

- (i) Catherine Helen Spence (1825-1910) – discuss further commemoration [REDACTED]  
**Background:** The suburb of Spence was named in 1972 to commemorate the name of William Guthrie Spence, trade unionist and parliamentarian. Spence Place in Hughes was named in 1963 to co-commemorate the contribution of both William Guthrie Spence and Catherine Helen Spence (1825-1910), activist, writer, preacher, campaigner for political reform and feminist.

**Co-commemoration:** There are three suburbs in the ACT named to commemorate more than one person. In each case the joint naming was made at the time the suburb name was first gazetted:

**Cook (1968)** - Captain James Cook, navigator and Sir Joseph Cook GCMG, Prime Minister,

**Denman Prospect (2012)** - Lady Gertrude Mary (Trudie) Denman and Lord Thomas Denman;

**Forrest (1928)** - John Forrest, one of the Founders of the Constitution, Premier of Western Australia and Alexander Forrest, Legislator, surveyor, explorer and member, WA Legislative Assembly.

[REDACTED] addressed the committee about his suggestion to co-badge the suburb of Spence to also commemorate Catherine Helen Spence—

“Is it a brief of this committee to consider the retrospective co-naming of certain suburbs?”;

“Is it a precedent worth setting?”;

“It would be a proactive stance by the committee to recognise women who in the past have been marginalised, and sometimes forgotten, by a hitherto male-dominated society”;

“We need to find ways as a committee to respond to the history of patriarchal naming”.

(vi) Status of ongoing projects (cont.):



**Item 6 – Consider next meeting date**

Jeff Brown proposed a final meeting of the current committee for late May/early June, starting later and followed by refreshments in Dickson to celebrate the committee’s contribution throughout 2017–2020.

**Post meeting:** The tentative meeting date is **3:30pm on Tuesday 15 June 2021**. We recognise it is not ideal timing following a long weekend however, there are limited meeting rooms available to accommodate our meeting size within the Covid-19 restrictions and to provide for a Webex meeting.

**Action:** Sharon Priestly will circulate the proposed date, **Tuesday 15 June 2021** to the committee.

**Meeting close:** The meeting closed at 4:48pm.

Sharon Priestly  
ACT Place Names Unit  
3 March 2021



## 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 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.