



This guide is an excerpt from *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016* (the naming rules).

The full version of the naming rules is found at www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/namingplaces.

Road names can recognise and reflect culture, heritage and landscape, and add value to Victoria's identity. Appropriate naming is essential to identify locations for managing emergencies and delivering goods and services in Victoria.

When selecting road names for plans of subdivisions, surveyors and developers should consult with the relevant municipal council to undertake the following:

- where appropriate, consider adopting a theme for road naming
- check that the road names comply with the general principles in section 2 and the statutory requirements applied to roads in section 3, under the naming rules
- seek municipal council approval of the selected road names.

Key principles of the naming rules

Principle (A) Ensuring public safety

Road names must not create risk to public safety or operational safety for emergency response, or cause confusion for transport, communication and mail services.

Principle (B) Recognising the public interest

When naming or renaming a road, its long-term effect on the wider community needs to be considered.

Principle (C) Linking the name to place

Road names should be relevant to the local area, with preference given to unofficial names used by the local community. Names that link the name to the place could relate to Aboriginal culture and occupation of the land, local flora and fauna, Australian war contributions, European exploration and settlement, local geography and geology, significant events, the cultural diversity of past and current inhabitants, or patterns of land usage and industrial/mineral/agricultural production.

Principle (D) Ensuring names are not duplicated

Road names must not duplicate another name within the distances listed below, irrespective of locality and/or council boundaries. Duplicates are considered to be two (or more) names within close proximity, or names that are identical or have similar spelling or pronunciation

Duplication is not allowed within the same locality or within the following distances:

- metropolitan urban area, within a 5 kilometre radius (metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong, city centres and surrounding suburbs)
- regional urban area, within a 15 kilometre radius (a regional urban area consists of a town centre and its surrounding suburbs)
- rural or remote area, within a 30 kilometre radius (a rural or remote area is an area located outside of towns).

VICNAMES can be used to check for duplicate road names. Select the road and select duplicate. For further advice, refer to the *Guide to VICNAMES* available at www.delwp.vic.gov.au/namingplaces>VICNAMES.

Note: the radius will default to either 5, 15 or 30 kilometres based on the location classification listed above. The defaulted radius provides the minimum required distance between duplications.

Principle (E) Names must not be discriminatory

Road names must not discriminate and or cause offence on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexuality or gender.

Principle (F) Recognition and use of Aboriginal languages in naming

The use of Aboriginal languages in the naming of roads is encouraged, subject to agreement from the relevant Traditional Owner group(s).

Principle (G) Dual names

Dual naming is not typically appropriate for use in the naming of roads. A road should only be assigned a name that is either an Aboriginal name or non-Aboriginal name.

Under Principle (H) Using commemorative names

Naming often commemorates a person, event or place. Examples include recognising Aboriginal people or cultural events, or following a theme such as Australian war contributions. When considering a commemorative name, the following points must be considered.

- When deciding on the assignment of a commemorative name, consider the person's achievements, relevant history and association to the area, and the significance of the family/person to the area/land. For example, a family that has been associated with an area for at least 50 years.
- The names of people who are still alive should be avoided because community attitudes and opinions can change over time. In exceptional circumstances, if a surveyor wishes to name a road after a living person, the municipality must apply in writing to the Registrar of Geographic Names for an exemption from this principle.
- A commemorative name applied to a road should only use the surname of a person, not first or given names.
- The initials of a given name are not to be used in any instance.

Principle (I) Using commercial and business names

Surveyors should not name roads after:

- commercial businesses
- trade names
- estate names
- non-profit organisations.

Exceptions can apply if the business or organisation has had an association with the area over a substantial period of time and is held in high regard by the community. In these circumstances, the municipality must apply in writing to the Registrar of Geographic Names for an exemption from this principle.

Principle (J) Language

- Road names, except when they are proper nouns, must be written in standard Australian English or a recognised format of an Aboriginal language local to the area.
- The name should be easy to pronounce, spell and write, and not exceed three words and/or 25 characters.
- 'The' is not a suitable prefix in naming of any road. For example, The Avenue is not acceptable.
- The apostrophe must be deleted from existing road names written with a final 's and the possessive's should not be included in the first instance.
- Abbreviations are not allowed with exception of 'St' (saint).
- For the purposes of consistency, names starting with Mc or Mac must not have a space included between the Mc or Mac and the rest of the name. For example, MacKenzie Road.
- A name cannot be a numeric value. For example, 1st Street, or 101 Road.
- Roads must use an approved road type.

Principle (K) Directional names to be avoided

Cardinal directions (north, south, east and west) are not to be used.

Principle (L) Assigning extent to a road

The extent to which the name applies must be made clear. For example, the start and end or where it intersects with other roads.

Section 3: Roads

A road is any public or private land-based thoroughfare or course navigable by vehicle or foot. It can be used for assigning addresses or allowing access between points or to a feature. Examples of roads include alleyways, streets, highways, fire tracks, bike paths and walking tracks.

This section consists of the statutory requirements applied to roads.

3.2.1 Rural and urban addressing

The naming of a road must conform to the provisions of *AS/NZS 4819: 2011 Rural and Urban Addressing*.

3.2.2 Extent: road course, start and end points

The extent of a road is considered to be its start and end points and the course (including bends, divided carriageway sections and curves) of the road between these two points.

A road name must not be applied in an ambiguous or confusing way for road users. The road name should not be applied in a 'disjointed' or confusing way. Isolated road segments should be uniquely named.

3.2.3 Road types

All roads must have a road type assigned that suitably describes the road's characteristics. The road type must be selected from the list of prescribed road types included in this reference guide.

In new estates, road types should be chosen with the ultimate estate configuration in mind.

3.2.4 Unacceptable road names

The following names and/or descriptions are not acceptable:

- Use of the definitive article 'the' is not acceptable for sole use as a road name.
- Road types are not to be used in the formation of a road name.
- The use of numerals is not acceptable for a road name.
- 'Upper', 'lower', 'little', 'old' or 'new' and cardinal directions north, south, east and west are not to be used as part of a road name.
- Destination-to-destination names are not acceptable.
- Hyphens and the word 'and' are not to be used.
- The naming of a road after an estate, which is solely commercial in nature, is not permitted.

3.2.5 Obstructed or altered roads

If the course of a road is permanently obstructed or closed, a new unique name is to be applied to one end of the road. This is particularly important when an emergency service vehicle cannot navigate the entire course of the road from one end to the other.

It is not appropriate to apply a cardinal direction (north, south, east or west) to one or both ends of the road in these instances.



Road types accepted for registration

As per Clauses 4.3, 4.6.2, 7.2 and 8.3.2(a) within the *AS/NZS 4819: 2011 Rural and Urban Addressing*, the road types specified that can be used are as follows:

Culs-de-sac

Road type	Abbreviation	Description
CLOSE	CL	A short enclosed roadway.
COURT	CT	A short enclosed roadway.
MEWS	MEWS	A roadway in a group of houses.
PLACE	PL	A short, sometimes narrow enclosed roadway.
PLAZA	PLZA	A roadway enclosing the four sides of an area, forming a marketplace or open space.
RETREAT	RTT	A roadway forming a place of seclusion.

Either culs-de-sac or open-ended roads

Road type	Abbreviation	Description
ALLEY	ALLY	Usually a narrow roadway in cities or towns. A minor roadway through the centre of city blocks or squares.
CHASE	CH	A roadway leading down to a valley.
CREST	CRST	A roadway running along the top or summit of a hill.
GLADE	GLDE	A roadway usually in a valley of trees.
GROVE	GR	A roadway that features a group of trees standing together.
LANE	LANE	A narrow way between walls, buildings or a narrow country or city roadway.
RISE	RISE	A roadway going to a higher place or position.
SQUARE	SQ	A roadway bounding the four sides of an area to be used as open space or a group of buildings.
TERRACE	TCE	A roadway usually with houses on either side raised above the road level.
VIEW	VIEW	A roadway commanding a wide panoramic view across surrounding areas.
VISTA	VSTA	A road with a view or outlook.
WHARF	WHRF	A roadway on a wharf or pier.

Pedestrian only roads

Road type	Abbreviation	Description
ARCADE	ARC	A passage having an arched roof, or any covered passageway, especially one with shops along the sides.
BOARDWALK	BWLK	A promenade or path, especially of wooden planks, for pedestrians and sometimes vehicles along, or overlooking, a beach or waterfront.
MALL	MALL	A sheltered walk, promenade or shopping precinct.
PATH	PATH	A roadway used only for pedestrian traffic.
PASSAGE	PSGE	A narrow street for pedestrians.
STEPS	STPS	Route consisting mainly of steps.
SUBWAY	SBWY	An underground passage or tunnel that pedestrians can use for crossing under a road, railway, river, etc.
WALK	WALK	A thoroughfare with restricted access used mainly by pedestrians.
WHARF	WHRF	A roadway on a wharf or pier.

Road naming Quick reference guide for land surveyors

Open-ended roads

Road type	Abbreviation	Description
APPROACH	APP	A roadway leading to an area of community interest, i.e. public open space, commercial area, beach etc.
AVENUE	AV	A broad roadway, usually planted with trees on each side.
BOULEVARD	BVD	A wide roadway, well paved, usually ornamented with trees and grass plots.
BREAK	BRK	A vehicular access on a formed or unformed surface, which was originally prepared as a firebreak.
BYPASS	BYPA	An alternative roadway constructed to enable through traffic to avoid congested areas or other obstructions to movement.
CIRCUIT	CCT	A roadway enclosing an area.
CONCOURSE	CON	A roadway that runs around a central area, e.g. public open space or a commercial area.
CRESCENT	CR	A crescent-shaped thoroughfare, especially where both ends join the same thoroughfare.
DRIVE	DR	A wide thoroughfare allowing a steady flow of traffic, without many cross streets.
ENTRANCE	ENT	A roadway connecting other roads.
ESPLANADE	ESP	A level roadway, often along the seaside or a river.
FIRETRAIL	FTRL	Vehicular access on a formed or unformed surface, which was originally prepared as firebreak.
FREEWAY	FWY	An express, multi-lane highway, with limited or controlled access.
GRANGE	GRA	Roadway leading to a country estate, or focal point, public open space, shopping area etc.
HIGHWAY	HWY	A main road or thoroughfare; a main route.
LOOP	LOOP	Roadway that diverges from and re-joins the main thoroughfare.
PARADE	PDE	A public promenade or roadway that has good pedestrian facilities along the side.
PARKWAY	PWY	A roadway through parklands or an open grassland area.
PROMENADE	PROM	A roadway like an avenue with plenty of facilities for the public to take a leisurely walk; a public place for walking.
QUAYS	QYS	A roadway leading to a landing place alongside or projecting into water.
RAMP	RAMP	An access road to and from highways and freeways.
RIDGE	RDGE	A roadway along the top of a hill.
ROAD	RD	A place where one may ride; an open way or public passage for vehicles, persons and animals; or, a roadway forming a means of communication between one place and another.
STREET	ST	A public roadway in a town, city or urban area; especially a paved thoroughfare with footpaths and buildings along one or both sides.
TRACK	TRK	A roadway with a single carriageway and a roadway through a natural bushland region. The interpretation for both TRACK and TRAIL is limited to roadways; however, in many areas (e.g. Tasmania) these are more often associated with walking rather than vehicular movement.
TRAIL	TRL	See TRACK.
WAY	WAY	An access way between two streets. Usually not as straight as an avenue or street.

Section 13 Implementation

Two requirements are involved in the implementation of a road name from a plan of subdivision.

Signage

When road names are approved via the SPEAR¹ subdivision process (at www.spear.land.vic.gov.au), signage must be erected after the certification of the plans and within 30 days of infrastructure work commencing at the site (this is to ensure that emergency management services can respond to any incidents that might arise in the area during the construction phase). If the road is under construction 30 days after the name is registered, temporary signs may be erected until the road is open to traffic.

History

Information about why a road name was chosen will help ensure historical information is available to future generations and provide transparency in the naming process. Information should be submitted to VICNAMES, the Register of Geographic Names, by the municipal council or the surveyor.

¹ SPEAR is an acronym for Surveying and Planning through Electronic Applications and Referrals. The system allows users to process planning permits and subdivision applications online.

Audit of road names in plans of subdivision

Under the provisions of Section 3.8 Naming roads in new residential or commercial subdivisions, when a plan of subdivision is lodged with the Registrar of Titles for registration, the plan may be selected for audit by the Office of Geographic Names prior to registration. If a road name fails to comply with the naming rules, the Office of Geographic Names will recommend to the municipality that it be renamed, either through a revised plan (depending on the status of the plan) or a proposal to the Office of Geographic Names.

For enquiries concerning the *Naming rules for places in Victoria, Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2016*, contact the Office of Geographic Names:

Phone: (03) 9194 0282

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Web: www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/namingplaces

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