Bridge Naming Policy

All proposals relating to the naming or renaming of bridges shall be assessed in accordance with the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales – Guidelines for the Naming of Bridges.

Accordingly, the following guidelines should be observed:

1. **Uniqueness**

   1.1 Name duplication within a local government area should be avoided. If possible duplication of names in proximity to adjacent local government areas should also be avoided. Similarity in bridge names within these areas is also discouraged.

   1.2 However, bridges crossing council boundaries should have a single and unique name.

2. **Sources**

   2.1 Preferred sources for bridge names include:

   - Aboriginal names;
   - Local history;
   - Early explorers, pioneers, settlers and other eminent persons;
   - War/casualty lists; and
   - Thematic names such as flora, fauna or ships.

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

   2.3 The origin of each name should be clearly stated and subsequently recorded.

   2.4 The Local Aboriginal Land Council should be consulted when choosing Aboriginal names unless the bridge naming authority already has an agreed list of appropriate names.

3. **Propriety**

   3.1 Names of living persons should not be used.

   3.2 Names which are characterised as follows are to be avoided:

   - Offensive or likely to give offence;
   - Incongruous – out of place; and
   - Commercial or company.

4. **Communication**
4.1 Names should be reasonably easy to read, spell and pronounce in order to assist both service providers and the travelling public.

4.2 Unduly long names and names composed of three or more words, including the bridge type should be avoided. Bridges names should be limited to less than 40 characters which include any spaces.

4.3 A given name should only be included with a family name where it is essential to identify an individual or where it is necessary to avoid ambiguity. The use of given names should generally be avoided.

4.4 Bridges with double destination names should be progressively renamed.

5. Spelling

5.1 Where it is intended that a bridge have the same name as a place or feature with an approved geographical name, then particular care should be taken to ensure that the correct spelling is adopted.

5.2 Where names have been changed or corrupted by long established local usage, it is not usually advisable to attempt to restore the original form.

5.3 Spelling which is sanctioned by general usage should be adopted.

5.4 Generally bridge names proposed or approved should not contain abbreviations for instance, the Creek in Wallaby Creek Bridge must not be abbreviated. There is, however, one exception. ST should always be used in place of Saint.

6. Form

6.1 The apostrophe mark ‘ must be omitted in the possessive case, for instance, Smith’s Bridge should be Smiths Bridge.

6.2 It is further preferable to deter a possessive S unless the euphony becomes harsh for instance, Smith Bridge.

6.3 The use of hyphens, slashes and other diacritical marks should be avoided if possible.

6.4 The use of numbers and roman numerals in a bridge name should be discouraged, when numbers are applied to a name it should be in alpha rather than numeric form.

6.5 No spaces should be embedded in words within the bridge name, single spaces only are allowed between words and no spaces are allowed to surround hyphens.
Additional Assessment Guidelines

In addition to the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales – Guidelines for the Naming of Bridges, the following guidelines should be considered as part of the bridge naming process for bridges and bridges in Cowra and Boorowa Shire:

1. Family names should only be used where that family has contributed to the history and progress of the Shire/s over several generations, particularly in the area where the bridge or bridge is located, and where the bridges or bridge is worthy of use of the name.

2. Individuals’ names may be used where these persons have contributed significantly to the community throughout their lifetime, particularly in the area where the bridge is located and where the bridge is worthy of the use of the name.

3. Property or location names may be used where they are a dominant or sole feature on or of the area where the bridge is located and where the name is attractive.

4. Hyphenated names depicting a starting and finishing location of bridges should be avoided.