Naming of Roads and Bridges

1. Policy Statement
The naming of roads, bridges and other elements of road infrastructure provide important geographic reference points for the community. The power to name roads exists under the Roads Act (1993) (NSW). This policy sets out how the naming of roads and bridges takes place.

2. Purpose and Intended Outcomes
To ensure that consistent principles are applied to the geographic naming of roads, bridges and other elements of classified road infrastructure.

Note: Should be read in conjunction with the Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) Procedure for Naming of Roads and Bridges Technical Procedure (ILC-AM-TP1-405); the Roads Regulation (2008) and the Geographical Names Board (GNB) NSW Road Naming Policy (2013) and Guidelines for the determination of placenames (2013).

3. Naming of Roads, Bridges and Other Structures
3.1 Power to Name Roads
Section 162 of the Roads Act (1993) provides that:

- A roads authority may name and number all public roads for which it is the roads authority.
- RMS may name and number all classified roads.
- The roads authority or RMS must give the GNB at least one month’s notice of a proposed road name prior to naming or altering the name of a public road.
3.2 Naming of Roads

Road naming is based in legislation and accounts for an essential element in the addressing of unique property locations necessary for efficient everyday commercial and social interaction as well as for delivery of emergency services.

The *Roads Act 1993* empowers road authorities to name roads. For example, RMS has the authority to name and number all classified roads. Local Roads fall under the jurisdiction of the local council that administers the area.

When a road authority wishes to name a previously unnamed road or rename a road they must follow the procedures outlined in the *Roads Regulation (2008)*. The regulation gives RMS the power to object to a name proposed by a council for a classified road.

The procedures outlined in the *Roads Regulation (2008)* have been included within the GNB’s *NSW Road Naming Policy (2013)*, and road naming authorities should follow the detailed processes outlined in this document for all new road naming proposals.

3.3 What types of roads does RMS name?

RMS is selective in naming classified roads. Few roads are named by RMS, usually those that lie on significant routes. For example, roads named include various highways and a number of State Roads.

The RMS approach is to name State Roads that connect to form relatively long routes of state-wide or metropolitan wide significance and which aid driver navigation by providing geographic reference information to road users and road managers (e.g. the local council). *Route names* given by RMS do not replace *road names* given by councils for addressing purposes (e.g. street names in towns).

RMS names classified roads under three general circumstances:

- where roads form lengths of important routes (i.e. State Roads such as Highways);
- new sections of Freeway/ Tollway where RMS is the roads authority and the roads have no frontage access from adjoining property at grade intersections with side roads;
- newly constructed sections of road such as deviations where the new road has limited or no frontage access and as such, where there is no requirement for council to name the road for addressing purposes.

3.4 Naming of Bridges and Other Structures

The naming of bridges and other structures on roads do not have a formal legislative basis. Names are attributed to aid identification and provide geographic reference to road users, road managers and the wider community.
The same procedures for the naming of roads are applied to the naming of bridges and other structures.

RMS is responsible for the naming of bridges and other structures on Freeways (e.g. the Australian Defence Force Memorial Plantation on Remembrance Driveway), and for approving bridge names on State Roads.

Generally, RMS does not initiate the naming of bridges on State Roads.

On Local, Regional and State Roads other than Freeways, the local council may initiate the naming of bridges and other structures. RMS will usually agree with naming proposals provided that:

- the name has wide community support
- an Aboriginal name has the support of local Aboriginal groups
- consideration has been given to National and State commemorative initiatives involving the naming of new or key road infrastructure
- the name is consistent with GNB placename criteria, and
- the design of the name plaque accords with RMS requirements.

Interchanges are signposted by RMS with geographically relevant names to aid in driver navigation (e.g. Gosford Interchange on the F3). However, some iconic interchanges have been given commemorative names (e.g. the Light Horse Interchange on the Westlink M7 Motorway).

For more information regarding the procedure(s) see ILC-AM-TPI-405 Naming Roads and Bridges.

3.5 Dual naming

A consequence of the Roads Act and its preceding Acts is that it allows for the situation where a section of road may have two official names: a local name given by council for local addressing purposes; and a route name given by RMS to identify a long distance route to aid navigation across multiple council areas.

3.6 How does RMS assess the suitability of the proposed name?

RMS follows GNB placename criteria and road naming policy in assessing the appropriateness of road and bridge names. RMS policy recognises that these criteria and policy have been developed over a long period of time and provide an objective framework to establish the dignity, worthiness and enduring appropriateness of names and in doing so, avoid potentially emotive situations.

The names should generally have Aboriginal, historical or geographic relevance and significance with respect to the particular roads location and area served. The GNB
3.7 Who initiates Naming?

RMS initiates the naming of some road infrastructure elements (e.g. the Sea Cliff Bridge on Lawrence Hargrave Drive between Coalcliff and Clifton) and rest areas but naming proposals come from a variety of sources including councils, the Minister, politicians, community groups and individuals. Initial proposals may be directed to the local council, the local member, the Minister or RMS.

Naming may also be initiated as part of national and state commemorative initiatives. For example naming new key infrastructure such as bridges and rest areas after local Victoria Cross recipients to commemorate the Centennial of ANZAC (1914-18).

3.8 Register of Road Names

Roads authorities are required under Section 163 of the Roads Act (1993) to keep a record of each road for which they are the roads authority, including the name and number (if any) given to it by that roads authority.

RMS is required to keep such a record in relation to all classified roads including the road name and number. RMS makes this information available as the Schedule of Classified Roads and Unclassified Regional Roads (RMS internet).

The GNB has the power under section 5 of the Geographical Names Act (1966) to veto, compile, maintain and/or publish a list of road names.

3.9 Privately operated toll roads

The policy applying to the naming of classified road infrastructure also applies to privately operated toll roads. Wherever possible, such roads should be named as part of the overall longer named route of which they are a part. Sections of such roads may also have commonly used names to help differentiate various sections of longer routes (e.g. Gore Hill Freeway, Lane Cove Tunnel, and Northern Distributor).

4. Naming Ceremonies

Once a name is agreed for any major iconic structure, the Regional Manager and the Communications Officer (see ILC-AM-TPI-405 Naming Roads and Bridges) are to liaise on the coordination of an appropriate ceremony – usually important community events.
Where councils are naming the road, bridge, or structure, the council may decide to arrange any ceremony.

Where naming ceremonies are to occur on State Roads and/or where significant funding has been contributed to Regional Roads, RMS will organise the dedication or naming ceremony for that road, bridge or structure.

5. **Aboriginal Action Plan**

The Aboriginal Participation Action Plan (see *ILC-MI-TPO-301 Development, implementation and management of community and stakeholder involvement*) provides for consideration of proposals from the RMS Manager, Aboriginal Programs to name un-named roads, bridges and other structures with Aboriginal names.

A proposal for RMS to name a major route is usually discussed with the local council and other relevant stakeholders. For example, Aboriginal groups were involved in the naming of the Kamilaroi Highway.

Names given by RMS are formalised through a declaration order pursuant to section 162 of the *Roads Act*.

6. **Responsibilities**

The Director, Asset Maintenance Division (AMD) is responsible for policies in relation to route naming and approving names for infrastructure on the State Road network.

The General Manager, Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM) is responsible for coordinating naming policy and for providing advice to the Director AMD.

Regional Managers are responsible for the initial assessment of naming proposals, and referral with recommendations to the Director, Asset Maintenance Division of proposals to name State Roads, Bridges and other structures on State Roads.

7. **Evaluation**

The effectiveness of this policy will be evaluated by way of audit. The evaluation will include measuring the effectiveness of the policy and its associated procedures and guidelines, in accordance with the ILC Management System.

8. **Definitions**

**Geographical Names Board**

The GNB of New South Wales was established by the *Geographical Names Act (1966)* to assign names to places and geographical features and to alter or discontinue geographical names.
**Public Road**
Public Roads are any road that is opened or dedicated as a public road and declared to be a public road under the *Roads Act (1993)*.

**Road Manager**
The road manager is the authority responsible for the road in question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road Class</th>
<th>Road Manager</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State roads, including National Highways</td>
<td>RMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Roads and Local Roads</td>
<td>Local Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road over rail bridges on most State, Regional and Local roads</td>
<td>Rail authority, RMS or Local Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various other roads and bridges</td>
<td>Other bodies such as State Forests, Federal Airports Corporation, Sydney Ports, National Parks and Wildlife Service or Private Sector Tollway Operators.</td>
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</table>

**Classified Road**
Classified roads are defined in the *Roads Act (1993)* and mean any of the following:

- a Main Road;
- a State Highway;
- a Freeway;
- a Controlled Access Road;
- a Secondary Road;
- a Tourist Road;
- a Tollway;
- a State Work.
Unclassified road
An unclassified road is any road (public or private) that is not classified under the Roads Act (1993).

9. Related Information

9.1 Reference documents

i. Roads Act (1993)
iii. Guidelines for the determination of placenames (2013)
iv NSWRoad Naming Policy (2013)
vi. ILC-AM-TPI-405 Naming Roads and Bridges

9.2 Record or file numbers related to this policy

Previous versions of this policy are recorded on file: 10M1210 Vol 1.

9.3 Contact details

Manager, Local Government & Legislation, Infrastructure Asset Management Branch, Asset Maintenance Division

9.4 Effective date 16 July 2013

9.5 Policy replaces

This policy supersedes the following sections of the Works Policy Manual:

1.1.4 (a)(2) Naming of Classified Roads, subsections (i) Naming under the State Roads Act 1986 and (ii) Naming under the Local Government Act
1.1.4 (b) Naming of Bridges on Classified Road.
10. **Appendix A - RMS Naming Responsibilities**

- **Is the Road a Freeway?**
  - Yes: RMS has the authority and responsibility to name this road under the Roads Act 1993. RMS will either initiate the naming of this road or give council the authority to do so. Naming of this road is subject to the guidelines of this policy.
  - No: RMS will initiate the naming of this road, accepting proposals from many sources. RMS will approve and implement names for state roads or structures. RMS will not object to a council proposed local name for addressing purposes for a road or structure providing the guidelines of this policy are met.

- **Is it a State Road?**
  - Yes: Local council has the authority and responsibility to name this road under the Roads Act 1993. RMS will not object to a council proposed name for addressing purposes providing the guidelines of this policy are met. RMS will not object to a council proposed naming of a structure providing the the guidelines of this policy are met.
  - No: Local council has the authority and responsibility to name this road under the Roads Act 1993. Councils must advertise a naming proposal in the local press and accept submissions and objections. Naming of this road is subject to the guidelines of this policy.

See Also: 

*Guidelines For The Determination Of Placenames* and *NSW Road Naming Policy* – n the Geographical Names Board web page


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**Naming of roads and bridges – PN 266**

**Effective date:**

**Version:** 1.0

**Approved by:**

**Last updated**

UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED