

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

24 OCTOBER 2018

AGENDA ITEM C5

NAMING OF PUBLIC ROADS, PRIVATE ROADS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Purpose of Report

To report on proposed changes to the Policy on Naming of Public Roads, Private Roads and Rights-of-Way. In particular, for a simpler and effective process for requests correcting the spelling of existing road names.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Amend the Policy on Naming of Public Roads, Private Roads and Rights-of-Way as set out in section "2. Recommendations" of this report.*

1. Background and Discussion

The South Wairarapa District Council is responsible for the naming of roads and under its current policy, right of ways serving more than four sites.

A consistent and considered approach is needed when naming roads in the District.

Roads are named to ensure ease of identification for the Council, the public, and especially for key service providers such as emergency response organisations (police / fire / ambulance), and postal and utility services.

The Council is empowered to name roads under Sections 319 and 319A of the Local Government Act of 1974 (LGA 1974).

The "Policy on Naming of Public Roads, Private Roads and Rights-of-Way" (the Policy) includes provision for changing road names (4.4 of the Policy).

Correcting the spelling of a road name is set out as a reason for changing road names.

Section 4.4.3 of the Policy sets out the procedure for changing a road name. This includes a requirement for a significant majority of residents and owners along the road to support the proposed name change.

Officers recommend that the Policy is amended to allow a more simple procedure for correcting spelling errors. In future, spelling errors could be amended via an officer report and approval by Council without prior consultation. Officers would then correct the spelling where appropriate, and subsequently notify residents and owners.

A recent request has been made for the correction of the spelling of Hinakura Road to Hinekura Road and Pah Road to Pa Road. Liaising with the multitude of residents and owners along roads such as Hinakura Road or Pah Road to ascertain support of a spelling correction is considered to be an unnecessary level of consultation and would consume a significant amount of officer time, and is seen as not relevant to the effective correcting and updating of road names.

2. Recommendations

That the Policy on Naming of Public Roads, Private Roads and Rights-of-Way be amended as below (additions underlined);

4.4 CHANGING EXISTING ROAD NAMES

4.4.1 Where there is uncertainty about a road name, generally the most recently gazetted name will be the officially recognized name for the road.

4.4.2 A name change will only be made if the Council considers that the change will result in a clear benefit to the community. Reasons for changing road names may include:

- To correct the spelling*
- To eliminate duplication in spelling or sound*
- To clarify a situation where more than one name is used for a road*
- To make geographical corrections*
- To assign different names to separate ends of a road with a permanently impassable section somewhere along the length*

4.4.3 Where a road name is requested to be changed, a significant majority of residents and owners along the road must support the proposed change. The applicant shall also provide any history relating to the existing street name. The road name change report shall be presented to the relevant Community Board for comment prior to the Council meeting. However, the final decision to allow a road name to be changed and the new name of the road is always at the discretion of the Council.

4.4.4 Where a road name is requested to be changed to correct a demonstrated spelling error, the change shall be presented to Council for approval without the requirement for prior consultation with the relevant Community Board and residents and landowners.

3. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Policy on Naming of Public Roads, Private Roads and Rights-of-Way (as recommended to be amended)

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**Appendix 1 - Policy on
Naming of Public Roads,
Private Roads and Rights-of-
Way (as recommended to be
amended)**



Policy on Naming of Public Roads, Private Roads and Rights-of-Way

1.0 RATIONALE:

The South Wairarapa District Council is responsible for naming roads within its boundaries. A consistent and comprehensive approach is needed for naming of roads in the District. Roads are named to ensure ease of identification for the Council, the public and key services such as emergency, postal and utility services. The Council is empowered to name roads under Section 319A of the Local Government Act of 1974. The procedures under which the Council wishes to achieve the abovementioned objectives are defined below.

2.0 PURPOSE:

To set out guidelines and standards relating to the naming of public roads, private roads and rights-of-ways in the South Wairarapa District. The Council's policy will apply to new or unnamed roads, both public and private, including roads with existing names that may be locally, but not officially, recognized and will also apply to proposals to change the name of an officially named road. The policy also includes areas that would benefit from an official address for identification purposes such as private rights-of-way serving more than four lots. This policy is critical for correct addressing, which is used by emergency services, making our community safer.

3.0 DEFINITIONS (for purposes of this Policy only):

Road – A generic term that for the purposes of this policy only encompasses public roads, private roads and rights-of-ways that serve more than four lots.

Private Road – any roadway, place or arcade laid out on private land by the owner thereof intended for the use of the public generally. Private roads are not maintained by the Council but shall be formally named for the reasons set out in Sections 1.0 and 2.0 of this Policy.

Public Road – Any road open to public travel that is under the jurisdiction of and maintained by the Council.

Rights-of-Way (Private Way) - An easement, a privilege to pass over the land of another, whereby the holder of the easement acquires a reasonable and usual enjoyment of the property,

(normally the right to pass and re-pass) and the owner of the land retains the benefits and privileges of ownership consistent with the right of way easement. Rights-of-ways are not maintained by the Council but those rights-of-ways that serve more than four lots may be formally named for the reasons set out in Sections 1.0 and 2.0 of this Policy.

Suggested Suffixes – Terms such as “road”, “street”, “lane” etc. are to be used in circumstances appropriate to the physical situation, with the following suffix definitions acting as a guide:

Avenue	A wide straight road planted with trees on either side
Boulevard	A wide, main road, often planted with rows of trees
Circle	A street surrounding a circular or oval shaped space
Common	A street with a reserve or public open space along one side
Court	A short enclosed road, i.e. a cul-de-sac
Crescent	A crescent shaped street, generally with both ends intersecting the same street
Crest	A road running along the top or summit of a hill
Cul-de-sac	A short enclosed road
Drive	An especially scenic road or a main connecting route in a subdivision
Glade	A tree covered street or passage between streets
Green	As for Common, but not necessarily bounded by a reserve
Grove	A road that often features a group of trees standing together
Heights	A road traversing high ground
Lane	A narrow road
Lookout	A road leading to or having a view of fine natural scenery
Parade	A public promenade or road
Place	A short, sometimes narrow road
Ridge	A road along the top of a hill
Rise	A road going to a higher place of position
Road	A route between places, general usage
Row	A road with a line of professional buildings on either side
Street	A road that usually has houses on both sides
Track	A narrow country street that may end in pedestrian access
View	A road commanding a wide panoramic view across the surrounding areas
Way	A narrow road, often synonymous with lane

4.0 GUIDELINES:

4.1 GENERAL

- 4.1.1 The naming of roads provides a unique address to enable a property to be identified for power, telephone, mail and emergency services.
- 4.1.2 The Council is responsible for naming roads.
- 4.1.3 The Council will actively promote the formal naming of

existing unnamed (or informally named) public or private roads and any rights-of-ways that serve more than four lots.

4.1.4 All approved road and rights-of-way names, both public and private, will be recorded in the Council's GIS system and flagged as a public road, private road or rights-of-way.

4.1.5 This Policy will be reviewed and amended from time to time.

4.2 PROCEDURE FOR NAMING ROADS

4.2.1 Applications for naming all roads that are created or extended as part of a subdivision are required to be submitted as part of the resource consent process.

4.2.2 To assist Council in assigning a name, an application for subdivision consent where a road is proposed to be named shall include three possible road names to Council for consideration and approval. For rights of way serving more than four lots where it is proposed to name the right of way, the users of the right of way shall jointly submit an agreed proposed name which shall be adopted by Council subject only to the guidelines for the selection of new road names being satisfied.

The names should be listed in order of preference with a brief statement of their significance. The applicant must also submit a concept/survey plan identifying the road, and pay the appropriate fee.

4.2.3 Once Council receives the application, it will check the suitability of the preferred and alternative names against its Policy.

4.2.4 The road naming application will be submitted to the relevant Community Board for a recommendation prior to consideration and decision by Council. The final decision to approve the name shall remain at the discretion of Council.

4.2.5 The Council will approve, amend or decline the name by way of a formal resolution adopted by Council.

4.2.6 Council will advise the applicant in writing of the decision.

4.2.7 Council will ensure that the road naming process is completed and the signs are installed at no cost to Council before the Section 224C certificate is prepared for issue. Performance bonds will not be accepted.

4.2.8 Applications for naming of existing roads are required to be submitted to the Council's Chief Executive Officer. The Council will consider and make a decision on the road name application and will follow steps 4.2.3 to 4.2.5.

4.2.9 The Council also requires to be consulted for naming of existing private roads and rights-of-way to ensure that a current or proposed name complies with Council policy and the various agencies to be informed are appropriately advised.

- 4.2.10 Applications for private road and rights-of-way names are to be submitted to the Council on a standard form that is available from the Council office after consideration by officers. Such applications will be submitted to the Council for the adoption of a name, or names.
- 4.2.11 Immediately after Council approves the name of any road, the Council will advise Land Information NZ, Quotable Value, Council's rating and GIS departments and all emergency services in the area of the name of the road.

4.3 GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF NEW ROAD NAMES

- 4.3.1 There must not be another road with the same name in the South Wairarapa District emergency services area; this includes same road names with a different suffix. However, existing roads with the same names as of the date of adoption of this Policy are allowed.
- 4.3.2 Identical names with different spellings will not be accepted (e.g. Beach, Beech).
- 4.3.3 The name should have significant local content or meaning.
- 4.3.4 Names are to be selected in proportion to the length of the road. Long names on short cul-de-sac's can be difficult to display on a map.
- 4.3.5 The end name for the roadway should be the one that most accurately reflects the type of roadway that it is.
- 4.3.6 All private roads and rights-of-ways serving more than four lots are to have the suffix "Lane" or "Way".
- 4.3.7 Where the road is a continuation of an existing named road, or will in the future link to an existing named road, then the current road name will automatically apply.
- 4.3.8 Names are entirely at the discretion of Council, whether for policy reasons or for other considerations.

4.4 CHANGING EXISTING ROAD NAMES

- 4.4.1 Where there is uncertainty about a road name, generally the most recently gazetted name will be the officially recognized name for the road.
- 4.4.2 A name change will only be made if the Council considers that the change will result in a clear benefit to the community. Reasons for changing road names may include:
- To correct the spelling
 - To eliminate duplication in spelling or sound
 - To clarify a situation where more than one name is used for a road
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4.4.4 Where a road name is requested to be changed to correct a demonstrated spelling error, the change shall be presented to Council for approval without the requirement for prior consultation with the relevant Community Board and residents and landowners.

4.5 SIGNAGE

4.5.1 If Council approves the name of a road as part of a subdivision, a standard Council road sign shall be created and erected at the applicant's expense. This requirement will usually be a Section 224 condition of resource consent.

4.5.2 Street signs on private roads and rights-of-ways must have the word "Private" under the street name and the applicant is required to pay for the sign, its installation and maintenance.

4.5.3 Repair, maintenance or replacement of any road sign for a private road or rights-of-way will not be at Council's expense.

4.5.4 Council will provide and erect nameplates and posts for existing public roads that are newly named (not part of a recent subdivision).

4.5.5 Council will maintain all road signs on public roads.

4.5.6 Where appropriate, and at the discretion of Council, when signage for a road that has a significant historic name is to be replaced, a sign plate may be erected that identifies the historic significance of the name.