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Sent: Monday, 3 July 2023 1:24 PM
To: Rachel Hunter; Director General DPC
Subject: CTS 07820/23 | Correspondence from the Director-General, Department of Resources
Attachments: CTS 07820-23 Correspondence from the Director-General, Department of Resources.pdf; CTS 07820-23 Enclosure - Further information on place names.pdf

CTS 07820/23

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from Mr Warwick Agnew, Director-General, Department of Resources.

We have transitioned to a paper-light workplace, therefore please note the original will not be posted unless requested.

Regards,



Department of Resources
1 William Street, Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15216, City East Qld 4002
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Ref CTS 07820/23



Department of Resources

3 July 2023

Ms Rachel Hunter
Director-General
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
rachel.hunter@premiers.qld.gov.au
director.general@premiers.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Hunter

I am seeking your agency's assistance to undertake a state-wide audit of place naming roles and responsibilities.

The driver for the audit is the recognition of the value place names have in identifying different kinds of features (whether natural or artificial) and in representing cultural values of vital significance to people's sense of wellbeing and feeling at home.

The Department of Resources is currently partnering with First Nations peoples, local government, and other agencies to progress proactive place naming projects to name or rename places with traditional or culturally appropriate names.

The next step in our proactive approach to ensuring Queensland has a contemporary place naming framework is to undertake a state-wide audit of roles and responsibilities across all state government agencies with naming responsibilities, local governments, and other organisations that name places and features. The audit is also seeking to identify place names that can be considered offensive and harmful.

It would be appreciated if your department could respond to a survey on place names roles, responsibilities and how agencies identify and address names that offend or harm at: haveyoursay.resources.qld.gov.au/place-names-audit by 21 July 2023.

I am also seeking nominees from agencies either with naming responsibilities or an interest in the impact of place names on their stakeholders to nominate an appropriate officer(s) by 14 July 2023, to engage with the department to progress the audit.

Should you have any further enquiries please contact Ms Mirranie Barker, Manager, Lands Policy and Support, Department of Resources on 3199 7357.

Yours sincerely

s.73 Irrelevant information

Warwick Agnew
Director-General

Enc/Att: Further information on place names.

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Re

Queensland's place naming framework reform program

Introduction

Place names are a crucial aspect of our physical and cultural environment. They allow us to identify our location and they signal to us important cultural values which can impact on people's sense of belonging and well-being.

Queensland's primary legislation for naming places is the *Place Names Act 1994* (Place Names Act), administered by the Department of Resources. The Act outlines the process for naming, changing, or discontinuing a name, as well as defining the boundary of a place.

The definition of 'place' in the Place Names Act is an area or geographical feature (whether natural or artificial). However, the definition excludes roads, canals, buildings, local government areas, dam walls and electoral districts. While some of these structures, features or areas are named by other Queensland naming authorities under various laws, others have no clear authority or framework for how they are named, for example canals, local airports and dam walls. Marine parks and protected areas are excluded places under the Place Names Regulation 2015.

There is no single point of truth for all place names assigned by government bodies in Queensland. Names approved under the Place Names Act are recorded in the Gazetteer of Place Names.

Proposed reforms.

A contemporary approach to place naming is sought to enable the government to respond proactively, positively and effectively to a range of place naming issues, and community expectations. The reforms will also support government initiatives and priorities including the Path to Treaty process through better recognition of First Nations peoples' place names and connection to country. The place names reform program is comprised of several interconnected components of work.

Proactive place naming projects

The proactive place naming projects are partnering with First Nations peoples, local governments and other agencies to trial different approaches to address names that cause offense or harm and name or rename places with traditional or culturally appropriate names. Projects are being conducted in the Cape York Peninsula, the Torres Strait islands and Charters Towers Regional Council area. The department is also partnering with the Central Queensland Language Centre to work with community members to scope protocols for the collection and management of Indigenous place names within that area.

These projects will inform future legislation, policies and procedural improvements and changes to ensure that place naming policies and practices align with government commitments and community expectations.

Updating the Place Names Act 1994

An initial tranche of amendments has been identified to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the *Place Names Act 1994*, whilst a broader review and the audit and engagement programs are being conducted. These amendments will improve decision making and reduce duplicated consultation processes; reflect technological advancements; and clarify the application of the legislation. The Place Names Policy and associated procedures will also be updated to complement these amendments.

State-wide audit and engagement

A state-wide audit of place-naming responsibilities and place names to identify potential offensive and harmful names. The audit will include local governments, State government departments and other organisations that name places. Representatives will form a working group to guide the government's approach to addressing offensive and harmful names. The audits will underpin the development of an action plan to address names that offend or harm.

The views of Queenslanders will also be sought through a consultation paper. The paper will raise awareness of how places are named and to seek input on the features of a contemporary and relevant place-naming framework, such as inclusive place-naming principles and a central repository for place-naming data to support emergency and other essential services.

The community engagement and audits outcomes will also influence future legislation, policies and procedural improvements and changes.

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