



Report to General Manager

Attachments:

1. Map of North Sydney Civic Centre Park
 2. Images of Former Plans for the North Sydney Civic Centre
 3. Road and Place Naming Policy
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SUBJECT: Naming Civic Park

AUTHOR: Ian Hoskins, Council Historian

ENDORSED BY: Martin Ellis, Director Community and Library Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Road and Place Naming Policy, Council has received a community proposal to change the name of 'North Sydney Civic Centre Park', the open space between Council Chambers and Stanton Library. The request comes from the Mack family and suggests two names that better reflect the work and vision of former Mayor Ted Mack in creating that Civic Centre which is comprised of open green space, a fountain, covered performance area and other low-rise features. Consequent research has revealed a complex history of planning and nomenclature for this important space, and confirmed that there is no name listed with the Geographic Names Board. The space, therefore, is officially un-named. This report outlines the history of the site's naming and recommends a resolution to the issue.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the name 'Ted Mack Civic Park' be put to the Geographic Names Board, at the appropriate time, for the site currently referred to as 'North Sydney Civic Centre Park'.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

- Direction: 2. Our Built Environment
- Outcome: 2.1 Infrastructure, assets and facilities that meet community needs
4.4 North Sydney's history is preserved and recognized

BACKGROUND

In July 2017 Council reviewed and updated its Road and Place Naming Policy. The procedure allows for suggestions from the community to be presented to Council. These are vetted by Council's Property Officer and/or Historian in accord with the aims of the Policy and guidelines and policies of the Geographic Names Board of New South Wales [GNB] the statutory authority with power to assign and discontinue geographical names in the State. The GNB's policy on commemorative names stipulates that 'The person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the area around the geographic feature or locality. When such a name is applied, it shall be given posthumously, at least one year after the decease of the person. Names of living persons are by their nature subject to partisan perception and changes in community judgement and acceptance.'

Shortly before Council reviewed its Road and Place Naming Policy it received a suggestion to name Civic Park in honour of former North Sydney Mayor Ted Mack. Council's Historian has since been researching the issue.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The sustainability implications are of a minor nature and did not warrant a detailed assessment.

DETAIL

In the 1940s North Sydney Council began acquiring land adjacent to its Chambers in Miller Street with a view to developing a Civic Centre. The site extended to Ridge Street along Cunningham Street and was a densely settled area of terrace houses and shops. Detail of the Civic Centre was initially undetermined though the aim, by the 1960s, was to have an ensemble of buildings set in open space. Accordingly, the Baby Health Centre, now Ros Crichton Pavilion, was opened in 1961. Stanton Library followed in 1964. In 1967 Council's architect John Browne produced a sketch showing these buildings and a new Chambers set within plazas and lawns.

Two years later, in 1969, Council called for tenders with a view to leasing the site to a developer

who would construct a mix of civic and commercial buildings at no cost to Council. Sabemo Pty Ltd was the winning tenderer. The company proposed a scheme of high rise towers surrounded by plazas. Longstanding aldermen including Dr Michael Fitzpatrick were enthusiastic but, by 1972, newly-elected councilors such as Robyn (Read) Hamilton, Carole Baker and Judith Ambler were expressing concern at the scale of the proposal. The first public exhibition in 1973 elicited similar responses from the community. The scheme was dropped in 1974 amidst much recrimination and controversy.

Over the following decade a low-rise revision of the Civic Centre concept emerged based in part on initial ideas from Alderman Judith Ambler. Ted Mack, who joined Council in 1973 and was elected Mayor in 1980, was sympathetic to the notion of a civic centre comprised of small scale elements within a park setting. Mayor Mack was instrumental in creating the park that exists today with its open lawn, hill feature, performance space, exercise areas and the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain re-located from St Leonards Park.

In April 1978, while details of the civic centre were still being determined, it was suggested that the space be named after Alderman Fitzpatrick 'in recognition for 20 years of dedicated service' to the municipality. Ted Mack was one of those who put the motion, possibly in a gesture of reconciliation following the defeat of the Sabemo proposal. Council agreed to name the area the 'Michael Fitzpatrick Civic Centre Site' and erect a plaque to that effect with the approval of the Geographic Names Board.

On 19 September 1982 a plaque was unveiled with somewhat ambiguous wording that did not strictly follow the 1978 resolution and seemed to distinguish the Centre from the land upon which it stood. It read: 'The North Sydney Civic Centre constructed on the area of land designated the Michael Fitzpatrick Centre was opened by Isabella Brierley...'

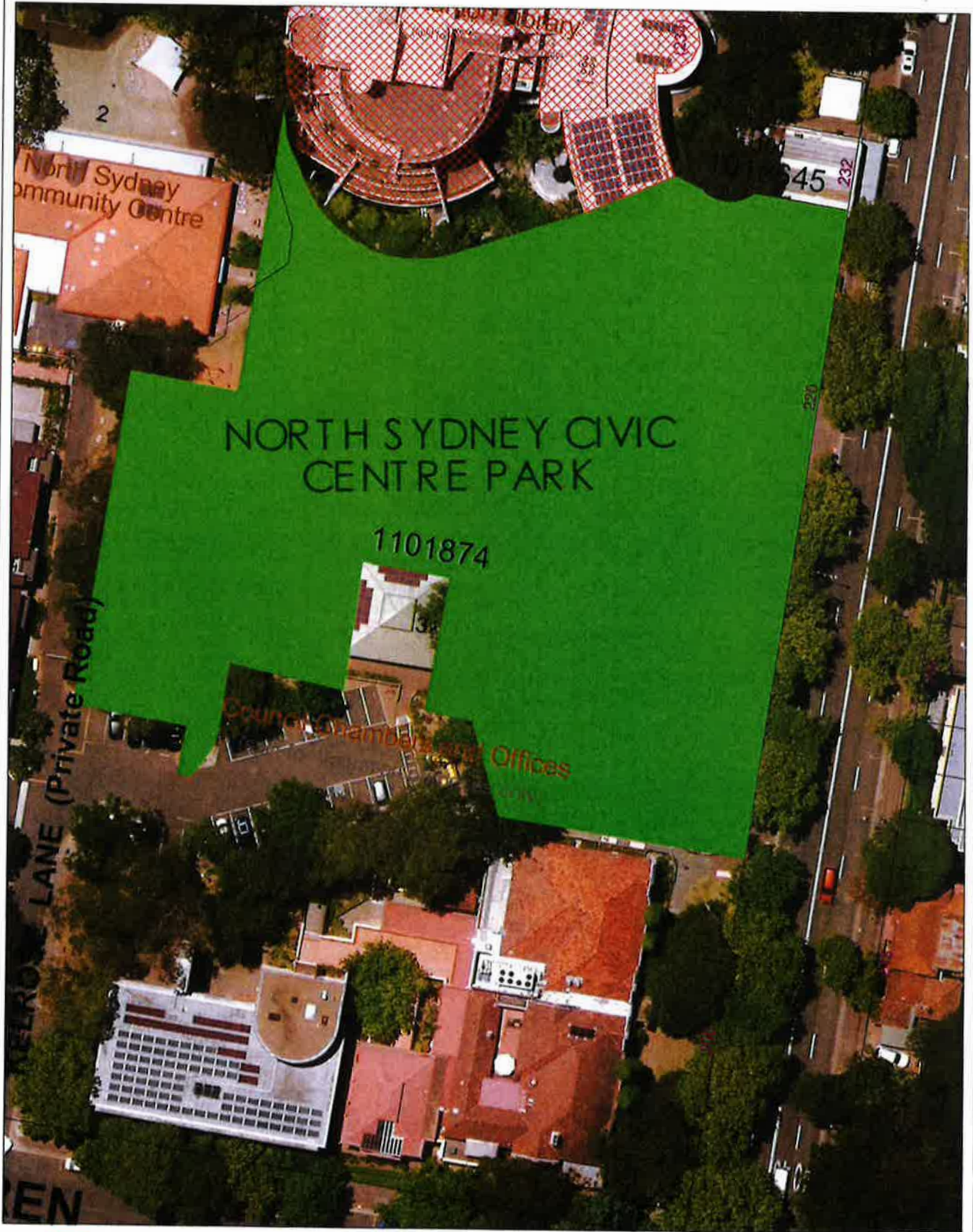
In any case, neither 'Michael Fitzpatrick Civic Centre Site' or 'Michael Fitzpatrick Centre' were registered with the Geographic Names Board, possibly because of the Board's policy of only accepting names for posthumous commemoration. The reference to Ald. Fitzpatrick has fallen away altogether and the site is currently referred to as 'North Sydney Civic Centre Park' on Council's mapping system and 'Civic Park and Community Centre' on Google Maps. There is no official name for this important site registered with Geographic Names Board. Wayfinding signage refers to 'Civic Centre Park'. The 1982 plaque was stolen in recent times; one of a number of bronze plaques taken presumably for their scrap metal value.

In July 2017 members of the Mack family put forward the proposal to name the park in a manner that would mark the role played by Ted Mack in the creation of the space. They have suggested the names 'Ted Mack Park' or 'Ted Mack Civic Park' as the space embodied 'much of what Ted stood for while in office'.

In light of the absence of an official name for the park and, indeed, the confusing variety of terms, an 'in principle' naming of the space after Ted Mack fulfills the need to finally identify the site while providing a suitable acknowledgement of Mr Mack's very considerable contribution to North Sydney. 'Ted Mack Civic Park' is a suitable name as it also contains reference to the Civic Centre at the heart of the history of the place. It is an appellation that could be duly registered with the GNB at the appropriate time.

At that time a replacement plaque and appropriate signage outlining the very interesting history of the site could be installed.

Civic Park Boundaries



North Sydney Council

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Further details can be obtained by calling (02) 9036 8100 or e-mail mapping@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

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It was then resolved:
 THAT a Special Meeting of Council be called at a time to be determined by the Mayor to consider the reports and recommendations concerning I.D.O. 57 and I.D.O. 60.

259 ✓
 12. NOTICE OF MOTION BY ALDERMAN MACK: 78/2493

THAT the Engineer report on the cost and funds available to construct two cricket practice nets in Anderson Park adjacent to the south side of the existing change rooms.

The Motion was moved by Alderman Mack,
 Seconded by Alderman Dr. Fitzpatrick and carried.

250 ✓
 13. NOTICE OF MOTION BY ALDERMAN BAILEY: 78/2494

THAT a letter of congratulations be sent to Iain Murray and crew of the 18-ft. "Color 7" for their achievement in winning the State, Australian and World Titles in the 18-ft. Sailing Class,

The Motion was moved by Alderman Bailey,
 Seconded by Alderman Fish and carried.

251 ✓
 14. NOTICE OF MOTION BY ALDERMEN JENKINS, WYLLIE, TIMMONY,
 BAILEY, MACK AND HUTLEY: P476/20271

THAT as a mark of recognition for 20 years of dedicated service to this Municipality as an Alderman by Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, the area of land known as the Civic Centre Site be dedicated as the "Michael Fitzpatrick Civic Centre Site" and a suitable plaque be erected thereon subject to the approval of the Geographical Names Board.

The Motion was moved by Alderman Jenkins,
 Seconded by Alderman Wyllie,

By consent the motion was amended to read -
 THAT as a mark of recognition for 20 years of dedicated service to this Municipality as an Alderman by Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, the area of land known as the Civic Centre Site be dedicated as the "Michael Fitzpatrick Centre" and a suitable plaque be erected thereon subject to the approval of the Geographical Names Board.

It was moved, as an amendment and seconded -
 THAT as a mark of recognition for 20 years of dedicated service to this Municipality as an Alderman by Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, the area of land known as the Civic Centre Site be dedicated as the "Michael Fitzpatrick Civic Centre Site" and a suitable plaque be erected thereon subject to the approval of the Geographical Names Board.

The amendment was put and lost; the motion was put and carried.

This is Page No. 232(21) of the Minutes of the 2500th Meeting of the North Sydney Council held on 11th April, 1978.

W.A. Salter
 Chairman.

[Signature]
 Town Clerk.



Mayor Ted Mack shovels concrete onto base ready for positioning of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain in the Civic Centre, North May 1982.



ROAD AND PLACE NAMING POLICY

D2-15

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Policy Owner: Director Engineering and Property Services

Category: 2. Our Built Environment

1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

1.1 The objectives of this Policy are to:

- a) provide a consistent procedure for the naming of local roads and places within the North Sydney local government area;
- b) ensure that the road's, street's and place names comply with the relevant legislation and locality requirements;
- c) promote the use of names within the local government area which have a locally relevant historical, botanical and/or aboriginal context and where the name proposed is the name of a person, consideration has been given to that person's:
 - Positive contribution to the community;
 - How the contribution was made (e.g. as a volunteer, office holder etc.); and
 - The length of time over which the contribution was made; and
- d) provide staff, the local community and future developers with clear information on Council's requirements for the naming of roads, streets and places.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 This policy applies to all Council staff, Councillors and contractors working on behalf of Council.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Feature - includes a road, place, park, reserve or facility. Excludes memorials, plaques, public art, statues or items of heritage significance.

3.2 Place - includes open space such as dedicated reserves, road closures or parks and, in rare instances, the naming of a locality or place of local significance.

3.3 Public Road - is any road that is opened, dedicated or declared to be a public road, whether under the Roads Act 1993 or any other Act. A public road can be created by:

- a) the registration of a plan at the Office of the Registrar General;

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- b) the dedication by way of notice in the NSW Government or Minister;
and
 - c) by the publication of a proclamation by the Governor.
- 3.4 Private Road - is any road that is not a public road. Private roads can include:
- a) some roads or driveways to battleaxe blocks;
 - b) roads indicated on community subdivision plans;
 - c) roads in various cluster developments;
 - d) roads on private property, for example, roads in caravan parks; and
 - e) other forms or 'rights of way'.

4. PROVISIONS

In accordance with the Geographical Names Board (GNB) 'Guidelines for Naming of Roads':

- 4.1 Naming Convention - When naming or renaming roads and places the following guidelines should be observed.
- 4.1.1 General
- a) Council is the authority responsible for the naming or re-naming of public roads and places.
 - b) This includes any road or place under the control of Council including public roads, road closures or a road that is to be dedicated to Council by way of a subdivision of land and excludes Crown public roads, private roads and roads under the control of any State Government Authority.
 - c) All naming proposals will be submitted to the GNB for approval before it is exhibited.
 - d) Council may be requested to name areas which are not directly under its control e.g. by the Roads and Maritimes Services or State Rail. This Policy will apply in those instances.
 - e) Changing of long-established names is not generally encouraged.
 - f) Names should be easy to read, spell and pronounce. Names should, where possible be phonetically spelt (spelt how they are pronounced).
 - g) Names should be appropriate to the physical, historical or cultural character of the area.
 - h) Names should be as short and simple as possible and preferably consisting of only one word plus the street type.
 - i) Road and Place names should not contain abbreviations, e.g. Smith Creek Road not to be abbreviated to Smith Ck Road. There is however one exception "St" should always be used in place of "Saint".

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- j) The apostrophe mark must be omitted e.g. Smith's Road should be Smiths Road.
- k) Road and Place names will not contain hyphens.
- l) Road and Place names will not use compass directions as prefix or suffix e.g. North, South.

4.1.2 Source - preferred sources for road and place names in North Sydney include:

- a) Local History, including significant persons and events;
- b) Thematic names derived from sources such as local flora and fauna and or geographical features;
- c) Landmarks; and
- d) Aboriginal names

4.1.3 Uniqueness

- a) 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 road names within these areas is also discouraged (e.g. White Street and Whyte Street). Roads crossing council boundaries should have a single and unique name.
- b) However, Roads crossing council boundaries should have a single and unique name.

4.1.4 Road Type

- a) Proposal for road names should include an appropriate road type suffix.
- b) Road type suffixes are grouped into three categories:
 - i. Culs-de-sac, eg. 'Court', 'Place';
 - ii. Open ended e.g. 'Street', 'Boulevard' or 'Avenue'; or
 - iii. Either e.g. 'Laneway'.
- c) Road types should not be abbreviated when being proposed, advertised and gazetted. It is acceptable to use Road Type Codes on mail, road signs and maps.

4.1.5 Propriety

- a) Names of living persons should not be used, except in the case of structures such as boardwalks, special places with a defined area, and buildings.
- b) Names which are characterised as follows are to be avoided:
 - i. Offensive or likely to give offence
 - ii. Incongruous - out of place
 - iii. Commercial or company

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- 4.2 Process for considering road and place name change applications - Appendix A (flowchart) outlines the process followed by Council after receiving a request to name/rename a road or place. Council has developed an Application Form to facilitate the implementation of this Policy. Application Forms are available from Council's website. For reasons of confidentiality in the early stages, Councillors wishing to propose a naming or change of name will initiate the process by forwarding a completed Application Form to the General Manager, who will refer it to Council's Property Officer to commence the assessment process as set out in Appendix A.
- 4.3 Public Exhibition - Part 2, Division 2, Section 7 of the Roads Regulation 2008, provides that a Roads Authority that proposes to name/rename a road must:
- a) Publish notice of its proposal in a local newspaper; and
 - b) Serve notice of its proposal to the statutory authorities outlined in the Regulation.

Appendix B (flowchart) outlines Council's public exhibition process in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy, which comes into effect after the GNB has approved the name change.

4.4 Post Gazettal Process

Council is required to:

- a) update the signage - Council arranges for the manufacture and installation for street signs other than those in new subdivision areas, and private roads. In the event of a new subdivision, the developer is required to supply the road signs until Council accepts the responsibility of the maintenance of the road as a public road;
- b) update the GIS mapping system;
- c) advise Statutory Authorities e.g. GNB, Ausgrid, NSW Police, Ambulance and other Emergency Services of the new name in order that the GPS navigation system and the residents mailing addresses have been updated;
- d) advise local residents of the name change through a letter drop;
- e) advise North Sydney Precinct Committees; and
- f) update Council's Gazette Register.

5. RESPONSIBILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

- 5.1 Council's Property Assets Department is responsible for actioning all applications received for any proposed road or place name changes, the details of which are outlined in Section 4.2.

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- 5.2 The naming process of private roads and roads within community subdivisions is the responsibility of the landowner; however the name must be consistent with GNB guidelines on naming.

6. RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS/LEGISLATION

The Policy should be read in conjunction with the following Council policies and documents:

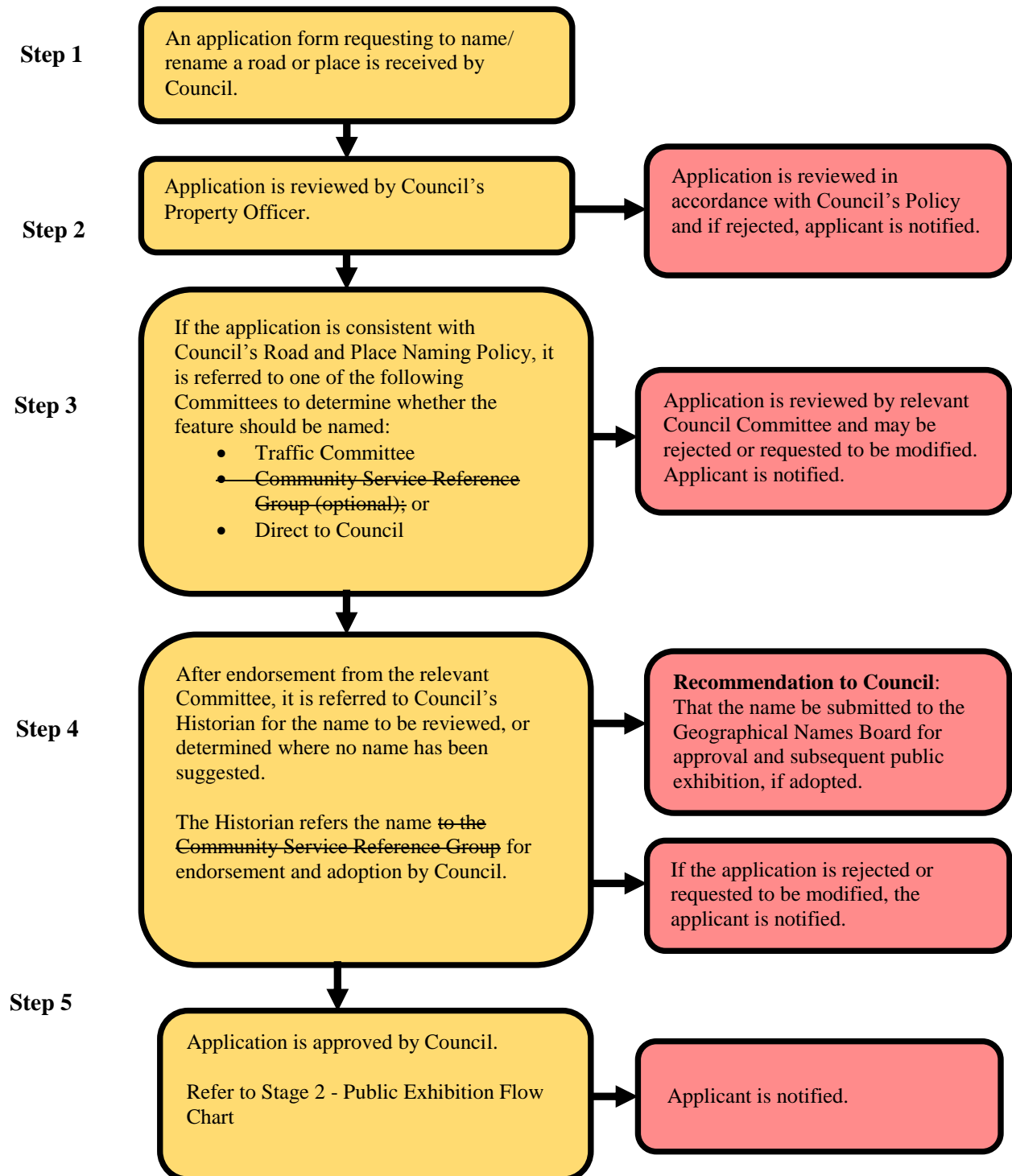
- Community Engagement Policy
- Property Addressing Policy

The Policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents/legislation:

- AS/NZS 4819:2003 Geographic Information - Rural and urban addressing
- AS1742.5-1997 Manual of uniform traffic control devices - Part 5 Street name and community facility name signs
- Geographical Names Act 1966
- Guidelines for the Determination of Place Names, October 2009
- Roads Act 1993 (Section 162)
- Roads (General) Regulation 2008

Version	Date Approved	Approved by	Resolution No.	Review Date
1	27 November 2012	Council	726	2012/13
2	18 February 2013	Council	61	2016/17
3	24 July 2017	Council	290	2017/18

APPENDIX A: FLOWCHART FOR CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION (STAGE 1)



APPENDIX B: FLOWCHART - PUBLIC EXHIBITION PROCESS (STAGE 2)

