



Government of South Australia

Department for Transport,  
Energy and Infrastructure

# Naming of Roads and Major Routes

Operational Instruction 20.16





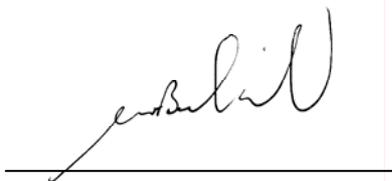
# ROAD MANAGEMENT Operational Instructions

## Naming of Roads and Major Routes - 20.16

### AMENDMENT RECORD

<i>Version</i>	<i>Page(s)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amendment Description</i>	<i>Init</i>
Ed1/Ro		28/03/05	(Prep by P Cops)	PC
Ed2/Ro		13/03/07	(Prep by P Cops)	PC
Ver 2	All	18/07/08	Format Changes Only	DW

This document has been prepared by the Traffic and Access Standards Section. It has been approved and authorised for use by Transport SA and its authorised agents by:



Manager, Traffic and Access Standards  
13/03/2007

Extracts may be reproduced providing the subject is kept in context and the source is acknowledged. Every effort has been made to supply complete and accurate information. This document is subject to continual revision and may change.

For information regarding the interpretation of this document please contact:

Traffic and Access Standards Section, Transport Services Division, Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Telephone: (08) 8343 2073 Facsimile: (08) 8343 2725

For additional copies or to confirm the current status of this document please contact:

Traffic and Access Standards Section, Transport Services Division, Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

Telephone: (08) 8343 2073 Facsimile: (08) 8343 2725

email: [peter.cops@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:peter.cops@saugov.sa.gov.au)

**Contents**

**1. Scope..... 4**

**2. Policy..... 4**

**3. Procedure for Naming Roads and Major Routes..... 5**

**4. Assessment of Road and Route Names ..... 8**

    4.1 Consultation ..... 8

    4.2 Assessment Criteria ..... 8

    4.3 Additional Assessment Guidelines..... 8

**5. Notification of Road and Route Names ..... 9**

**6. Media Release..... 9**

**7. Erection of Route Name Signs ..... 9**

**Appendix 1            Legislated Powers to Name Roads..... 10**

**Appendix 2            Legislated Process for Naming of Roads ..... 11**

**20.16**

## 1. Scope

This Operational Instruction provides internal guidelines and procedures for the naming of roads and major routes under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways.

The instruction applies to the naming of:

- Roads where the name of the road is recognised officially by council and Australia Post for address purposes and is declared under the provisions of the Local Government Act
- Major routes that provide a significant link from one part of the State to another and are named primarily to assist the travelling public, particularly tourists, navigate their way around the State. Major routes names do not generally replace official road or street names and therefore are not recognised for address purposes. Major routes may comprise number of roads.

20.16

The legislated powers to name roads and the legislated process to be followed are described in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.

## 2. Policy

The power to name a road under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways rests solely with the Commissioner (refer Appendix 1). The Commissioner may however seek the endorsement of the Minister before naming a road or major route.

The Commissioner has not given approval to any council to exercise powers in relation to the naming of any road that is under the care, control and management of the Commissioner. Therefore, a council must obtain the approval of the Commissioner before assigning a name to or changing the name of any road in its district that is under the care, control and management of the Commissioner.

Notwithstanding the powers of the Commissioner, it is considered that the process of naming roads and routes is a matter best managed by councils. Council must be consulted on all road and route naming issues and their cooperation sought to undertake the necessary consultation with the community and relevant organisations.

Observing previous policy, it is considered prudent not to proceed with the naming of a road or route unless all affected councils unanimously support the name. Since a name is often proposed in recognition of an individual who has made a major contribution to the local community or the name has a unique identification with a particular area, the naming of roads or routes can often be emotive and lead to strong debate within the community.

DTEI does not actively encourage the naming of major routes, preferring the established route numbering system as a means of providing navigational assistance to motorists. DTEI is nevertheless cognisant of the views of the community and other government organisations on this matter and accepts that a precedent is well established.

### 3. Procedure for Naming Roads and Major Routes

The basic procedures for the naming of a road and a major route are described by the flow charts in Figure 1 and Figure 2 respectively. These charts should be used as a guide as minor variation of these procedures may be required to suit the circumstances.

The naming of a road under the care, control and management of the Commissioner is generally initiated by DTEI or the relevant council(s), whereas the naming of a major route could quite likely be initiated by the tourism sector (government and private), council(s), private organisations and members of the public.

In practice, the need to name a road is generally the result of an extension or modification to the road network, eg construction of a new road, but occasionally proposals are put forward to re-name an existing road, eg Sir Donald Bradman Drive.

It should not be assumed that the project name of a newly constructed road will automatically become the road name. Project Managers should include the issue of naming the road in the consultation processes for the project.

A proposal to name a road or major route should provide documented support for the name selected and, if possible, evidence that other naming options have been considered. Submissions from councils must document the community consultation process undertaken.

20.16

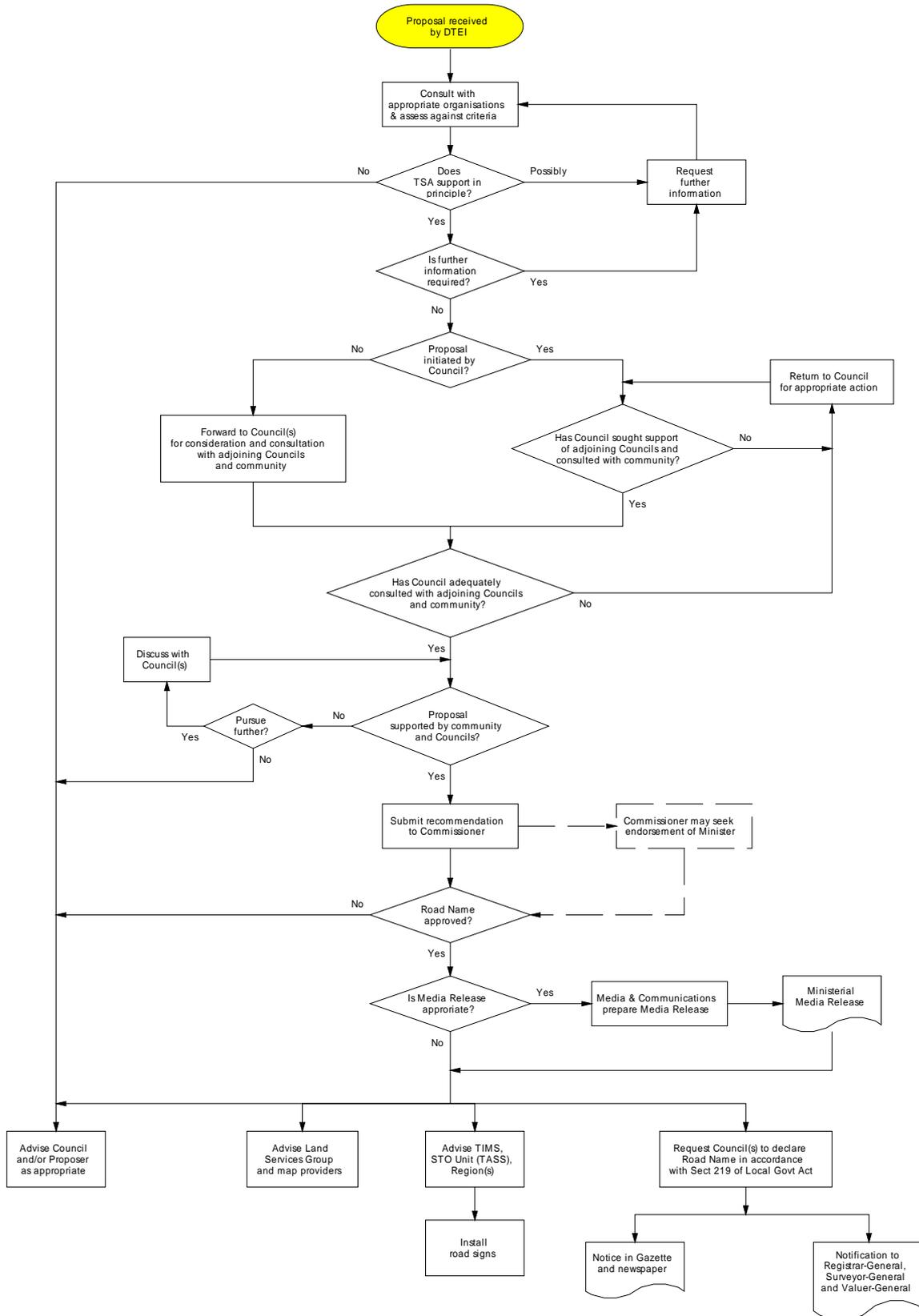


Figure 1: Procedure for the Naming of Roads

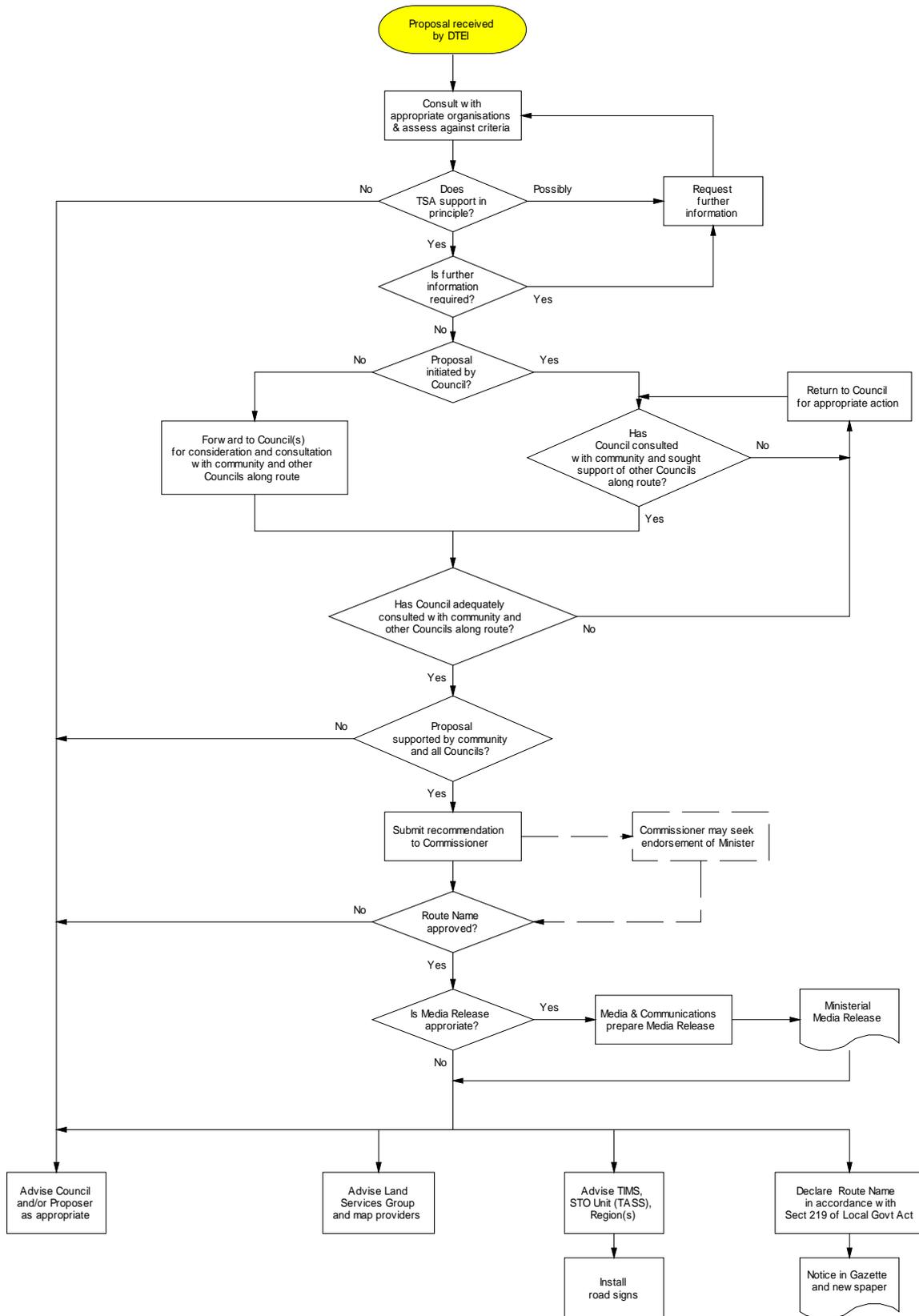


Figure 2: Procedure for the Naming of Routes

## 4. Assessment of Road and Route Names

### 4.1 Consultation

In addition to community consultation, it may be necessary to consult with a number of organisations in order to determine whether a proposed road or route name is appropriate. Such organisations may include the Office of the Surveyor-General, the Outback Areas Community Development Trust, the Local Government Association, the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the History Trust of South Australia and the RAA.

20.16

### 4.2 Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria should be taken into account when assessing a proposed name for a road or major route:

- Names selected should relate to the topography, physical attributes, or the European or Aboriginal history and culture of localities or places.
- Aboriginal names should be representative of the vocabulary of the original tribal inhabitants of the region.
- Duplication of names, or similar sounding names, within the State and preferably within Australia should be avoided.
- Naming of places or features after living persons should be avoided.
- Names should be reasonably easy to read, spell and pronounce.
- Continuous arterial and major roads should have the one name wherever possible. Sometimes this can be a difficult to achieve where a road is in two or more council areas or is the boundary between councils.
- Road names should commence and end at major intersection and not mid-block.
- Major route names should commence and end at major centres, intersections with other routes or state boundaries. Major route names should be continuous across council boundaries.

### 4.3 Additional Assessment Guidelines

The following guidelines should also be taken into consideration when assessing a proposed name for a road or major route

- Unduly long names and names composed of two or more words should be avoided. 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.
- Where it is intended that a road have the same name as a place or feature with an approved geographical name, particular care should be taken to ensure that the correct spelling is adopted.
- Where names have been changed or corrupted by long established local usage, it is not usually advisable to attempt to restore the original form; the spelling sanctioned by general usage should be adopted.
- The apostrophe mark must be omitted in the possessive case, eg "Smith's Road" should be "Smiths Road". It is preferable to deter a possessive "s" unless the sound of the name becomes harsh.

- The use of hyphens should be avoided.
- Proposals for road names should include an appropriate road type suffix.
- The practical application of road and route names to maps, plans and signs should be considered. Long names should not be allocated to short roads, as name crowding will result in street directories and other maps. Long names require larger road signs, resulting in greater cost and can lead to sign design and site location problems.
- Any commercial implications and the views of the immediate descendants of the person after which a road or route is being named should be investigated.

## 5. Notification of Road and Route Names

The legislated notification requirements are given in Appendix 2.

Notices in the Gazette and in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State, eg the Advertiser, can be arranged by either DTEI or council, as appropriate.

Notification to the Registrar-General, the Surveyor-General and the Valuer-General can be either be undertaken by either DTEI or council, as appropriate. It is considered unnecessary to notify the naming of a major route unless it affects the address of adjoining properties

The following shall be informed of the naming of any roads or routes:

- Map providers: Universal Publishers, Sensis, RAA.
- Office of the Surveyor-General (Land Services Group, DTEI.).
- Relevant regions and councils.
- Transport Information Management Section (TIMS) for updating of the Road Centreline System and Road Features File.
- Statewide Traffic and Operation Unit of Traffic and Access Standards Section (TASS) for design and erection of signs.

## 6. Media Release

Consideration should be given to whether it is appropriate for the naming of a road or route to be announced by means of a ministerial media release. Where a major route has significant relevance to tourism, it may be appropriate for the Minister for Tourism to announce the naming of the route. The [Media & Communications](#) Section of Corporate Services should be consulted prior to notices being published in the Gazette and newspaper.

## 7. Erection of Route Name Signs

Road signing for route names should be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Add supplementary plates to reassurance signs or replace signs if near end of service life at each end of the route in the first instance.
- Include route names on other signs as they are replaced as part of normal maintenance or upgrading operations.

Where a route passes through a number of townships and major intersections, it may be necessary to add route names to other signs in the first instance.

## Appendix 1

### Legislated Powers to Name Roads

Section 219 of Part 2 of Chapter 11 of the Local Government Act 1999 gives a council the power to assign a name to or change the name of a public road.

However Section 211 of the Local Government Act prohibits a council from exercising its powers under Part 2 of Chapter 11 on a road under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways unless:

- a) the council is acting under an agreement with the Commissioner of Highways; or
- b) the council is acting under or in accordance with a notice of the Commissioner of Highways under section 26 of the Highways Act 1926.

Section 26(7) of the Highways Act 1926 also prohibits a council from exercising its powers under Part 2 of Chapter 11 of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to a road under the care, control and management of the Commissioner except to such extent (if any) as the Commissioner may approve by written notice to the council.

Roads under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways include:

- roads within districts where the Commissioner has assumed care, control and management under Section 26(3) of the Highways Act;
- public roads outside of districts (Section 27CA of the Highways Act); and .
- controlled access roads (Section 30A of the Highways Act).

As Section 26(6) of the Highways Act provides that the provisions of Part 2 of Chapter 11 of the Local Government Act 1999 apply to roads under the care, control and management of the Commissioner as if references to a council were references to the Commissioner, the power to name roads therefore rests solely with the Commissioner of Highways for all public roads outside council districts and for any road under his care, control and management within council districts.

It should be noted that there is no direct provision in the Highways Act for the naming of roads. The Commissioner derives this power from the Local Government Act.

20.16

## Appendix 2

### Legislated Process for Naming of Roads

Section 219 of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires the following steps to be undertaken when naming a road:

1. A council or the Commissioner must give the adjoining council at least two months notice of the proposed change and consider any representations made by the adjoining council in response to the notice.
2. A council or the Commissioner must immediately notify the Registrar-General, the Surveyor-General and the Valuer-General of the assignment of a name or the change of a name.
3. Public notice must be given of a resolution assigning or changing a name. Public notice is defined in the *Local Government Act* as a notice published in the *Gazette* and in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State.

20.16