



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP  
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Your ref A600544  
Our refs CTS 19533/20

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30 September 2020

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr George and Alice Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 10 September 2020, concerning paper petition no. 3420-20 and e-petition no. 3379-20 (the petitions) received by the House on 9 September 2020, regarding the designation of Kirra as a suburb.

In response to the petitions, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (my department) administers the *Place Names Act 1994* and is the responsible agency for the naming of suburbs and localities.

I acknowledge petitioners' request and reasons for the naming of "Kirra" and note that Kirra is recorded in the Place Names Database as an unbounded neighbourhood in the suburb of Coolangatta within the City of the Gold Coast, gazetted on 13 November 1982.

The formal process for suggesting changes to place names, as administered by my department, is outlined as follows.

Members of the community may provide suggestions to make or alter place names and/or the boundaries of place names. Each place names suggestion must comply with the current Place Naming Policy and Principles available at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/title/place-names/naming/principles>.

In order to commence my department's assessment process, a member of the public will be required to submit an official suggestion in writing to my department. A written place names suggestion may be lodged in three ways, either:

- by post to: South Region, Place Names, 120 Lennox Street, Maryborough QLD 4650
- via email to: [QLDPlaceNames@dnrme.qld.gov.au](mailto:QLDPlaceNames@dnrme.qld.gov.au)
- lodged online at: <https://www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/place-names/place-name-suggestion-form>

Any official place name suggestion will need to contain the following information:

- The suggested change, which must adhere to my department's naming principles outlined in the above website.

- Sound reasons for changing the current place name, for example, the issues with the delivery of emergency and other services. Please be aware that in relation to this requirement, suburb names and boundaries are intended to be enduring and should only be changed where there are sound reasons to do so.
- An accurate geographical description, map or diagram of the suggested change, including a defined boundary for the proposed area.
- A consolidated letter of support from the relevant council, in this case the City of the Gold Coast, including acknowledgement that the council may need to reallocate location addresses and notify affected persons. Please also note that support from an individual local councillor is not considered sufficient for these purposes.
- Documentation showing widespread support from the affected property owners, both private and businesses, including acknowledgement that they may need to change their location and postal address details.

Following receipt of the required information as part of an official written place names suggestion, my department will assess the suggestion in accordance with current policies and procedures.

As part of its assessment process, my department will also seek advice from key stakeholders including Australia Post and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

Please be aware that although my department will consider all available and relevant information, there is no guarantee that any submission received will be successful in a place name change.

It should also be noted that a petition is not the department's preferred method of demonstrating community support for a place names suggestion. This is because signatories not directly impacted by the suggested place name change can often sign petitions and citizens and businesses directly affected by the suggested place name change may not have had the proper chance to offer their views.

The most appropriate method to provide evidence of community support is by a neighbourhood survey of the residences and/or businesses impacted by the place names change suggestion. A neighbourhood survey should offer the option of commenting and voting, either for or against the proposed suggestion.

I provide you with this response for tabling in accordance with Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Simon Zanatta, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

**Dr Anthony Lynham MP**  
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy