



**Hon Rachel Nolan MP**  
Member for Ipswich  
Ref: CTS 15873/11



**Minister for Finance, Natural  
Resources and The Arts**

23 SEP 2011

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 8 September 2011 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1697-11 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition draws to the attention of the House that the residents of Stanbrooke Estate would like their estate to be included in the suburb of Gumdale rather than the current suburb of Tingalpa.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management administers the *Place Names Act 1994* which includes the process required to alter suburb boundaries and names.

To initiate a Place Naming activity to amend the boundary between Gumdale and Tingalpa, an application must be lodged with the Department of Environment and Resource Management. The application should provide an illustrative plan showing the suggested changes to the boundary between the suburbs and letters of support from relevant members of the Legislative Assembly and the Brisbane City Council.

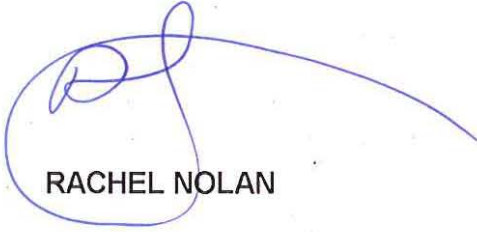
The illustrative plan should indicate whether the Park Reserve under the control of the Brisbane City Council which lies to the west of Stanbrooke Estate is intended to be included into Gumdale as well. The plan must take into account such things as breaks in residential development, open space or park areas, ridges, creeks and road centrelines. Any known, proposed extension to residential lands within the area should also be identified. Details about the establishment and amendment of suburb and locality boundaries are outlined in the attached Fact Sheet.

While the petition shows significant community support for a change when an application is received by the Department of Environment and Resource Management, the views of all the residents affected by the change will be sought. The department must undertake community consultation during its investigation into this matter.

Level 5 Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 611 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3224 2880  
Facsimile +61 7 3836 0553  
Email [finance@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:finance@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
[naturalresources@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:naturalresources@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
[arts@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:arts@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Peter Lennon,  
Director, Data Management and Acquisition of the department on telephone  
(07) 3896 3017.

Yours sincerely



RACHEL NOLAN

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## Place names—localities and suburbs

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) administers the *Place Names Act 1994*, which provides processes for naming areas and geographic features.

An official place name may be given to any geographic feature or area in Queensland that is deemed by the Minister to require a name.

### Localities and suburbs

In 1996, it was decided that all localities and suburbs should be officially bounded and named.

The subsequent process now ensures that all Queensland areas have an official suburb or locality name.

Suburb is the term reserved for urban communities.

Locality is the term used in the rural context.

Localities should have well-defined boundaries and names that are not:

- duplicated
- prone to be mispronounced
- offensive.

Suburb and locality names are important because they provide reference points and boundaries for finding a location.

For example, an emergency response team relies on up-to-date information to dispatch response teams effectively.

### Regions

Regions are not considered under place naming legislation as their boundaries are not usually well-defined.

Regional names are generally used in a commercial context by communities and promotional bodies when promoting services, features or attributes.

Particular regions such as the Sunshine Coast, Capricorn Coast, and Whitsunday Coast are regularly known by their regional names and are not to be used for address purposes.

### Application

Offensive names, including those names that may offend Indigenous cultures, are not used. If possible, place names are not duplicated.

Some names have been adopted through common usage or commercial promotion and advertising. In these instances such names are not official and should not be used in addresses.

As near-urban localities become more closely settled, additional suburbs may be necessary to recognise distinct areas of community interest.

Refer to fact sheet *L100—Place names* for more information.

### Process

There are three main steps in processing an application for a place name:

- preparing a proposal (including a plan)
- advertising the proposal
- publicising the outcome of the proposal.

The Minister approves place names including locality and suburb names.

As all localities in Queensland are now formalised, activities are now confined to:

- performing reviews
- considering changes such as amalgamations or boundary movements
- introducing new localities.

### Assessment

DERM is guided by the following principles when making assessments of suburb or locality names:

1. Localities or suburbs must be clearly and unambiguously described on a plan showing the bounding lines, with any natural or artificial boundary identifiers described on each section of the boundary.
2. Communities of interest, or areas clearly contributing to a single set of community facilities, should form the basis of a suburb entity. Where possible, these communities should not be bisected by a suburb boundary.
3. Nearby areas of similar character and functional relationships should be included in the same suburb or locality wherever possible.
4. Boundaries between suburbs or localities should follow definite and distinguishable community or physical barriers. They often coincide with breaks in residential development or zoning such as open space areas, ridges, creeks, minor flood plains and





major industrial concentrations, road centrelines, land and natural feature boundaries.

5. Expressways, major arterial roads, highways, railways, canals or pipelines that allow few crossing points can also be suitable boundaries.
6. A suburb or locality name would normally not extend across a local government boundary but if so, the locality boundaries must be contiguous across the local government boundary.
7. As far as is practicable, no streets or roads should be divided so that sections of the roads are in different suburbs or localities.
8. Community usage should be taken into consideration, provided that confusing boundary alignments are not created for suburbs or localities.
9. No suburb or locality boundary should bisect a lot (a parcel of land) into separate localities, with the exception of large state forests, national parks, lakes and other large areas.
10. The use of cardinal directional indicators within place names should be avoided wherever possible. Where the use is unavoidable, the cardinal direction should be placed after the specific name—for example, Capalaba West not West Capalaba.
11. No further use of unbounded neighbourhoods or localities will be supported. All new suburbs or localities are to be bounded and recorded in their own right.
12. Estate names should be avoided as names for suburbs or localities as this may lead to use of the name for commercial purposes.
13. Production of the key name, with a prefix or suffix added should also be avoided for suburbs and locality names. This is to reduce the risk of addressing problems that may occur if the prefix or suffix is omitted when calls are made to emergency services e.g. downs, east or lakes.

- the extent or length of time a name has been used
- any potential confusion about names or locations in general.

### Further information

For more information about the place name process or to search current place names, visit the DERM website <[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)>.

Contact a departmental business centre for more specific place naming matters.

- fact sheet *L100—Place names*.

July 2009  
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For general enquiries contact the  
Queensland Government call centre 13 13 04  
or visit [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

### Other information

In addition to the assessment considerations on specific naming issues, DERM also considers:

- community views
- cultural and historical significance of the suggested names
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customs
- guidelines and conventions set by relevant intergovernmental committees or international committees
- the appropriateness of a place or locality having more than a single name
- commonly known names of places