

ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

PLACE NAMING *in the Northern Territory*





Umbrawarra Gorge: Recorded as the Aboriginal name for the area where alluvial tin had been discovered.



PREAMBLE

In 2017, the Northern Territory Government requested the Place Names Committee to elevate Aboriginal identity, language and history into the everyday through place naming. The Chief Minister's call was as much about historical accuracy as it was about respect. It was a call that the Place Names Committee fully endorsed.

A number of Aboriginal place names, language words and commemorative names have been officially registered in the Northern Territory. However, the bulk of these names are in areas outside of our major cities and towns and there is much more that can be done. Consequently, the Place Names Committee's aim is to make, where possible, Aboriginal place names and languages a primary consideration in any new official naming proposals in the Territory. The Place Names Committee also seeks to restore Aboriginal place names to significant geographic features across the Northern Territory.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, in conjunction with the Place Names Committee, has developed the Place Names Enhancement Project (PNEP). This Engagement Framework is a key part of that project. The Framework has been developed to assist people and organisations who are wanting to propose official place names to undertake the engagement with Aboriginal groups and organisations necessary to realise this mission.

Aboriginal place naming can take the shape of:

- the identification of Aboriginal place names or language words that can be officially registered as standalone place names
- the dual naming of geographic features where there is already an officially registered name in place
- the commemoration of Aboriginal people who have made significant contributions to their communities and the Territory.

In the pursuit of incorporating Aboriginal place names into the official nomenclature, the Place Names Committee will ensure that Aboriginal cultural knowledge is respected and place naming processes understood by stakeholders.

As well as striving for the greater official recognition of Aboriginal place names and languages, the Place Names Committee continues to uphold the basic principles of place naming. These being:

- Place names demonstrate a strong association with the Northern Territory's history and culture.
- Names are meaningful and reflect the history of specific places.
- Place names are not derogatory, discriminatory or hurtful within our community.
- Names recognise the contribution of people from diverse cultures and backgrounds to the development of the Northern Territory.
- Place naming follows robust processes to ensure that stakeholders and the broader community are engaged with place naming in an informed and respectful manner.

Place names are important. They are more than just a reference system for transport, communications and emergency services. They are more than just words on maps. Place names are stories for places. They can be a tool for learning that encourages a deeper understanding of the unique histories of our places. Officially registered place names demonstrate what we, as a society, value both from our history and in our future.

Dr Samantha Wells

Chairperson
Place Names Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Place Names Committee acknowledges Aboriginal beliefs that Dreaming Ancestors gave the first names to features on lands and waters throughout the Northern Territory. These Ancestors also created the first Aboriginal peoples and gave them languages to speak. These languages are specific to place and have been passed down through the ancestral creation stories of many generations. Aboriginal people as descendants of those Ancestors maintain and look after the language and the language names for places.

The use of Aboriginal place names and languages in our official naming systems:

- recognises that Aboriginal place names were the first names for Country in the Northern Territory
- acknowledges that Aboriginal place names hold rich information about land, history and culture
- enables a broader understanding of the Aboriginal cultural significance of places and facilitates ongoing intergenerational cultural learning and culture sharing
- provides the opportunity to restore Aboriginal place names to geographic features
- provides the opportunity to incorporate Aboriginal languages and place names into everyday communications
- supports the revitalisation of languages in places where dispossession has been profound
- provides a pathway for truth telling, reconciliation and healing.



Bundilla Beach: Larrakia language word meaning 'girl' or 'young woman'.

STRUCTURE OF THIS ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

This Engagement Framework is provided in three sections to help you quickly access information relevant to your naming proposal.

OVERVIEW

- Background
- Vision and mission
- Purpose of this Framework
- Principles and aims
- Engagement with stakeholders
- Engagement with the community

ENGAGEMENT GUIDES

- Developers Engagement Guide
- Commemoration Requests Engagement Guide
- Engagement Guide to Recognise Aboriginal Names for Geographic Features
- Guide for Land Councils and Aboriginal Organisations
- Guide for Local Government Councils
- Engagement Process

RESOURCES

- Identify stakeholders for your place naming request
- Stakeholder contact details



Garramilla Boulevard: Garramilla is the Larrakia name for 'white stone' in reference to the white rock found in the Darwin area.

OVERVIEW

Background

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (the Department), in collaboration with the Place Names Committee (the Committee), is progressing the Place Names Enhancement Project. This project targets improvements to the place naming system to address the commitments of the Chief Minister in respect of Aboriginal place naming as well as feedback on place naming matters received from industry.

The Engagement and Consultation Framework Working Group was formed to develop a framework for engaging and consulting on place naming opportunities across the Northern Territory, including the use of place names derived from words or names within Aboriginal languages of the Northern Territory.

Vision and mission for place naming

Vision: Place names honour the diverse history and culture of the Northern Territory and its people.

Mission: To elevate Aboriginal culture, language and history through official place names.

Purpose of this Framework

This Framework is for all people making naming requests. It outlines who should be involved in the process and provides guidance on how to engage on place naming using a best practice approach.

This document outlines the expectations of the Place Names Committee for engagement with stakeholders and the broader community, and provides advice on

how to engage to ensure that proposals have been through an appropriate engagement process.

In this document, engagement refers to collaboration with relevant stakeholders to develop a proposed name; or, where appropriate, to seek views on a proposed name.

This Framework supports the vision and mission for place naming in the Northern Territory.

NT place naming process for registered names





Principles and aims

The following principles and aims should be used as a benchmark for designing engagement activities with stakeholders, and to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are considered in proposals.

The Committee will use these principles and aims to assess the engagement conducted before making a recommendation to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics on a place naming proposal.

Principles for engagement

These principles are based on the values and principles expressed within the Northern Territory Government's Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy.

Engagement should be conducted in accordance with the following principles:

- **clarity** – purpose and processes are clear and decision making boundaries understood
- **work together** – interested persons are properly identified and represented; relationships are established and partnerships are formed to enable collaboration
- **respect and integrity** – engagement is genuine and honest and recognises existing Aboriginal decision making and governance processes
- **commitment** – engagement is properly resourced and enough time given
- **accountability** – processes are agreed and adhered to; any changes are communicated; decision making is sustainable; and the community is kept informed of progress and outcomes
- **flexible and agile** – engagement responds to local needs and aspirations of engaged parties
- **inclusion** – enough time and space is allowed for dialogue to reflect and develop a shared understanding of all views
- **self-determination** - free, prior and informed consent that respects Aboriginal peoples' rights to participate or not participate in decision-making.

Aims

Engagement on place naming is to:

- seek and capture the views of 'interested persons' and broader stakeholders
- collaborate, partner with and reach agreement on place naming with specific stakeholders in certain circumstances
- confirm that a proposal meets cultural, historical and social expectations
- confirm that a proposal is relevant to the place and the people affected by the proposal
- be flexible and match the engagement needs of a specific request and 'interested persons'
- work with stakeholders to address place naming issues where required
- ensure that place naming processes are understood by all stakeholders.

Engagement with stakeholders

For every naming proposal, the *Place Names Act 1967* requires that the views of interested persons are sought before the Committee makes a recommendation to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics on a proposal. 'Interested persons' are identified as:

- the local government council if the proposal relates to a place within a local government area
- the relevant land council if the proposal relates to a place outside a local government area
- the owner or developer of the land
- the family or descendants of a person proposed to be commemorated through the naming of a place.

In some proposals there will be a need to engage with additional stakeholders. This will vary depending on the naming proposal and location of the place. Some requests will be quite simple and others more complex and require broader engagement with multiple stakeholders. Some proposals may require targeted or broad engagement with the community.



Jimmy Stanton Bridge named in commemoration of James Evered Stanton (1917 - 1978).

The person, group or organisation making the place naming request must engage with stakeholders to:

- develop name proposals
- seek views on a proposed name
- seek advice on appropriate stakeholders to engage, or the correct spelling/meaning and pronunciation or appropriate use of a name; and/or
- inform and allow comment from the community on a proposed name.

Different stakeholder groups and the basis for their engagement in place naming is provided in Table 1.

Information for stakeholders is outlined in the Guide for Land Councils and Aboriginal Organisations and the Guide for Local Government Councils.

Written evidence of engagement must be provided to the Committee as part of the naming request. This may be in the form of:

- letters of support from the community or family members of a person to be commemorated through place naming
- minutes from a local government council meeting
- a letter of advice/support from the relevant Aboriginal land council or native title representative body
- letters of advice/support from Aboriginal representative bodies from the place where the name will be applied
- letters of advice/support from relevant local government council or land owner detailing the engagement process and the parties to it
- letters of advice provided from Aboriginal language centres, linguists, historians or anthropologists.

If you have not been successful in your efforts to engage with stakeholders, please contact the Department (Place Names) for assistance.



Table 1: Stakeholder Groups

Who	When	Why	How
Local Government	For naming requests within a local government area.	Local government councils may wish to be involved in identifying a potential name, conducting community consultation on a name, or providing their views on a proposed name.	Seek views on a proposed name.
Land Council and/or native title representative body	For naming requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outside of a local government area; or • where there are native title interests. 	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will have an interest in that land under either the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> or the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)</i> . Ownership rights are closely linked to traditional affiliations (e.g. laws and customs) in relation to the land.	Seek views on a proposed name. Collaborate with to identify potential name. Collaborate with to undertake further engagement on a proposed name or to identify a potential name.
Aboriginal representative body / Aboriginal language custodian	For naming requests proposing an Aboriginal word or Aboriginal place name regardless of the status of the land.	Other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incorporated bodies or community controlled organisations may represent the interests of traditional owners.	Collaborate with to identify potential name. Seek views on a name that is an Aboriginal word.
Family or descendants of person to be commemorated through place naming	Request a person be commemorated through a future naming opportunity. Naming a specific place to commemorate a person. Use a name already accepted for commemoration.	The family or descendants of a person have an interest in whether to commemorate the person as well as using their name for a specific place.	Seek views on the use or future use of the person's name.



Who	When	Why	How
Owner of place being named	For naming requests related to the naming of a private road (road not vested in the Territory or local government council), land or building and you are not the owner or developer of the place.	The owner will have an interest in the naming request. Note that in some instances the owner may be the local government council and already identified for engagement.	Collaborate with to identify potential name.
Residents/ owners, businesses or organisations whose address is affected by a change of name	For requests to change a place name.	If a request to change a place name would result in a change of address for residents/owners, businesses or organisations, their views should be considered in the proposal. The place name may be used as part of a business or organisation's name and any change may impact on that business or organisation.	Inform and allow comment on a proposed name.
General community	<p>For requests to name, rename or dual name a geographic or topographic feature.</p> <p>For requests to name a local park, garden, reserve, recreation or sporting ground that is open to or used by the public.</p> <p>The Department (Place Names) will determine the need for and extent of community engagement.</p>	The general community may have an interest in the naming of a place within their vicinity.	Inform and allow comment on a proposed name.

When the Department may undertake engagement with the community

Upon receiving a place names request, the Department (Place Names) will assess whether engagement with the community is required. Engagement with the community may be considered appropriate for:

- renaming/changing an existing name or dual naming
- complex proposals
- a higher than ordinary level of public interest in the proposal.

Engagement with the community will be undertaken by the Department (Place Names) and may include:

- information about the request placed on the Have Your Say NT and Place Names websites
- Facebook notice on the Department page.

If engagement is required, the requestor will be advised and asked to notify stakeholders they have already engaged that further engagement is occurring.



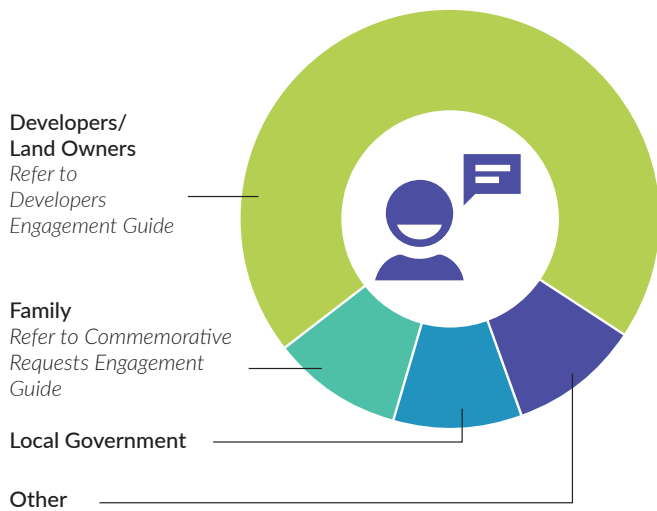
Untyeyetwelye: Arrernte name for ANZAC Hill meaning 'Corkwood story' also known as Atnelkentyarliweke.

ENGAGEMENT GUIDES

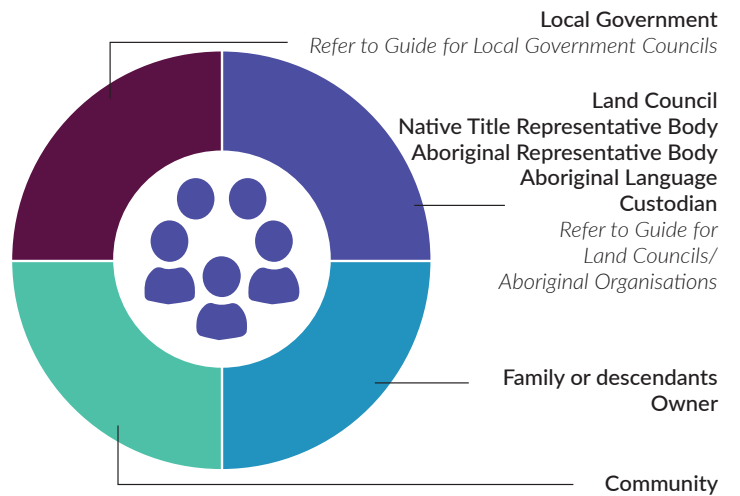
For place names registered in the five years since 2017, the majority of requests were made by developers/land owners for roads and parks.

The following guides provide engagement information specific to groups involved in place naming and types of naming requests.

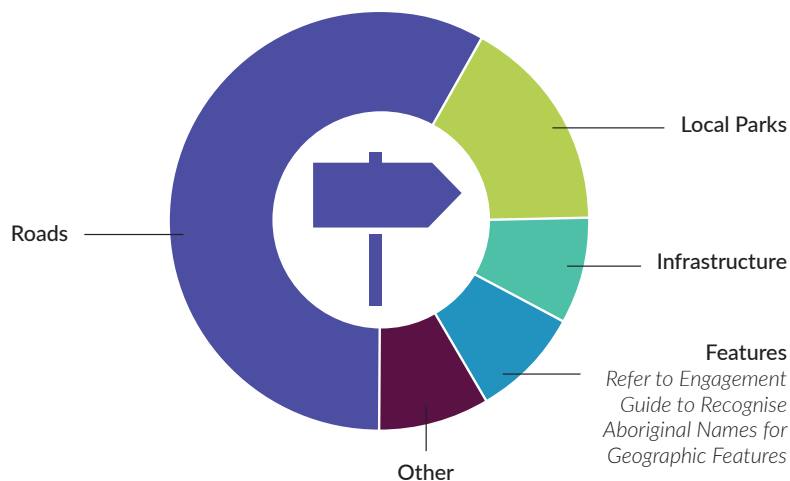
REQUESTORS



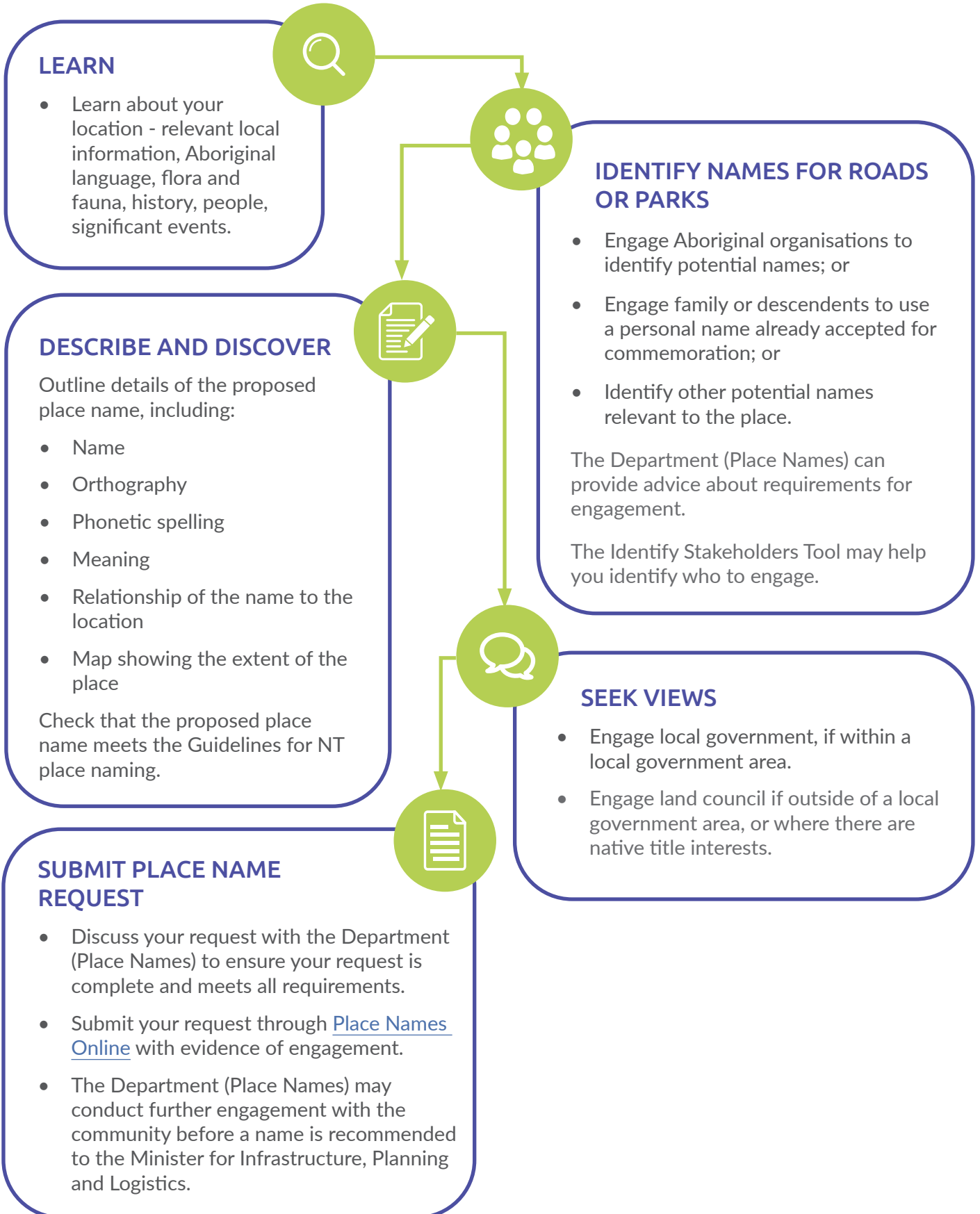
STAKEHOLDERS



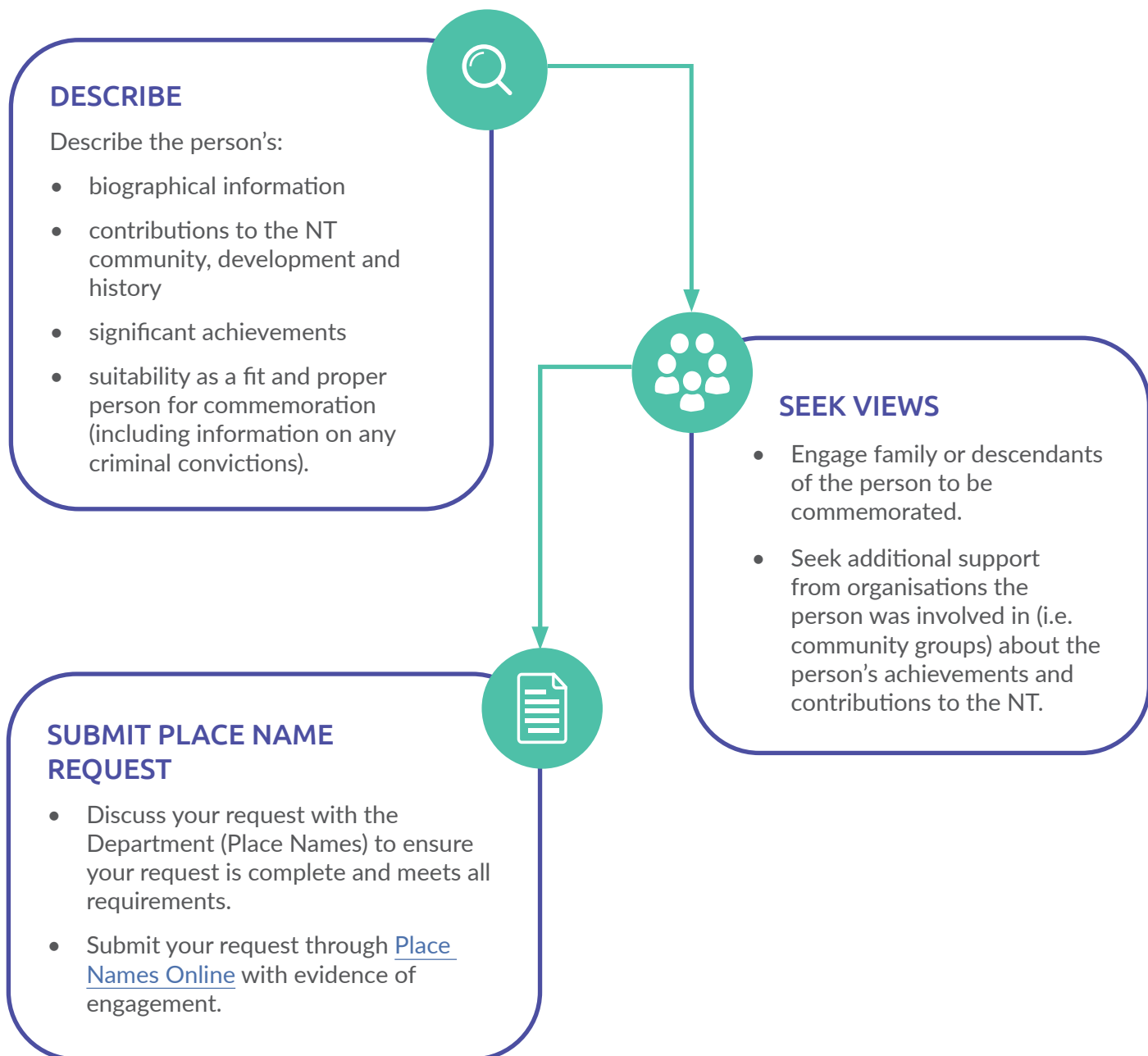
PLACE NAMES



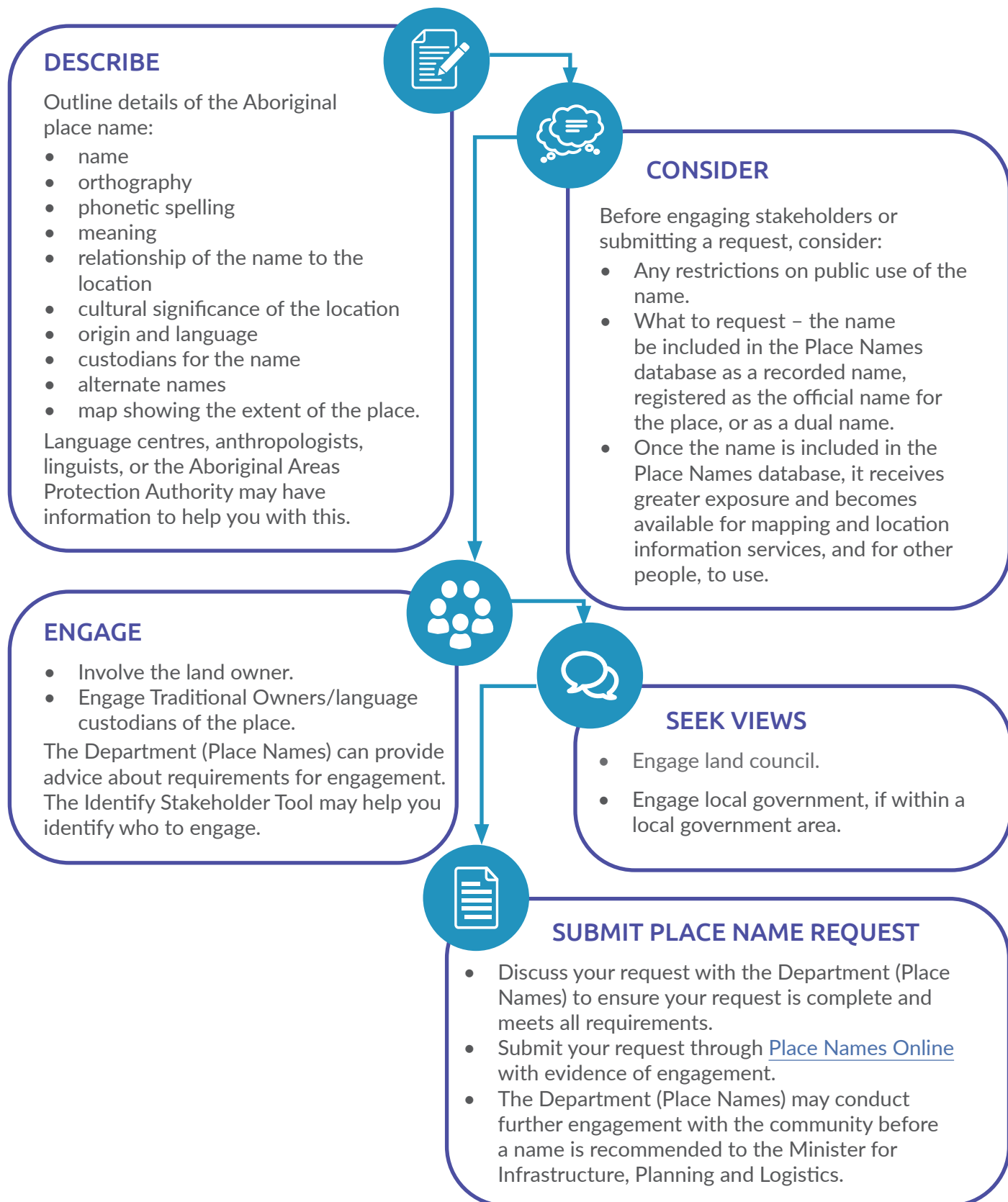
DEVELOPERS ENGAGEMENT GUIDE



COMMEMORATIVE REQUESTS ENGAGEMENT GUIDE



ENGAGEMENT GUIDE TO RECOGNISE ABORIGINAL NAMES FOR GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES



GUIDE FOR LAND COUNCILS AND ABORIGINAL ORGANISATIONS



What to expect in the engagement process

Someone making a place names request (the requestor), may ask you (the stakeholder) to:

- collaborate with them to identify a name for a specific place
- provide ideas about names that may be appropriate for a specific place
- provide ideas about names that could be used to name a place in the future
- identify places where names should not be used
- define how a proposed name should be spelt, and pronounced
- provide information on the origin, background and meaning of the name
- identify other parties to engage with about the request
- comment on their plans to name a place
- provide written support for their proposed name for a specific place
- be informed about their plans to name a place.

You can expect the requestor to:

Explain	Ask you	Give you
Why they are engaging with you.	If you want to be involved.	Information about the place being named (i.e. what is being named and where it is).
What they want from the engagement.	How they can best work with you.	Enough time to be involved in the process in a way that suits you.
How much say you will have in their request.	If you have a process for place naming.	Keep you informed about their naming request.
Who else they are engaging with.	How much time you need to be involved.	
Their process and how long they have to engage on a place name.		

In turn, the requestor will expect you to:

- Respond to their approach in a timely manner.
- Tell them if you do or do not want to be involved.
- Tell them about the best way to work with you.
- Let them know about your processes and timeframes and how much time you are likely to need to be involved.
- Provide your views on a proposed name in writing so that this can be provided to the Place Names Committee as part of their request.
- If providing suggested names for consideration, provide information on the spelling, pronunciation and meaning of the words, and any cultural restrictions to their use.

If you choose not to be involved in the place names request, the requestor may still submit a request without your views, support or involvement. The requestor will be asked to detail their engagement process, stakeholders approached and the outcomes.

Before making a recommendation or decision about a place name, the Place Names Committee will check that the requestor has sought the views of appropriate stakeholders as part of their request.

What you can do to help

Requestors may not know how to talk to you about place naming. Providing details for a contact person and any information about your general timeframes, process and/or policy can help requestors understand how to engage with you.

GUIDE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS



What is the role of local councils in place naming?

As an 'interested person'

The Place Names Act 1967 requires that the views of 'interested persons' are sought before the Place Names Committee can make a recommendation to the Minister for the naming of a place.

If the naming request relates to a place within a local government area, the views of the elected local government council established for that area must be sought.

If the naming request relates to the naming of land, the views of the owner or developer of the land must be sought.

Local council's views may be sought as the local government council established for the area, or as the owner of the land.

You can expect the requestor to:

Explain	Ask you	Give you
Their process and how long they have to engage on a place name.	What your views are on the proposed names. If you have a process for place naming. Your timeframe for responding.	Information about the place being named (i.e. what is being named and where it is).

In turn, the requestor will expect you to:

- Respond to their approach in a timely manner.
- Tell them about the best way to work with you.
- Let them know about your processes and timeframes.
- Provide your views on a proposed name in writing so that this can be provided to the Place Names Committee as part of their request.

If you choose not to provide your views on the proposed name, or choose not to collaborate with the requestor to identify a name, the requestor may still submit a request without your views, support or involvement. The Place Names unit will ask the requestor to detail their engagement process, approached stakeholders and the outcomes.

Before making a recommendation about a place name, the Place Names Committee will check that the requestor has sought the views of all stakeholders appropriate as part of their request. A recommendation can be made, so long as local council views have been sought and sufficient time

As a requestor

Local councils may submit a request to name a place.

If local council's views are sought

It is the requestor's responsibility to seek the views of stakeholders as part of the place naming process. The requestor may ask you to provide your views for their proposed name for a specific place, or to collaborate with them to identify a name for a specific place.

You do not need to ensure that the right stakeholders have been engaged in the naming request. The Place Names Committee will do this before making a recommendation about a place name.

allowed for a response, regardless of whether or not a response was provided by the local council.

What local councils can do to help requestors

Requestors may not know how to talk to local councils about place naming. Providing details for a contact person and any information about your local council's general timeframes, process and/or policy can help requestors understand how to seek your views.

If local council is making the place naming request

If making a place naming request, it is local council's responsibility to seek the views of stakeholders, as local council is the requestor in this situation. However, if the place is within the local council's area and is owned by the local council, additional stakeholder views may not be required. For requests relating to an Aboriginal word, Traditional Owners for the area must be engaged, regardless of the status of the land.



ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Step 1: Prepare an engagement strategy

- Identify what level of engagement is required for your proposal.
- Define the purpose and intended goal to be achieved through engagement.
- Learn about your location – relevant Aboriginal language, history, people, significant events.
- Identify stakeholders that must be engaged, and other stakeholders that may have an interest and could be involved or informed.
- Define the role of each stakeholder in this engagement (i.e. Will a stakeholder play a role in engaging more people on your behalf? Will you directly engage with a stakeholder? Will stakeholders be involved in identifying a name?).
- Outline how each stakeholder will be engaged, and list engagement activities (e.g. discussions over a period of time, interviews, use interpreters, story-telling, group discussions, focus groups, workshops, posters, flyers, community notice boards, newsletters, social media, websites).
- Define and check the suitability of the timeline, considering stakeholder's own timeframes (e.g. council meeting dates) and allocate staff and resources to match timelines and activities.
- The Department (Place Names) can provide advice on your engagement strategy.

Step 2: Engagement with stakeholders

- Build awareness of a proposal at the start of the engagement by outlining the purpose and processes for engagement, whether stakeholders will/might/don't have a say in the decision for a proposed name, and your planned timelines (i.e. write to stakeholders, ask peak bodies to distribute notices, seek invitations to present to boards).
- Invite stakeholders to activities, ensuring plenty of notice is provided to stakeholders (minimum of one week's notice should be provided).
- Undertake activities at appropriate times and dates, run activities as outlined in the engagement strategy, and outline next steps at the end of each activity.
- Ensure the stakeholders are aware of how they can contact you during the engagement, and be available outside of planned activities to talk with stakeholders.

Step 3: Finalise the engagement

- Analyse feedback received from stakeholders, and prepare an engagement outcomes report.
- Present draft outcomes report to stakeholders, seeking confirmation of the record.
- Seek support in writing of proposed name from stakeholders.
- Finalise engagement outcomes report and record of stakeholder support for submission with a proposal to the Department (Place Names).



RESOURCES

Identify stakeholders for your place naming request

The Identify Stakeholders Tool helps requestors identify who to engage with based on the location and type of request. Information is provided for organisations that must be engaged with depending on the specific request.

The Identify Stakeholder Tool can be accessed at the Place Names website: placenames.nt.gov.au.

Stakeholder contact list

The Department (Place Names) can provide you with contact details for stakeholders that may need to be engaged for place naming requests. This includes local government councils, land councils, relevant Aboriginal organisations and, if seeking to use a name already accepted for commemoration, family/descendants of the person to be commemorated.

There may be other people or groups who have an interest in place naming requests specific to the type and location of each place name request; for example, land owners of the place being named, family/descendants of a person proposed to be commemorated through place naming, or residents/owners or businesses whose address would be affected by a change of name. The Department (Place Names) can provide advice about who may need to be engaged specific to your request

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics would like to thank members of the Engagement and Consultation Framework Working Group for giving their time, knowledge and experience to create this Engagement Framework. The dedication of members, their willingness to explore issues from varying perspectives and patience with the process is greatly appreciated.

The Working Group included representatives from Anindilyakwa Land Council, Central Land Council, Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council, Local Government Association of the NT, Property Council of Australia (NT Division), Urban Development Institute of Australia (NT Division), Planning Institute of Australia (NT Division), Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, NT Planning Commission, Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics Batchelor Institute, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics. The Working Group was chaired by the Chairperson of the Place Names Committee of the Northern Territory.



Kurparu is Australian magpie in Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara dialect.

