



18 March 2020

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Place Names Bill passes

The Tasmanian majority Liberal Government is committed to reducing red tape and empowering the whole community to have their say on place names.

Having today passed the Upper House, our Place Names Bill modernises the naming of places in Tasmania, replacing outdated sections of the Survey Coordination Act 1944 and will provide a more contemporary approach to naming places.

This paves the way for a number of new initiatives including the establishment of a Place Names Advisory Panel to replace the existing Nomenclature Board and the establishment of guidelines that will modernise processes.

Local Government will be empowered as the naming authority in their municipal areas, for roads and streets under their responsibility. This will improve the timetable for addresses being assigned and benefit those people planning to build their own homes.

The Bill also provides greater community involvement in place naming, inviting community members to nominate through an expression of interest process to join the Place Name Advisory Panel.

Community positions will sit alongside other panel members with specialist knowledge and experience in the field and will work together to oversee the implementation of the more efficient place naming processes.

Our Place Names Bill was developed following extensive stakeholder consultation and brings Tasmania in line with other states by establishing a graduated penalty provision to protect Tasmanians.

The penalty provision will only be used as a last resort if a person mis-uses a place name with the deliberate intent to mislead or deceive, for example, listing a property for sale as being in one suburb, when it is within the boundaries of another.

People will not be sanctioned for the use of traditional, colloquial, comedic and Aboriginal names.

Importantly, the Bill provides for a graduated approach to penalties. In the first instance, Warning Notices can be sent, which are intended to head off issues before they become a serious matter. The next step can be the issue of Infringement Notices and as a final resort for serious cases of misrepresentation the penalty clause can be used.

This new system provides greater community representation and better protects the public.