



## AAD Place Names Committee

### Terms of Reference and Guidance for the Consideration of Antarctic Place Names

#### Document control:

The AAD Place Names Committee can agree to changes to the TOR. These are tracked in the document version control process. This is an essential record of the changes made to the document.

TOR VERSION CONTROL REVISION HISTORY			
Version	Date revised	Section Revised	Revision
v0.1-0.9	Jan-Aug 2015	All	Original document written by Ursula Harris, AADC
v0.1-0.9	Jan-Aug 2015	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhonda Bartley, Secretary to the committee</li> <li>• Jason Mundy, General Manager Strategies Branch</li> <li>• Ben Raymond, A/g Manager, AADC</li> <li>• Gill Slocan, TET Manager</li> <li>• Wendy Shaw, Secretary, New Zealand Geographic Board for names in NZ and Antarctica</li> </ul>
v0.9.1	01/09/15	Independent member added to committee representation	Rob Wooding, General Manager Support Centre
v1.0	01/09/15	All	Document approved by AAD Executive
V2.0	28/09/16		Revision by Ursula Harris, AADC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of Antarctic Modernisation Taskforce added</li> <li>• Appendix 1 – Several references CGNA changed to PCPN to reflect name change</li> <li>• Appendix 4 - Multiple references to CGNA changed to PCPN to reflect name change</li> <li>• Updated Department name</li> </ul>
V2.1	August 2018		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update various references</li> <li>• Section 5: amend secretary appointment</li> <li>• Section 7: amend voting arrangement</li> <li>• Annex A: amend guidance on appropriate types of names and consultation</li> </ul>
V2.2	July 2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision by AADPNC</li> <li>• Update to include the naming of AAD assets as a function of the Committee</li> <li>• The composition of the Committee to ensure all branches are represented</li> <li>• Other changes to reflect international and domestic updates to naming principles and procedures</li> </ul>

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# AAD Place Names Committee

## Terms of Reference and Guidance for the Consideration of Antarctic Place Names

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### 1. Purpose

The Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) Place Names Committee is an internal AAD committee.

The purpose of the AAD Place Names Committee is to:

- (a) Consider proposals for new names<sup>1</sup>, or proposals for changes in names, of features in the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT)<sup>2</sup> and the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI)<sup>3</sup> in accordance with the Australian Antarctic Place Names Policy at Appendix 1;
- (b) Consult, as necessary, in regard to place names of geographical features in the AAT with the equivalent committees of other Parties to the Antarctic Treaty<sup>4</sup>;
- (c) Consult as necessary with other Australian nomenclature boards or organisations;
- (d) Recommend new or revised names under (a) to the AAD Executive for endorsement before seeking approval from the AAD Director;
- (e) Provide the AAD with geographic and historic details of approved names for publications, such as maps, charts, databases and scientific reports; and
- (f) Consider proposals for new names, or proposals for changes in names, of assets (including buildings, facilities, vehicles and other equipment) utilised by the Australian Antarctic Program in Antarctica, the Southern Ocean, and in Tasmania.

### 2. Authority

The geographical extent of the AAD Place Name Committee's jurisdiction with regards to the naming of features is the same as the AAT and HIMI and extends beyond the coastline to include the territorial seas<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes the adoption of names gazetted by other countries.

<sup>2</sup> The *Australian Antarctic Territory Act* (1954) defines the Australian Antarctic Territory as “...that part of the territory in the Antarctic seas which comprises all the islands and territories, other than Adelie Land, situated south of the sixtieth degree south latitude and lying between the one hundred and sixtieth degree east longitude and the forty-fifth degree east longitude”.

<sup>3</sup> The Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands is as defined in the Schedule to the *Heard Island and McDonald Island Act* (1953). That being “The islands known as Heard Island and McDonald Islands, comprising all the islands and rocks lying within the area bounded by the parallels 52 degrees 30 minutes and 53 degrees 30 minutes south latitude and the meridians 72 degrees and 74 degrees 30 minutes east longitude.”

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>

<sup>5</sup> The Territorial Sea “is a belt of water not exceeding 12 nautical miles in width measured from the territorial sea baseline. Australia’s sovereignty extends to the territorial sea, its seabed and sub soil, and to the air space above it.

Areas beyond the territorial sea require referral to the Australian Hydrographic Office<sup>6</sup>.

The AAD Place Names Committee makes recommendations on the naming of features and assets. The authority to act on those recommendations lies with the Director of the AAD.

Names for features around Macquarie Island<sup>7</sup> may be considered by the AAD Place Names Committee and then referred for consideration to the Tasmanian Place Names Advisor Panel.

Names of seas, oceans, and seabed and oceanographic features may be considered by the AAD Place Names Committee and then referred for consideration to the Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS) (refer to Appendix 3).

### **3. Accountabilities**

The AAD Place Names Committee is accountable to the AAD Executive.

### **4. Duties of members**

Members must strive for best practice governance including: declaring actual or perceived conflicts of interest; applying good analytical skills, objectivity and judgment; expressing opinions frankly; and asking questions that go to the fundamental core of an issue.

It is expected that Members will review name proposals and supporting information ahead of proposed meetings of the Committee, allowing adequate time to ask questions and/or seek clarifications before the proposals are considered.

### **5. Membership**

Membership of the AAD Place Names Committee is by invitation by the AAD Executive. Members will be on-going employees of the AAD and will be appointed to the committee for a period of 3 years.

In making such appointments the AAD Executive must consider appointing persons with qualifications and/or experience in one or more of the following areas: Antarctic expeditions, geography, history, surveying, linguistics or science<sup>8</sup>.

The AAD Executive will appoint the Chair.

The Committee will be comprised of representatives from every branch of the Australian Antarctic Division, and an independent non-AAD staff member from within the same department as the AAD. These representatives should include, at a minimum, a mapping expert and the librarian to support research into

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This sovereignty is exercised in accordance with both customary international law and the provisions of UNCLOS.”  
As defined by the Australian Hydrographic Service, Seafarers Handbook

<sup>6</sup> In accordance with ICSM resolution R00/11/06. See Appendix 3 - Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) 2012 Principles for Naming Water Bodies, Seabed, Undersea and Coastal Hydrographic and Oceanographic Features.

<sup>7</sup> Around Macquarie Island refers to Macquarie Island, Judge and Clerk Islets, Bishop and Clerk Islets, and coastal waters, the latter being a belt of water extending out 3 nautical miles.

<sup>8</sup> Based on the original qualifications for the 1952 Committee.

proposed names. (Note – an uneven number of committee members is preferable to preclude the need for the Chair to exercise a casting vote)

A Secretary will be appointed to provide secretariat support for the Committee. The Secretary of the Committee does not have a vote in Committee proceedings.

## **6. Operating guidelines**

The AAD Place Names Committee operates in accordance with the Department's Committee Management Policy and Committee Management Guidelines found on the Governance Intranet site.<sup>9</sup>

The AAD Place Names Committee operates under the Australian Antarctic Place Names Policy<sup>10</sup> (Appendix 1) and accepts submissions using a standard form<sup>11</sup> (Appendix 2). Antarctic Names Proposal forms are available from the AAD website or the Secretary to the AAD Names Committee. Names may be proposed by submitting a completed form to the Secretary of the AAD Names Committee.

The AAD Place Names Committee will also consider the principles of the *Guidelines for the Consistent Use of Place Names*<sup>12</sup> written by the Australia & New Zealand Working Group on Place Names in their deliberations on proposed place names.

## **7. Meetings**

The AAD Place Names Committee must meet at least once a year. The Committee may meet, if required, on more than one occasion in any year. The Chair is responsible for convening meetings of the AAD Names Committee, ensuring that materials for consideration are circulated in advance of meetings, and for ensuring that the recommendations of the AAD Place Names Committee are forwarded to the AAD Executive.

Three members shall constitute a quorum. AAD Place Names Committee decisions will be made by majority. In situations when a Committee member has submitted a place name proposal, that Committee member will not be counted in a vote on that submission. In the event of an equal number of members supporting or opposing a resolution, the Chair will have a casting vote.

The AAD Place Names Committee may, by a resolution of members present, co-opt any person who the AAD Place Names Committee believes may contribute to its deliberations to attend any meeting. A co-optee will not have a vote.

### Meeting preparation

- **Role of the Secretary**  
The Secretary will receive all proposals submitted and coordinate any actions required by the Australian Antarctic Data Centre (AADC) or AAD Librarian. The Secretary will compile information and distribute to the AAD Place Names Committee members for consideration in

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<sup>9</sup> <http://intranet.environment.gov.au/About/committees/Pages/>

<sup>10</sup> To be maintained and made available on the AAD website at <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/about-antarctica/australia-in-antarctica/antarctic-place-names>

<sup>11</sup> To be maintained and made available on the AAD website.

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.icsm.gov.au/sites/default/files/consistent\\_place\\_names\\_principles.pdf](https://www.icsm.gov.au/sites/default/files/consistent_place_names_principles.pdf)

advance of the AAD Names Committee's meeting. The Secretary will prepare a meeting agenda, prepare and circulate minutes and make meeting arrangements.

- **Role of the AADC**  
AADC staff will report on technical aspects of a proposed name, such as its location and how accurately this is known, its status in the Australian Antarctic Gazetteer and other gazetteers, its compliance with relevant naming conventions and guidelines, and its suitability for the feature being named. AADC staff will also supply reference maps for meetings.
- **Role of the AAD Librarian**  
The AAD Librarian will research a name proposal if required. This may include historical research on a person where a feature is named after that person.

## **8. Agenda and papers**

The AAD Place Names Committee has a standing agenda and standard reporting framework managed by the Secretary. Agenda and reporting documents will be maintained in the AAD's record management system.

## **9. Reporting**

The AAD Names Committee's deliberations will be presented to the AAD Executive for approval and endorsement by the AAD Director.

Minutes will be classified "OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE" and shall not be made available to any person other than:

- The AAD Executive and (as appropriate) Departmental Executive
- Members of the AAD Names Committee
- AAD personnel exercising the role of Secretary to the AAD Names Committee

Names accepted for consideration by the AAD Place Names Committee are subject to endorsement by the AAD Executive before being signed off by the AAD Director and officially recognised. The AADC will present endorsements online in the Australian Antarctic Gazetteer and forward endorsements for inclusion in the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica.

A record of all meeting papers, correspondence, minutes etc. will be maintained by the Secretary to the AAD Names Committee.

## **10. Continuous improvement**

The AAD Place Names Committee will undertake a self-assessment in line with procedures outlined in the Department's Committee Management Policy and Committee Management Guidelines. An initial review of the Terms of reference and work practices will be conducted two years after the first meeting of the Committee and then as appropriate thereafter.

## **Appendix 1 – Australian Antarctic Place Names Policy**

The following policy provides guidance on the treatment of Antarctic place names and the consideration of proposals for place names as well as the interaction with other relevant nomenclature bodies and relevant agencies with the Australian Antarctic Division and its Names Committee.

### **Existing names**

When Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) established its first continental station at Mawson, the AAT had already been explored to some extent by British, French, American, German, Australian, Norwegian and Russian parties.

As a result, some features had already been named by more than one nation, and others had been given non-Australian names which were already in common use e.g. Windmill Islands, Vincennes Bay, and other names appearing in the Hansen Atlas and in the records of the US Navy's Operation Highjump.

Where a foreign name exists, the approach outlined in the draft document *International Principles and Procedures for Antarctic Place Names* should be followed.

### **Naming procedure for features**

Anyone may propose a new place name. Proposals for new names may be made to the AAD Place Names Committee by completing the online<sup>13</sup> Antarctic Place Name Proposal Form or the form at Appendix 2, and submitted to the Secretary of the AAD Place Names Committee by email (Email: PlaceNames@antarctica.gov.au) or mailed to:

Secretary - AAD Place Names Committee  
Territories, Environment and Treaties Section  
Australian Antarctic Division  
203 Channel Hwy  
Kingston TAS 7050.

The Secretary will seek advice from the AADC about whether the feature has already been named. The Secretary will coordinate the research of the proposal e.g. if the proposed name is after a person, then the history of the person will be investigated. The Secretary, in consultation with the AAD Librarian, will compile the findings of this research and distribute to the AAD Place Names Committee members for consideration in advance of the AAD Names Committee's annual meeting. If a new name is approved at the meeting, it is sent by the Secretary to the AAD Executive for endorsement before seeking final approval by the AAD Director.

Unnamed geographical features should not be given names unless considered by the AAD Place Names Committee, endorsed by the AAD Executive, and approved by the AAD Director. Such features should be distinguished by describing their location in relation to adjacent well known features and referred to as such on maps and diagrams and in all reports, including positional reference and extent.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.antarctica.gov.au/about-antarctica/australia-in-antarctica/antarctic-place-names/nomination-form/>

## Criteria for Considering Naming Proposals

In general, names proposals are considered by AAD Place Names Committee having regard to the following criteria:

- Priority of discovery
- Consideration of circumstances of publication of any previous name(s) for the feature
- Significance of the feature
- Position of the feature - both absolute, and relative to other features
- Suitability of the proposed name
- Appropriateness of the proposed name with particular regard to euphony and elegance (what it sounds like and what it looks like)

## Classification of features

Features in Antarctica are, for the purposes of allocating place names, grouped into three broad categories:

### 1. *First order features*

- Regions or "lands", e.g. Princess Elizabeth Land
- Coasts, e.g. Ingrid Christensen Coast
- Seas, e.g. Davis Sea
- Major plateaux, e.g. Kent Plateau
- Extensive mountain ranges, e.g. Prince Charles Mountains
- Major submarine deeps, ridges, plateaux
- Ice shelves, e.g. Shackleton Ice Shelf
- Large glaciers, e.g. Lambert Glacier

### 2. *Second order features*

- Peninsulas, e.g. Broad Peninsula
- Lesser mountain ranges, e.g. Mawson Escarpment
- Prominent individual peaks, e.g. Mt Henderson
- Lesser glaciers, e.g. Sørsdal Glacier
- Prominent capes, e.g. Cape Darnley
- Islands, e.g. Anchorage Island
- Gulfs, e.g. Edward VIII Gulf
- Large bays or bights, e.g. Prydz Bay
- Straits or passages, harbours, e.g. Horseshoe Harbour
- Extensive submarine reefs, shoals, or shallows, e.g. Petersen Bank, extensive sub-glacial mountains and valleys

### 3. *Third order features*

- Minor mountains and hills, e.g. Tarbuck Crag
- Nunataks, e.g. Haupt Nunataks
- Cliffs, e.g. Blustery Cliffs
- Minor shore features, e.g. Walkabout Rocks
- Points and minor capes, e.g. Zappert Point
- Minor bays and coves, e.g. Newcombe Bay
- Anchorages
- Lesser ridges and valleys, e.g. Trajer Ridge
- Parts of these features
- Submarine reefs, shoals, and shallows of small extent

**Appropriate Types of Names** In selecting possible non-personal place names, the first consideration should be what to avoid. Names of descriptive shape or colour, such as Basalt Pinnacle, Broad Valley etc., should be avoided as these could be mistaken for general descriptions. Place names should avoid replicating or reflecting existing place names (i.e. by prefixing these with such words as 'new' or 'little').

Similarly, names of pets and commercial products, names with two generic terms (e.g. Crag Rock) and names in obvious bad taste should be avoided.

Terms that may be construed as advertising a commercial or industrial enterprise are to be avoided, in accord with UNGEGN Resolution 2012/4 which 'discourages the commercialisation of geographical features'. Place names may not be assigned that incorporate the names of:

- a commercial business
- trade names
- non-profit organisations.

The assignment of place names should seek to reflect Australia's long Antarctic history, but also reflect our changing culture, with a focus on inclusion.

The assignment of place names should not cause offence on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, age or disability.

With these reservations, the following suggestions could be considered:

- Names indicating the position of a feature, e.g. Corner Peak
- Names of mammals, e.g. Elephant Island
- Names of birds, e.g. Pintado Island
- Names of plants, e.g. Lichen Lake
- Descriptive features, e.g. North and South Portal, the Lookout
- Geological names, e.g. Marine Plain
- Names of fossils, e.g. Laternula Lake
- Names descriptive of emotion at the time of discovery, e.g. Cape Disappointment
- Names commemorating the date of discovery, e.g. Candlemas Islands
- Australian names, e.g. Commonwealth Bay
- Australian Indigenous names
- Names indicating the type of scientific or field work conducted in the vicinity, e.g. Theodolite Hill
- Names indicating local conditions to navigators, e.g. Deception Island
- Mythological names, e.g. Mount Cyclops, Cape Cerberus
- Names of ships e.g. Discovery Inlet, Thala Valley
- Names arising from groups of ideas, e.g. Scylla and Charybdis Glaciers
- Names applying a theme, e.g. the anniversary of an event

The AAD Place Names Committee will follow the approach in the draft *International Principles and Procedures for Antarctic Place Names* document when selecting new names.

### **Descriptive and Non-Descriptive Names**

Preference should be given to considering a descriptive rather than a personal name for a feature.

There is widespread agreement among the Antarctic Treaty Parties that the use of names of living persons (other than persons of high standing in the international community) should not be used. Similarly, the

Australian & New Zealand Working Group on Place Names, which is responsible for the coordination of place naming in Australia and New Zealand (other than the Australian Antarctic Territory and Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands), has taken the view that:



*"If personal names are to be used for geographical features the person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the area or state where the feature is located; and where a personal name is used it should be applied only posthumously. Names of living persons are by their nature subject to partisan perception and change in community judgement and acceptance. The adoption of a personal name during the lifetime of a person concerned should only be made in exceptional circumstances."*

Accordingly, the AAD Place Names Committee will normally only consider personal names for third order features and then only if a compelling case can be made for the name in question. The person whose name is being proposed must have made a significant contribution to the Australian Antarctic Program to be considered, and the onus is on the nominator(s) to establish this connection.

### **Naming of assets**

The naming of assets should largely follow the process for the naming of features in Antarctica, however, can be less prescriptive. In particular, the AAD's changing culture, with a focus on diversity and inclusion, should be considered when naming assets.

Proposals may be submitted by AAD employees to the AAD Place Names Committee using the form at Appendix 5. Consideration of naming of assets proposals will be considered out of session as necessary in order to facilitate the timely consideration of such proposals, including for operational reasons.

Approved names will be recorded in Maximo.

### **Consultation**

The AAD Place Names Committee will work to ensure that the wishes of the community are taken into account when it considers place name proposals. The AAD Place Names Committee will seek the views of family members when naming a place for a deceased person. Consultation will also be undertaken with First Languages Australia regarding any proposed Australian Indigenous names.

There must be very convincing and compelling reasons for seeking to allocate the name of a living person to a feature in the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT) or the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands. It is acknowledged that this represents a 'tightening' of procedures from earlier years of Australian Antarctic endeavour, but it also reflects the current trends in approaches by Antarctic Treaty Parties and by the practice of the Australian & New Zealand Working Group on Place Names.

## **Appendix 2 - Place Name Proposal Form**

Proposed names can be

- entered online at:<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/law-and-treaty/australian-antarctic-names-and-medal-committee/antarctic-place-names/nomination-form> or
- entered in the form below and emailed to Secretary of the AAD Place Names Committee (Email [PlaceNames@antarctica.gov.au](mailto:PlaceNames@antarctica.gov.au)) or mailed to:  
Secretary - AAD Names Committee  
Territories, Environment and Treaties Section  
Australian Antarctic Division  
203 Channel Hwy  
Kingston TAS 7050

### **Basic information**

**Proposed Antarctica place name\***

**Brief description\***

### **Position and height**

**Latitude**

**Longitude**

**Extent**

Please describe the extent of the feature using a number of coordinates, or a marked up map, aerial photograph or satellite image clearly showing the extent of the proposed name.

**Other location data**

If latitude and longitude is unknown, please enter the distance in kilometres from a known place name, and the bearing.

**Height in metres**

**Methods used**

Please describe the methods used to fix position and height such as GPS, maps, etc.

### **Description and data**

**Description**

Please include size, shape and colour of feature as appropriate. For example: Painted Peak, a peak with very defined striping due to its geological structure and appears to have been painted.

**Map reference**

Please give the name of the map, publication date, publisher, and map catalogue number (if available).

**Photo reference**

Please describe from where the photo was taken (latitude, longitude, direction the camera was facing, etc.).

**List of accompanying data**

This includes surveys, maps, charts, photographs etc.

**Supporting information \***

Please describe why the feature should be given the proposed name.

**Date discovered**

Please enter the date the proposed place was discovered, seen, mapped or recorded in the format DD/MM/YYYY.

**Names associated with discovery**

Please enter the name of the person or persons who discovered, saw or mapped the feature (state name of expedition, year of expedition, name of person and position of person in the expedition).

**Associated names**

Please provide some information concerning the person after whom the feature is named (if name is a personal one).

**Contact details**

**Name\***

**Email\***

**Phone**

**Street address**

**Institution (if appropriate)**

**Date of Proposal**

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (\*).

**Appendix 3 - Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) 2012 Principles for Naming Water Bodies, Seabed, Undersea and Coastal Hydrographic and Oceanographic Features.**

**2012 Amendment to Resolution R00/11/06<sup>14</sup>**

ICSM amends R00/11/06 Limits of Oceans and Seas and Offshore Undersea Features, and resolves that the following principles be followed in naming water bodies, seabed, undersea and coastal hydrographic and oceanographic features:

**1. Name and limits of seas and oceans**

The limits and nomenclature of the Oceans and Seas surrounding Australia shall be those described in the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) document AH97/147, Annex A of 18 May 2001. The Australian Hydrographic Service (AHS) is the custodian of the limits and nomenclature of the Oceans and Seas data set. Changes to limits and nomenclature of the Oceans and Seas surrounding Australia require the approval of the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM). Approved changes are to be forwarded to International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) for inclusion in the IHO publication Limits of Oceans and Seas (S-23).

**2. Offshore features of the seabed lying outside the limits of the continental shelf**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/International Hydrographic Organization (IOC/IHO) guidelines and procedures are to be followed for the naming of undersea features lying outside the limit of the continental shelves of Australia, the External Territories and the Australian Antarctic Territory or another country's continental shelf. The AHS is the custodian of the Australian Offshore Undersea Feature data set and will coordinate proposals and supporting documentation with or without recommendation to the Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) committee of the IOC/IHO.

**3. Offshore seabed features on the continental shelf but lying outside the territorial sea**

The IOC/IHO (GEBCO) guidelines and procedures are to be followed for the naming of seabed features on the continental shelves of Australia, the External Territories and the Australian Antarctic Territory. Proposals of names of undersea features are to be forwarded with supporting information to the AHS. The AHS will process submissions, consult with adjacent countries and determine the adopted name. The AHS will inform SCUFN of the adopted name for inclusion in the GEBCO gazetteer.

**4. Offshore seabed features lying under the territorial sea seaward of coastal waters.**

The AHS will coordinate the adoption of names of seabed features lying within the Territorial Sea of Australia seaward of the Coastal Waters of the States and Territories and in the Territorial Sea of the Australian External Territories and the Australian Antarctic Territory in accordance with the principles contained in the CGNA<sup>15</sup> document "Guidelines for Consistent Use of Place Names in Australasia".

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<sup>14</sup> Compiled by: Nautical Information and Nautical Publications Section, Australian Hydrographic Office 11 April 2014

<sup>15</sup>Renamed the Permanent Committee on Place Names October 2015

**5. Offshore undersea features lying within the coastal and internal waters of the state or territory**

The relevant State or Territory nomenclature authority will exercise jurisdiction over undersea features lying within the coastal waters and internal waters of that State or Territory in accordance with the principles contained in the CGNA document “Guidelines for Consistent Use of Place Names in Australasia”.

**6. Offshore undersea features lying within the Great Barrier Reef marine park**

The naming of undersea features in Great Barrier Reef Marine Park will be in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Hydrographic Office, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

**7. Offshore oceanographic features in the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone.**

The AHS will liaise with other Heads of Marine Agencies to ensure consistency in the naming of water column features in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Australia, the External Territories and the Australian Antarctic Territory.

## **Appendix 4 – Additional Background Information**

A names committee<sup>16</sup> was established by a Ministerial instrument in 1952 (revised in 1982 and again in 2004), rather than by any particular piece of legislation and it acted as the national authority for place names for the AAT and HIML. The committee adopted a name change in 1982 to become the Australian Antarctic Names and Medal Committee (AANMC).

In December 2014, the Government recommended that the AANMC be ceased and that *“The Department of the Environment to absorb the functions of the Committee and provide advice on place names and medal recipients to the Environment Minister (who will provide advice on medal recipients to the Governor General).”*

At a meeting<sup>17</sup> on 29 January 2015, the AAD Director determined that a names committee be established within the AAD. The new names committee would consider place name proposals and provide recommendations to the AAD Executive for endorsement and AAD Director for approval. With the AANMC ceasing to exist, the Ministerial instrument of 1952 (as amended) is no longer applicable.

### **Australian Antarctic Gazetteer**

Antarctic place names<sup>18</sup> is a web application hosted on the AADC’s website. The search function includes names from the Australian Antarctic Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Macquarie Island, informal names and assets.

Search results include a narrative which may include who a place/feature was named for, location details, images, source details, approval status and search results from other applications based on a place name. The gazetteer data is stored in a database which is accessible by the AADC’s Geographic Information System. When generating maps, AADC staff use the gazetteer directly to place names on maps at a certain scale.

There are many Australian and international bodies that depend on, or link to, the Australian Antarctic Gazetteer. Below is information about these bodies.

### **Tasmanian Place Names Advisor Panel**

The Place Names Advisor Panel is responsible for the assignment of names to places in Tasmania, including Macquarie Island. Users can search for names online<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> The committee name from 1952 to 1982 was the Antarctic Names Committee of Australia (ANCA). This needs verifying.

<sup>17</sup> Attended by Tony Fleming, Jason Mundy, Ursula Harris, Rebecca Malcolm and Rhonda Bartley.

<sup>18</sup> <http://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.placenames.tas.gov.au/>

The Australian Antarctic Gazetteer and the Gazetteer of Australia<sup>20</sup> include all names for the Macquarie Island region.

### **Australian & New Zealand Working Group on Place Names**

The Australian & New Zealand Working Group on Place Names is a permanent committee of the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM). The ICSM covers surveying and mapping issues, as they relate to Government activities, to ensure continued cooperation in these activities on a national basis.

With assistance from Geoscience Australia, the group has produced the Gazetteer of Australia 2012<sup>21</sup>. Copyright of the Gazetteer data resides with the relevant State, Territory and Australian Government agencies which are custodians of the data. It contains place names derived from the:

- Official Register of Geographic Names / Gazetteers which are maintained by each Australian State and Territory,
- Official offshore undersea feature gazetteer maintained by the Australian Hydrographic Service (Department of Defence),
- Official Antarctic place names gazetteer maintained by the Australian Antarctic Division.

Information pertaining the group is sent to AAD email addresses [mapping@antarctica.gov.au](mailto:mapping@antarctica.gov.au) (AADC) and [placenames@antarctica.gov.au](mailto:placenames@antarctica.gov.au) (committee secretary). The group also hosts a wiki with documents, meeting details and a forum.

The groups Terms of Reference<sup>22</sup> are as follows:

1. Promote a greater community awareness of geographical names
2. Develop and promote national guidelines for geographical names
3. Promote the use of correct names by map, chart and electronic application producers
4. Support the maintenance and development of jurisdictional and national gazetteers
5. Support initiatives for the appropriate use and preservation of geographical names, and for the recognition of their heritage and cultural importance
6. Support the maintenance and development of jurisdictional, national gazetteers and SCAR CGA & SCUFN

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<sup>20</sup> <https://placenames.fsdf.org.au/>

<sup>21</sup> On Geoscience Australia's website at <http://www.ga.gov.au/place-names/index.xhtml>

<sup>22</sup> Sourced from CGNA Terms of Reference 2008. This document is available on the group's wiki pages.

## Maritime Gazetteer of Australia

The Maritime Gazetteer of Australia (MGA) is maintained by the Australia Hydrographic Service, Department of Defence. It is a searchable database<sup>23</sup> containing all the place names used in Australia's official navigational charts.

“Positions relating to a feature name are displayed to the nearest minute of latitude and longitude together with a limited number of other attributes, such as all the charts that include each name. The MGA does not provide the gazetted geographic position of features.

Place names contained in Australia's official navigational charts for the Australian mainland, offshore territories, Antarctica and Papua New Guinea are in the MGA. The MGA is updated and enhanced as new charts are published.”<sup>24</sup>

## SCAR CGA

The SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (SCAR CGA)<sup>25</sup> commenced in 1992 and consists of over 37,000 names that correspond to 19,253 features. The place names information has been submitted by the national names committees from 22 countries and compiled by the Italian Antarctic names committee. The SCAR CGA web application is hosted by the AADC.

The SCAR CGA does not have any legal standing as there is no Antarctic naming authority. The SCAR CGA “is a product, compiled purely for the convenience of the SCAR community and has no legal authority or standing. It is a digital application that collects and compiles place names, location of names and descriptions of names in Antarctica, provided by the national names committees of nations active in Antarctica, for a range of purposes”.<sup>26</sup>

The SCAR CGA and the development of the draft document *International Principles and Procedures for Antarctic Place Names* are projects of the SCAR Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information (SCAGI).

## SCUFN

“The GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)<sup>27</sup> maintains and makes available a digital gazetteer of the names, generic feature type and geographic position of features on the sea floor.”

“The setting up of SCUFN arose from the need for a uniform policy for the handling of geographical names and the standardisation of undersea feature names. This was done in order to achieve consistent naming on bathymetric maps and nautical charts.

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<sup>23</sup> <http://www.hydro.gov.au/prodserv/publications/mga/mga.htm>

<sup>24</sup> From <http://www.hydro.gov.au/prodserv/publications/mga/mga.htm> cited February 2014

<sup>25</sup> <http://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/scar/>

<sup>26</sup> SCAR Delegates Assembly 2008

<sup>27</sup> Information about SCUFN sourced from [http://www.gebco.net/data\\_and\\_products/undersea\\_feature\\_names/](http://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/undersea_feature_names/) Cited February 2015



The role of SCUFN is:

- To define the nomenclature used for undersea features, e.g. canyon, plateau, fracture zone, etc., as well as naming guidelines.
- To consider and decide on names that have been submitted to the Sub-Committee.

All names selected by SCUFN are contained in the IHO-IOC GEBCO Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names, IHO publication B-8.”

## **UNGEGN**

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)<sup>28</sup>

The UNGEGN web site lists searchable geographical names databases<sup>29</sup>. It includes the Australian Antarctic Gazetteer and SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica.

One of the [Australia & New Zealand Working Group on Place Names](#) projects is to support UNGEGN. A member of ICSM represents Australia at their meetings.

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<sup>28</sup> <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/default.html>

<sup>29</sup> <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/geonames.html>

### **Appendix 5 – Naming of assets proposal form**

Proposed asset names should be entered in the form below and emailed to Secretary of the AAD Place Names Committee (Email PlaceNames@antarctica.gov.au)

<b>Basic information</b>	
<b>Asset description</b>	
<b>Proposed asset name</b>	
<b>Location (for fixed assets)</b>	
<b>Supporting information</b> Please describe why the asset should be given the proposed name	
<b>Contact details</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Section/branch</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Date of Proposal</b>	