

The proposed North Coogee Name Change

How do we change the suburb name and why?

Read below -

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What is the process for changing the name of a suburb?

Changing the name of a suburb requires the support and approval of the City of Cockburn (COC) who then must make the case on behalf of residents to Landgate. Landgate will then put the case to the Geographic Names Committee (GNC) for review. The Minister for Lands enables Landgate to review submissions and formally approve changes. For more information on policy and process go to –

<https://www0.landgate.wa.gov.au/maps-and-imagery/wa-geographic-names/geographic-names-committee>

What does Landgate consider are the key drivers for suburb name changes?

Landgate have advised that there are a number of drivers for change, not anyone of which is compelling on its own. Each submission is judged on the overall merits of the case. Some example drivers include: -

- the majority of residents want the change and this is verified by the COC through community consultation
- the proposal benefits the community as a whole
- the size of the proposed suburbs and future populations are appropriate
- the change will not make worse the confusion that already exists and will not cause safety issues
- the names are likely to be enduring and appropriate to the long-term planning for the area
- the names are compliant under the Landgate policy, for example
 - no duplication of names in other areas
 - must be geographically and/or historically significant names
 - no developer's estate names
 - no cardinal markers to be used i.e. north, south, east, west.

Why do most people in North Coogee want a name change?

Most people are passionate about their local area. North Coogee has evolved over time into two very distinct communities with a different style and presentation. Both are coastal suburbs with an entirely different attachment to the coast. The name North Coogee doesn't reflect this and for some of the following reasons people want a change:-

- North Coogee is a recent name (2005) with little meaning to the people now residing in the area
- South Beach and Shoreline Estates are a long way from the Coogee lake, the origin of the name Coogee
- As a completely new development residents could not have been consulted on the choice of name. North Coogee was simply chosen by the council, not the community

- People get confused when trying to determine whether they should be heading to the northern section or the southern section.
- Significant development has now occurred creating two unique areas readily distinguishable from each other with different identities and characteristics
- There is a natural dividing boundary between the communities which is McTaggart Cove with the CY O'Connor Reserve, the proposed Cockburn Coast oval and the Power Station clearly limiting the easy connection between the two parts of the suburb
- People want a name with meaning and relevance to their area.

What was the outcome of the original community petition?

On behalf of residents, the South Beach Community Group (SBCG) and Port Coogee Community Group (PCCA) undertook the collection of a petition calling for the suburb North Coogee to be divided into two areas called "South Beach" and "Port Coogee". Over 2000 residents signed in support of the Petition. All local internal businesses and surrounding businesses close to the boundaries were consulted. Other nearby community groups were consulted and were supportive. The Petition was presented to Council on the 13 May 2021. Council agreed to support the name change and present the submission with both "for" and "against" arguments to Landgate. Landgate presented the case to GNC. The outcome of this initial stage was that Landgate advised that a compelling case had not been sufficiently made and that South Beach as a name did not comply with policy.

How has our submission progressed to date?

Progress slowed understandably during COVID but meetings and discussions resumed in late 2022. Considerable progress has now been made by our associations in developing the compelling case. Following our latest submission in December 2022 Landgate have tentatively said (subject to GNC approval) new information provided to them by the community groups could constitute a compelling case provided the new names and suburbs will be enduring and in harmony with Cockburn Coast Planning.

Unfortunately, at the same time Landgate again advised the name South Beach cannot go forward and outlined their reason in detail - [click here for PDF](#). The name Port Coogee can still be supported by Landgate however their preference is that both names change rather than one part remain North Coogee to avoid any future ambiguity or create further confusion.

This means that all residents of North Coogee now need to seriously consider a new name for the northern end of the suburb. Community sentiment for the change will need to remain high and this will be tested in the Community Consultation phase. Many meetings and discussion then followed with Landgate and the City of Cockburn to better understand the policy requirements and to work with the community to select a new, compliant name for the northern half.

What role does the City of Cockburn play?

The formal submission to change the name must come from the City of Cockburn on behalf of residents and ratepayers. Council members have voted 3 times at Ordinary Council Meetings (OCMs) to support the name change and endorsed the city to undertake community consultation subject to Landgate assessing and supporting a proposal that demonstrates a compelling need for change.

COC - OCM 13/5/2021 – Support for the name change and recommendations to Landgate/GNC

COC - OCM 11/8/2022 – Set up of working group to review and propose community consultation

COC - OCM 8/12/2022 – Provisional support for community consultation

COC - OCM 14/12/2023 – Support for the name change and recommendations to Landgate/GNC

Will there be further community consultation?

Community consultation will be a very important step in independently verifying the wishes of the North Coogee community. This is required by Landgate to be undertaken by the City of Cockburn. The format for the questions to be put has not yet been decided and the working group set up by the City of Cockburn, that includes both community groups, will consider the options. The questions will include the option to remain North Coogee and not make any change at all.