



NAMING OF ROADS, OPEN SPACES AND COUNCIL FACILITIES POLICY

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

1-30 NOVEMBER 2021



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

FURTHER INFORMATION

Hamilton City Council
Garden Place, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton



haveyoursay@hamilton.govt.nz



07 838 6699



[hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://www.hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay)



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Hamilton City Council (Council) is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Naming of Roads, Open Spaces and Council Facilities Policy (the policy).

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Council is required to review the policy every three years. This is a chance to take a good look at how the policy is working, make sure that it matches other key Council strategies and goals and then go out to our community with the proposed changes and consider the feedback we receive.

We want to hear from all Hamiltonians and understand how these proposed changes will affect them and their neighbourhood.

WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING?

Council have agreed to seek feedback from our community and key stakeholders on a number of proposed changes to the policy. The key elements of proposed changes to the policy are:

- policy principles
- timing of consultation with mana whenua, and the type of information requested
- the number of names a developer proposes on a new road application form
- layout of the policy contents to be easier to read and follow
- update the policy in line with National Standards

We're not proposing any changes to:

- the process to rename a road
- how Council open space and facilities are named
- how the final decision is made when naming a new road

WHY MAKE THESE CHANGES?

We're proposing these changes to the policy to ensure it reflects Council's vision for the cultural wellbeing of Hamilton and would give mana whenua, such as local iwi and hapuu, more time to consider and influence the names of new roads. During this review, we're also proposing functional updates to the policy to make it clearer, easier to follow and reflect changes to National Standards.

Council recently adopted the He Pou Manawa Ora: Pillars of Wellbeing Strategy and the proposed changes in this policy show our commitment to the cultural wellbeing and supports the goal that te reo Maaori is seen, heard and celebrated throughout the city.

As part of the policy review process, Council staff have engaged with property developers and mana whenua including Te Haa o te whenua o Kirikiriroa and Waikato-Tainui. Their feedback has helped to shape the proposed changes.

Changing the timing of consultation with mana whenua to earlier in the consenting process allows developers to consider the history and culturally significant areas of the land they are developing while still in the planning stages and before the construction of new roads. A longer timeframe, 12 weeks, for mana whenua to respond to these developer requests provides adequate time to consult with their iwi and hapuu and allows mana whenua to be able to form effective relationships with developers to share the history and cultural stories of the land.

Requesting mana whenua provide a register or pool of names for new roads increases the influence Maaori history and stories can have on road names, and possibly for other elements in the development. Currently, developers must consult with mana whenua about new road names but there isn't a requirement to include any names from mana whenua when they apply for a new road with Council. We're proposing that developers can provide up to three names for each new road with a minimum of one name included from a pool of names provided by mana whenua. The proposed names would be considered by Council staff as part of the development consenting process.

Formatting changes and updating the road naming standards have been proposed as part of this policy review to make it easier to read, sections moved around and diagrams have been inserted to make the processes clearer and more readily understood. The naming and renaming of roads are subject to National Standards and the policy has been updated to reflect these requirements.

PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES

Council wants to hear from all Hamiltonians and key stakeholders before we continue with the proposed policy changes. We've outlined the key changes below, and the full policy with all proposed changes included, is attached.

CHANGE A : Policy Principles

Council proposes to change the principles in the policy, to reflect He Pou Manawa Ora: Pillars of Wellbeing

Existing Policy Principles	Proposed Policy Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has a role in ensuring that the city's history, local identity and local culture is recognised and maintained. • Council shall provide a consistent approach to determining appropriate names for roads, open spaces and Council facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has a role in ensuring that the city's history, local identity and local culture is recognised and maintained. • Council shall provide a consistent approach to determining appropriate names for roads, open spaces and council facilities, and ensure decisions are in accordance with He Pou Manawa Ora: Pillars of Wellbeing strategy adopted by Council.

CHANGE B: The timing of consultation with mana whenua, and the type of information requested

Council proposes to change when mana whenua are consulted, and what information they are asked to provide during the process of naming new roads.

Existing Policy	Proposed Policy
<p>In the existing policy, a developer is expected to consult with Mana Whenua at a late stage in the resource consent process, after consent approval has been given for a specific road layout in a new development.</p> <p>Council help developers ensure they are consulting with the appropriate mana whenua groups.</p>	<p>In the proposed policy, the developer will be expected to consult with mana whenua much earlier - before they have lodged a consent application. This means there will be more time available for consultation, as developers are not in the process of planning and construction work for the development.</p> <p>Council will continue to help developers ensure they are consulting with the appropriate mana whenua groups.</p>

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CHANGE B: The timing of consultation with mana whenua, and the type of information requested

Council proposes to change when mana whenua are consulted, and what information they are asked to provide during the process of naming new roads.

Existing Policy	Proposed Policy
<p>In the existing policy mana whenua must respond within 10 working days.</p> <p>This is not enough time for them to discuss the area and consider the history and story associated with the land.</p>	<p>In the proposed policy mana whenua must respond within 12 calendar weeks.</p> <p>Because the timing would also change, there would be more time available for consultation without an adverse impact on the progress of the development. Mana whenua will have enough time to consider the history of the land and communicate the story of the area.</p>
<p>In the existing policy, mana whenua provide suggestions for specific road names only.</p> <p>This means mana whenua do not have an opportunity to influence the name of the development or suburb or other parts of the development, limiting the history and stories they can communicate through naming.</p>	<p>In the proposed policy mana whenua provide a register ('pool') of names which can be used for the development itself, roads, open spaces or facilities within the development.</p> <p>This means mana whenua would be able to influence the name of the development or suburb or other parts of the development, telling the history and stories of the area through the names of roads, landmarks and places.</p>

CHANGE C : Number of names a developer proposes on an application form

The existing process for naming new roads involves the property developer lodging an application and proposing up to two names for each road. Council considers the names proposed by the developer and determines the final road name, based on criteria set out in the policy.

Existing Policy	Proposed Policy
<p>The developer proposes up to two names on an application form.</p> <p>While the developer is obliged to consult with mana whenua about road names, they do not have to include any names suggested by mana whenua on the application form.</p>	<p>The developer proposes up to three names on an application form, and at least one of those names must be from the register of names mana whenua have provided to the developer during consultation.</p> <p>This ensures mana whenua naming suggestions (provided through consultation) are included in the application for naming a new road, and therefore council can consider mana whenua naming suggestions as well as suggestions from the developer.</p>

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS!

Council is seeking feedback on the review of Policy from people who will or may be affected by, or have an interest in, the proposal. Before making any final decisions, we'd like to have input and feedback from our community. You can give us feedback from 1 November to 30 November 2021 online at hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay.

For any queries, please ring 07 838 6699 or email haveyoursay@hcc.govt.nz

NEXT STEPS

Council staff will collect and review all feedback at the close of the submission period. A summary of the feedback will be presented to Council's Hearings and Engagement Committee in early 2021. At this meeting, anyone that would like to speak to their written submission, will be able to do so. Council will then consider all the views and make a decision on the Policy. We expect the Policy to be updated and confirmed in by mid 2022.

Please get your feedback to us by 30 November 2021.