

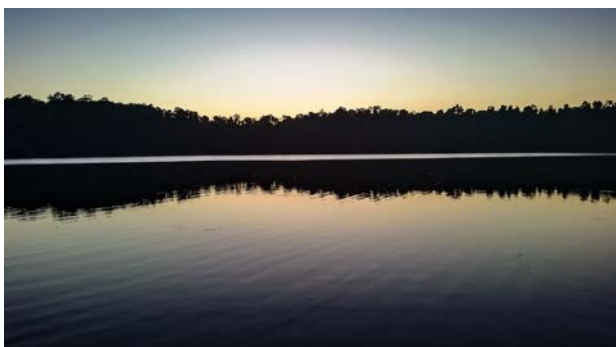
# Wetlands naming protocol

Queensland follows specific place naming guidelines and processes. Place naming is primarily the responsibility of the Queensland Government, which administers the *Place Names Act 1994* (the Act). Under the Act, features or areas of land, whether natural or artificial, can be named and this includes wetlands.

## Introduction

The Queensland Government encourages the community to suggest new names for geographic features in Queensland that have yet to be officially named, especially if that feature is commonly referred to by a name already well recognised by the local community.

The place naming process includes consideration of naming issues, provision of recommendations to the relevant Minister under the Act, publication of notices and maintenance of the gazetteer or register of place names.



Lake Eacham, Atherton Tablelands. Photo: Queensland Government

## How wetlands are named

The place naming protocol is as follows:

- A member of the community makes a naming suggestion (new name, name or boundary change) to the Queensland Government.
- The relevant department considers the suggestion and may recommend that the Minister develop a proposal.
- If a proposal is developed, it is also published in order to notify the community and invite interested parties to comment.
- All comments are considered by the Minister as part of the decision-making process.
- The Minister makes a final decision, which is published on the Queensland Government website.

## What to consider when naming a wetland

There are strict guidelines and naming principles that must be followed in relation to place naming.

### General

Names should be simple and concise (no longer than 50 characters), easy to recognise, spell and pronounce (only the standard alphabet can be included, so there should be no special characters, diacritical marks, numbers or punctuation marks). Names should not begin with 'The' unless there are strong historical reasons for doing so; abbreviations, initials and acronyms are generally not allowed.

Names that could be construed as offensive, racist, derogatory, demeaning, advertising or promoting commercial enterprises should not be used.

Cardinal indicators and similar prefixes or suffixes (e.g. 'Upper', 'New', 'East', 'West') should be avoided and more distinctive names used.

Feature names should not be similar in sound or spelling to any similar feature in the surrounding area. Please refer to the Gazetteer of Australia to ensure there is no possible name duplication:

<http://www.ga.gov.au/place-names/>



Pyott's Lagoon, Townsville Region. Photo: Queensland Government

## Indigenous and dual names

It is accepted that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander names which might appear at first to be complex will, over time, become familiar and easy to use by the community. Names from Indigenous languages should be transcribed as accurately as possible to suggest a pronunciation as close to the Indigenous form as possible, and be endorsed by the local Indigenous community.

In Queensland, geographical features may be given either a dual name or an alternative name, but not both. It is accepted that dual naming can be used as a management tool to gradually change the name of a geographic feature where an approved name already exists and where a sudden change is not possible or acceptable.

## Naming a wetland after a person

Naming a place in honour of a person can only occur after the person is deceased, and the person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the cultural fabric of the area.

## Boundaries for wetlands being named

Feature extents shown on plans or described in decisions are indicative of the extent to which a name applies and are not intended as legal boundaries. Each feature has a coordinate value which represents its approximate centroid or, in the case of a watercourse, its downstream extent (e.g. where it joins another watercourse or reaches the ocean).

## Further information

Further detail on the naming principles, name searches and name changes can be found on the Queensland Government website:

<http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/place-names/>

Further detail on defining boundaries can be found here:

<http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/place-names/naming/boundaries/>



**Mount Hypipamee Crater, Mount Hypipamee National Park.  
Photo: Queensland Government**

The Queensland Wetlands Program supports projects and activities that result in long-term benefits to the sustainable management, wise use and protection of wetlands in Queensland. The tools developed by the Program help wetlands landholders, managers and decision makers in government and industry. The Queensland Wetlands Program is currently funded by the Queensland Government.

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or visit [www.wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au)

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