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Western Australia.*

Policy and Application Guidelines

Signposting Country

Acknowledgement

Main Roads would like to acknowledge and thank Transport for New South Wales for sharing its Signposting Country Technical Manual and allowing us to use it as the basis for the Policy and Application Guidelines – Signposting Country.

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Policy and Application Guidelines Signposting Country

This document is owned and authorised by the Executive Director Network Operations. Please submit all comments and requests to the Manager Traffic Management Services.

Authorisation

As Executive Director Network Operations I authorise the issue and use of this Policy and Application Guidelines – Signposting Country.



Mehdi Langroudi

Approved by A / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NETWORK OPERATIONS

Date: 17 July 2024

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1 POLICY STATEMENT

Main Roads recognises that Aboriginal peoples are the Traditional Owners of the land and understands the importance of acknowledging this to show respect and promote reconciliation.

Signposting Country is one way to acknowledge the land of Traditional Owners.

2 INTRODUCTION

Country is the term often used by Aboriginal peoples to describe the lands, waterways, and seas to which they are connected. The term contains complex beliefs about law, place, custom, language, spirit, cultural practice, material sustenance, family, and identity.

Western Australia is made up of many different and distinct Aboriginal Countries.

3 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Signposting Country Policy and Application Guidelines (the guidelines) outline the process of how to signpost Country on roads that are designated as state roads.

The guidelines aim to provide Aboriginal groups a way to sign Country in a meaningful way that is consistent and based on best practice principles making them identifiable and ensuring they do not compromise road user safety.

Sign/s may be requested from a person or stakeholder group (the applicant) or be identified as part of the development or delivery phase of a project (the project).

Local government authorities may adopt in full or in part the provisions set out in the guidelines.

The guidelines do not:

- Attempt to define borders between Aboriginal Countries.
- Cover other cultural expressions such as totems, sculptures or imagery that may be installed on the road network.
- Cover dual naming.

4 PROCESS GUIDELINES

4.1 Stakeholder consultation

The applicant/project must facilitate consultation with the appropriate key local Aboriginal stakeholders before the design, manufacture, and installation of a sign.

For the purpose of this document, key local Aboriginal stakeholders include:

- Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) and Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBCs)
- Recognised Aboriginal representatives and knowledge holders (in cases where there is not an established PBC or RNTBC)

Consultation includes but is not limited to:

- The name of the Country and image on the sign/s
- The number of signs
- The location/s of the sign/s

At a minimum the following records of consultation must be kept:

- Meeting notes, actions, emails, presentations, and other similar materials with key local Aboriginal stakeholders that outline discussions on the proposed design, number, and location of signage.
- Feedback and concurrence by way of letter or email from key local Aboriginal stakeholders confirming the design, number, and location of the sign/s for the required purpose.

4.2 Name of Country

The sign must only contain the name of the Aboriginal people or language group followed by the word 'Country'.

The name and spelling of the Aboriginal people or language group must be informed by:

- [Native Title Determination](#) (if applicable)
- [AIATSIS map](#)
- Aboriginal people with a cultural connection with the Country
- Aboriginal language dictionaries or community language groups and/or linguists
- The historic record.

4.3 Image

The sign should contain an image of significance to the local Aboriginal community positioned beneath the name of the Country.

The following provisions apply to the image:

- It must not create, nor have the potential to create, a road safety risk
- The original artist/owner of the image must provide written consent for Main Roads to use the image for the purposes of manufacturing the original sign and future, replacement signs if required
- If the original artist/owner of the image withdraws consent after the sign has been installed, the image may be overlaid, or the sign removed
- It must not contain commercial advertising or identifiers
- It must be simple and not include a large amount of detail.

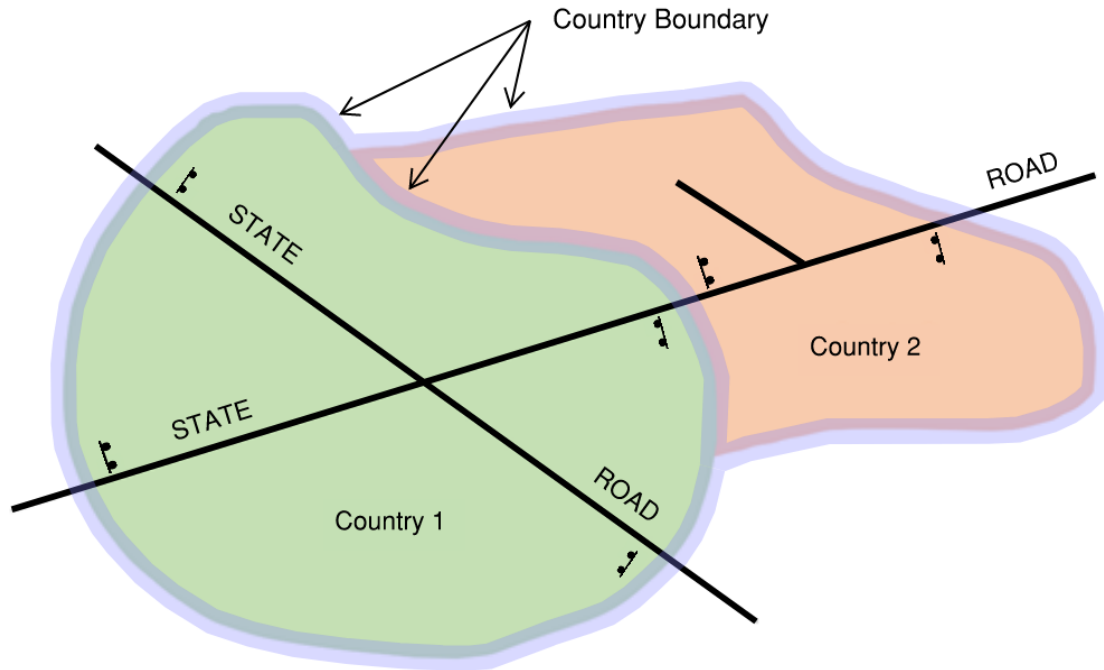
The image will only be used for the purpose of the sign. Images of the sign may be used to promote the signposting Country initiative to Aboriginal stakeholders, road users and the wider community.

4.4 Number

In determining the number of signs to be placed within the Country, a range of factors should be considered, including but not limited to the following:

- Available funds
- Number of state roads on Country
- Size of the Country

Typically, there would be two signs on each state road that travels through a Country (refer Figure 1).

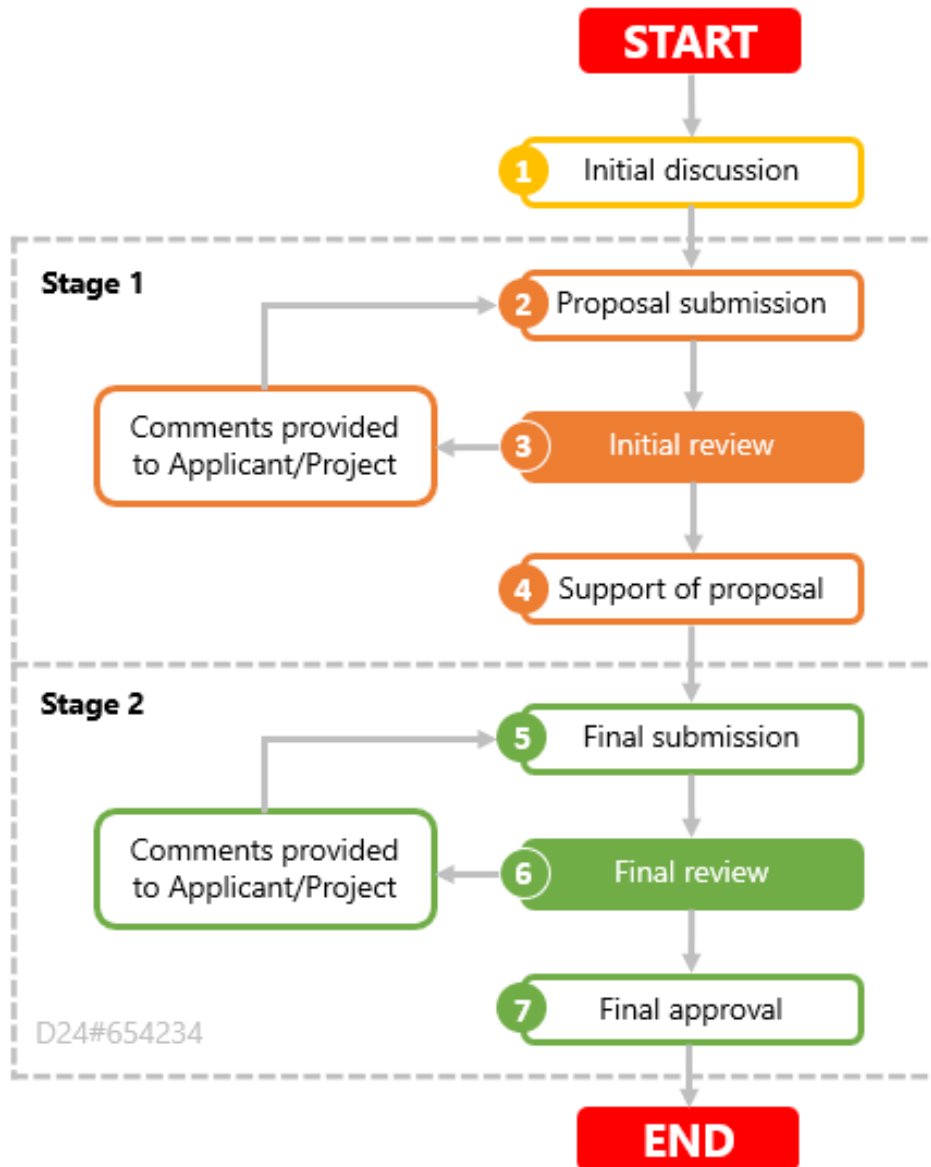
Figure 1: Typical number of signs

4.5 Location

The following provisions apply to the location:

- Signs are not markers for delineating or denoting a border between the Country of Aboriginal language or people groups therefore it is recommended that signs are installed within the Country at a location that is not disputed between key local Aboriginal stakeholders. This includes key local Aboriginal stakeholders from the neighbouring Country
- Signs should be placed on a road such that they inform road users who have entered the Country of Aboriginal language or people group, rather than servicing those who are exiting
- If signs are being installed as part of a project, the signs should be installed at locations that reflect the Country, not the project site
- If a road divides two or more Countries, it may not be possible to install a sign at that location
- If disagreement arises following the installation of a sign and it cannot be resolved, the sign may be removed.

4.6 Assessment and approval



1. Requests to signpost Country shall be directed to the Traffic Services Coordinator (TSC) in the metropolitan area or the Network Manager (NM) in Main Roads regional offices. Requests are to be recorded and tracked in the [Signposting Country Register](#).

4.6.1 Stage 1

2. The applicant/project shall submit a proposal containing:
 - a. The proposed name of the Country to be displayed on the sign/s
 - b. A picture or description of the proposed image to be displayed on the sign/s
 - c. The proposed location/s of the sign/s
 - d. A list of stakeholders who will be consulted
3. The proposal will be reviewed by Main Roads personnel as follows:
 - a. Metropolitan Region
 - i. Traffic Services Coordinator – review proposed locations from a traffic and safety perspective
 - ii. Asset Manager – review proposed locations from an asset management perspective

- iii. Principal Heritage Officer – review proposed Country name, image, location and stakeholders from a heritage perspective and as per the guidelines
 - b. Rural Regions**
 - i. Network Manager – review proposed locations from a traffic, safety, and asset management perspective
 - ii. Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (where appointed) – review proposed Country name, image, location and stakeholders from a local Aboriginal perspective
 - iii. Principal Heritage Officer – review proposed Country name, image, location and stakeholders from a heritage perspective and as per the guidelines
- 4.** If the proposal is sound, written support will be provided to the applicant/project. This support shall only remain valid for a period of two years from the date of notification.

4.6.2 Stage 2

- 5.** The applicant/project shall submit a final submission containing:
- a.** The final name of the Country to be displayed on the sign/s
 - b.** The final image as per design requirements outlined at Section 5.1
 - c.** The final location/s of where the sign/s are to be installed
 - d.** A list of the stakeholders who were consulted
 - e.** Written evidence that stakeholders were consulted and approve the name of Country, image, and location of sign/s.
- 6.** The final submission will be reviewed by Main Roads personnel as follows:
- a. Metropolitan Region**
 - i. Traffic Services Coordinator – review final locations from a traffic and safety perspective (including ground slope) and review final sign design to ensure it meets traffic sign requirements
 - ii. Asset Manager – review final locations from an asset management perspective
 - iii. Traffic Engineering Standards Manager – review sign and post design
 - iv. Principal Heritage Officer – review final Country name, image, location and stakeholders from a heritage perspective and as per the guidelines
 - b. Rural Regions**
 - i. Network Manager – review final locations from a traffic, safety and asset management perspective (including ground slope) and review final sign design to ensure it meets traffic sign requirements
 - ii. Aboriginal Stakeholder Engagement Advisor (where appointed) – review final Country name, image, location and stakeholders from a local Aboriginal perspective
 - iii. Traffic Engineering Standards Manager – review sign and post design
 - iv. Principal Heritage Officer – review final Country name, image, location and stakeholders from a heritage perspective and as per the guidelines
 - v. Regional Director – endorse final submission
- 7.** If the reviewers' comments in step 6 are closed out, Traffic Services Coordinator/Network Manager obtain final approvals as per Section 11.1 (Non-Regulatory Road Signs – Within Guidelines) of the Delegation of Authority. Written advice will be provided to the applicant/project.

4.7 Costs and responsibilities

4.7.1 Costs

All costs associated with the manufacture, installation and maintenance of signs shall be met by Main Roads.

4.7.2 Manufacture, installation, maintenance, and ownership

Main Roads is responsible for managing the manufacture, installation, and ongoing maintenance of the sign/s, and retains ownership of the sign/s.

An approved, certified Aboriginal business should be used to manufacture the sign/s where possible. Refer to the [Main Roads Aboriginal Business Directory](#) for a list of Aboriginal businesses.

Key local Aboriginal stakeholders should be given the opportunity to view the sign after manufacture and perform a ceremony prior to installation. For example, a smoking ceremony or blessing of the sign could be held at the local depot where the sign is being stored.

5 TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

5.1 Design

The design of the sign must conform to the requirements of:



5.2 Installation

Sign installation must conform to the requirements of the following technical guidelines:

- [Guideline for Determination of Sight Distance for Direction Signs](#)
- [8720-0762 – Road Traffic Signs Installation – Location Details](#)
- [Sign Structural Design](#)

Signs shall be installed as per the following provisions:

- Signs must not obscure another sign or obscure road user visibility.
- Where possible, signs must be located on the left-hand side of the road in full sunlight and in clear view of approaching road users.
- In cases where locality constraints would prevent road users from making visual contact with a sign on the left-hand side, signs may be placed on the right-hand side within a median provided:
 - The carriageway is physically divided by a median
 - Sufficient space exists on the median
- Signs should not be placed within the boundaries of an interchange or at locations with complex road geometries or decision points.

6 REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Document number	Document name
	<u>AIATSIS map</u>
	<u>Guideline for Determination of Sight Distance for Direction Signs</u>
	<u>Main Roads Aboriginal Business Directory</u>
	<u>National Native Title Tribunal – Native Title Determination</u>
<u>8720-0762</u>	<u>Road Traffic Signs Installation – Location Details</u>
<u>202231-0005</u>	<u>Signposting Country MR-GM-51</u>
<u>D24#26506</u>	<u>Signposting Country Register</u>
	<u>Specification 601</u>