

**PARRAMATTA CITY COUNCIL
PARRAMATTA SUBURB BOUNDARIES LEGALLY DEFINED**

What does it all mean?

On June 16, 2006, Parliament officially gazetted the suburb boundaries of Parramatta. This followed a two year project, run by the Geographical Names Board (GNB) of NSW. The GNB undertook several community consultations, including advertising for submissions in newspapers, and on-line. Council assisted the GNB by making draft maps available in all local libraries, and providing details of the consultation in Council's quarterly Community Newsletter. It was not, however, a Council project.

Why has this been done?

The GNB undertook this process because Parramatta was one of only 4 local government areas (LGA) in the entire state that did not have legally defined suburb boundaries. This meant that one house could be listed in 2 different suburbs, for example listed as Merrylands for post, insurance and title deeds, but listed as South Granville in the UBD and Emergency Services records. Confusion about suburb names can be a life and death matter, if an emergency vehicle can not find the correct address.

My suburb name has changed and I'm not happy, what can I do?

Now that suburb boundaries have been gazetted, Council is able to request changes by made based on requests and community support from residents. If there is sufficient community support for your proposed change, Council would formally consider the matter and would forward the request and the Council resolution to the GNB. The GNB will require support for any change to suburb boundaries from Council.

How to propose a suburb change by an **individual**:

- simply write to Council and providing name, address and proposed change to suburb boundary

How to propose a suburb change via a **petition**:

- talk to your neighbours, see how they feel, if they're supportive you could invite them to sign a joint letter that sets out your request and includes their names, addresses and signatures

The Consultation process

Council is receiving feedback from residents about the Suburb process indicating "They didnt know". The Geographical Names Board (GNB) is only required to advertise in the newspaper, and government gazette notice. This was not a Council project, and the GNB is not required to complete a Mailout or letter drop to meet the requirements of community consultation.

The following **public advice/consultation** occurred:

Newspapers:

The advertising dates were 9th February & 16th November 2005 in the following newspapers: Northern District Times, Sydney Morning Herald, Parramatta Sun, Parramatta Advertiser, and Auburn Review

Media Release from Lord Mayor (appeared in local Newspapers & Council Web Site)

http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/news/20050111_425.html

http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/news/20051111_523.html

Hardcopy Maps: displayed in all Council Libraries, Council Administration Office, Heritage Centre and Holroyd City Council Administration Office.

Residential Development Strategy workshops held within the Community during November 2005. Information was provided at the various workshops held throughout the community.

Community News: Posted in the January and October 2005 editions

Any feedback on the **consultation process** is to be directed to
The Secretary
Geographical Names Board of NSW
PO Box 143
BATHURST NSW 2795
Email: gnb@lands.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.gnb.nsw.gov.au

Any **proposals on boundary changes** should be directed to:
Parramatta City Council
PO Box 32
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
Email: council@parracity.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.parracity.nsw.gov.au
Fax: 9806 5917

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Are residents also required to send another letter to the GNB alone, or will Parramatta City Council forward on copies of the letters it receives?

A. It is simpler if all correspondence comes to Council, however, if people write to GNB, they will provide copies to Council.

Q. Can a suburb change request be done directly through the GNB & NSW Government without going through Parramatta City Council?

A. The GNB have advised Council that it is responsible for coordinating any future request for modifications to suburb boundaries. In addition, the GNB will require support for any change to suburb boundaries from Council.

Q. Approximately how long would it take to process a change?

A. Somewhere between six and eight months.

Q. Which Minister is responsible for the GNB?

A. The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Lands

Q. Who made the decision for these boundary name changes to occur?

A. The Hon Tony Kelly MLC, Minister for Lands, based on advice from the GNB

Q. Who assigned the GNB board to this task?

A. The GNB has a legal obligation to maintain suburb boundaries across NSW – these boundaries are essential for provision of services like emergency responses (police, fire, ambulance) and essential services (water, mail, electricity)

Q. Who had full control of it & who should have managed it?

A. The GNB had control of this process, exercising its legal obligation.