



11 September 2019

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Place Names Bill provides greater community engagement and protection

In typical Greens fashion, outrage first, details second.

Rather than engaging in the consultation process or seeking a briefing, instead the Greens fall back to their standard response of scaremongering.

Contrary to accusations made by the Greens, the penalty provisions in no way impedes freedom of speech.

The examples given on the ABC this morning are wrong. There will be no sanction for the use of colloquial names or Aboriginal names whether dual or otherwise.

The Penalty provision will only be used as a last resort if a person mis-uses a place name with the deliberate intent to mislead or deceive, for example, listing a property for sale as being in one suburb, when it is within the boundaries of another.

Claims the responsible Minister can take control of the naming process is also false. In the old Act, the Minister had the power to overrule the Board following an objection. In the new Act, the responsible Minister may only approve a recommendation put forward by the Panel, or deny the recommendation and send it back to the Panel for review. The Minister can no longer make a unilateral decision.

In the current Act, the Minister has naming responsibilities after there has been an objection process. The new Act provides greater community representation, by providing the Minister naming responsibilities, but ONLY after the Panel has made a recommendation that has followed due process, including advertising and extensive consultation.

This new system provides greater community representation and better protects the public.

Further information on the Place Names Bill is available from <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania/place-naming-in-tasmania/development-of-proposed-new-place-names-legislation>