

STREET NUMBERING POLICY

*June 2025**legislative*

PREAMBLE

Forming the foundation of Adelaide's urban character, our nationally heritage listed streets and grid layout were first envisioned in Colonel William Light's original 1837 plan. Designed with foresight and ambition, the plan introduced a bold grid layout of fifty-one generously wide streets, each a minimum of 66 feet (20 metres) wide, and many up to 98 feet (30 metres), forming the framework for a city surrounded by Park Lands that would prosper and grow. Reflecting both the natural topography and Light's commitment to harmony with the landscape, the city was thoughtfully divided into northern and southern sections, each framed by broad terraces and bordered by open Park Lands. Streets were laid out primarily in an east-west direction, with surrounding land divided into one-acre parcels known as Town Acres - structured spaces that would support a thriving community.

On 23 May 1837, a dedicated Street Naming Committee gave identity to these roads, naming them in honour of individuals who played pivotal roles in the colony's founding and development. This early act of place-making continues to shape the way we navigate and connect with our city today.

In the spirit of clarity and civic pride, a formal street numbering system was adopted by Council on 11 November 1884. This brought much-needed order to a growing city, replacing inconsistent and duplicated numbering with a methodical system that allocated ten numbers to every Town Acre frontage, a forward-thinking solution designed to support a connected, accessible Adelaide

PURPOSE

Section 220 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) (the Act) requires Councils to be responsible for the allocation of street numbers. For the City of Adelaide, the determination of street numbers has been delegated to the Chief Executive Officer by virtue of a resolution of Council made on 21 December 1992. The general policy for the allocation of street numbers in the City was determined by Council on 11 November 1884 and reinforced by Council in 1919.

It is the intent of this Policy to establish a system for allocating street numbers in order to facilitate a consistent address format across the Council area, as well as providing for alterations to existing street numbers. The Policy will ensure that every address site within the boundaries of the Council area is clearly identified with a number or number range for all buildings and allotments.

STATEMENT

Principles

Each piece of land has a logical street number which:

- should be simple to manage, is logical to users, and uniform across all properties within the Council area.
- is based on the street frontage affording access to the premises thus clearly identifying the access point to a property and the location of the post box.
- provides clear and unambiguous information to emergency services recognising Council's responsibility to ensure the public safety of the community.
- facilitates the efficient delivery of goods and services.
- is compatible with adjoining Councils where roads cross council boundaries.
- is consistent with the Australian/New Zealand Standard "Rural and urban addressing" (AS/NZS 4819:2011).
- Is supportive of the heritage value of the Park Lands.

Application of this document

The policy is applicable to the whole organisation including any wholly owned subsidiaries.

General

A Council may adopt a numbering system for buildings and allotments adjoining a road.

Council assigns a number (as part of its primary street address) to all buildings or allotments adjoining a public road (excluding Park Lands) created after the commencement of any land division.

Direction of Flow of Street Numbers**South of the River Torrens**

In southern Adelaide, with the exception of the Terraces, street numbers generally flow outwards from King William Street in the case of east-west streets with the lowest street number commencing at the King William Street end.

In the case of north-south streets, the numbers generally flow southwards from the River Torrens (lowest number to the north).

A general exception to the above rule relates to dead-end streets which are numbered commencing with the lowest number at the open end.

In the case of the Terraces, North and South Terraces are numbered sequentially west to east commencing at West Terrace, whilst East and West Terraces are numbered sequentially north to south commencing at North Terrace.

The exception is numbering on the Park Lands side of the Terraces, for numbering methodology refer Odd and Even Street Numbers section above.

North of the River Torrens

In North Adelaide, all street numbers flow from east to west in east-west streets (lowest number at the eastern end) and from the River Torrens northwards, in the case of north-south streets (lowest number to the south).

A general exception to the above rule relates to dead-end streets which are numbered commencing with the lowest number at the open end.

Numbering of Streets

Street numbering in the City of Adelaide is based on the allocation of ten (10) numbers per Town Acre (64.008 metres) as originally laid out by Colonel William Light. (i.e. 1 number per 6.4 metres).

However, as few Town Acres are exactly 64.008 metres the policy has been adopted whereby the first nine (9) numbers are 6.4008 metres wide with the tenth (10th) number being smaller or greater than 6.4008 metres, depending on the actual width of the Town Acre.

In accordance with the above, street numbering is measured from each new Town Acre boundary nearest the lowest street number.

Every metre of street frontage contained within a Town Acre is allocated a street number whether such number is used or not. The only general exception to this rule relates to all Park Lands and the Park Lands portion of the Council's five (5) squares. The northern side of North Terrace is permitted to be allocated street numbering under this policy.

Allocation of Numbers

All requests and allocations of numbers will be assessed according to this Street Numbering Policy.

Street numbers will be allocated following Development Approval (DA) being granted for a new development application.

Property owners must submit a written request for a change of the street number attributed to their building or allotment (if the street number is within their range).

A property owner must not adopt a building or allotment street number that is inconsistent with the numbering system adopted by Council.

Odd and Even Street Numbers

With the exception of the Terraces (*refer attachment, Figure 3*) which are the boundaries between the "built city" and "Park Lands", street numbers are allocated on the basis of odd numbers on one side of the street and even numbers on the other.

Odd numbers are allocated to land on the south side of east-west streets and the land on the west side of north-south streets. Even numbers are on the north and east sides, respectively.

On the Terraces, street numbers are allocated sequentially to the inside or 'built city' side of the Terrace. The outer or Park Lands side has no street numbers allocated.

However, in the event numbers are required, the numbers will continue from the last number of the last Town Acre on 'built city' side of that Terrace, from the first Town Acre directly opposite on the Park Lands side and then continue to the other end of that Terrace.

Increments of less than 6.4 metres

Where there are insufficient street numbers for buildings or occupancies, 'A' numbers may be allocated.

These should be avoided where possible, however where necessary will be allocated following the main street number in the order of number followed by a letter (e.g. 210, 210A).

As a general rule, levels above and below ground level will only be allocated a separate unique street number where a separate street frontage doorway exclusively services the particular area.

Allocation of Street Numbers to Buildings with no Street Frontage

Where an allotment fronting a street contains a number of buildings some of which do not themselves have a street frontage (e.g. rear), where possible, the street number most applicable to the access to such buildings will be the street number applicable to those buildings.

For units and flats in buildings having no street frontage or no separate street level access for each unit or flat, the address for such units or flats will be the unit/flat number followed by the street address of the most likely perceived access to those units or flats.

In extreme circumstances, it may be desirable to allocate a street name to the access

roadway and issue a separate set of street numbers in respect to the newly created street (refer attachment, Figure 4).

Street naming is undertaken by the Strategic Property team within the Property Program.

Allocation of Street Numbers to Allotments having no Street Frontage

Where an allotment in separate ownership has no street frontage, that allotment should be allocated the street number applicable to the access roadway serving that allotment in conjunction with an identified "OFF".

Where such allotment contains multiple buildings requiring the allocation of separate numbers, application should be made to the Strategic Property team for allocation of a street name.

Park Lands Street Numbering

Given the existing development on certain areas of the Park Lands, allowance is provided by this policy to allocate street numbers to the northern side of North Terrace only. This is to facilitate the operations of the businesses occupying the existing development. This is the only area in the Park Lands where street numbers will be allocated. Any variation to this requires consultation and Council decision.

New Developments

For the majority of cases for new developments, individual street numbers will be allocated to each ground level occupancy.

Except in rare cases (refer to: Increments of less than 6.4 metres), upper and lower levels of a multi-level development will be allocated the full range of street numbers applicable.

Council will proactively assist developers in organising street numbering for the building or allotment per this policy.

Where a building or allotment is on the corner of two named streets, the owner should be offered the choice of street frontage and appropriate range of numbers they may wish to use.

The owner should be requested to respond to the Rates and Valuation team advising them of the preferred street frontage so that the valuation records can be correctly initiated.

However, as a minimum, the selected street frontage must have an entrance into the building allowing for public access and the letter box must be placed on the same street frontage and within the relevant Town Acre.

Street Numbering Amendment

Council may from time to time alter a numbering system or substitute a new numbering system.

Council reserves the right to direct owners to change the building or allotment street

numbers where the existing numbering is inappropriate or confusing.

Council must immediately notify the Valuer-General and Australia Post of a decision of the Council to adopt, alter or substitute a numbering system under this section.

Notification

Public notice must be given of the adopting, altering, or substituting of a numbering system of a public road.

Council will notify the applicant and any affected property owners in writing of any new or changed numbers.

Exceptions

Not all streets commence at a Town Acre boundary. In this case, the frontage of each address is to be as though the spacing for numbering frontages had commenced at the Town Acre boundary.

This may lead to a discrepancy in the length of a numbered frontage of the first address (*refer attachment, Figure 1*).

Where the length of the first number frontage is less than 500 millimetres, this frontage will be included with the adjacent frontage to which the first number will be allocated (*refer attachment, Figure 2*).

Where a street has a significant change of direction, the street number will increase incrementally at the point of change of direction. The same method noted in the paragraph above is used to determine the first street number in the new direction. It is acknowledged that this will have the effect of throwing out of alignment the normally regular demarcations of the street numbers for one side of the street as opposed to the other.

Previously, a number of dead-end streets were made through streets without amending the street numbering. This has resulted in the numbers in these streets running in the wrong direction.

Examples:

Adelaide – Byron Place (both sections)

North Adelaide – Marian Street

Key rule

Under no circumstances shall a street number overlap a Town Acre boundary.

Incidence of title boundaries

It will frequently be found that there is no coincidence between certificate of Title boundaries and street numbering demarcations.

Accordingly, street numbers are to be allocated in accordance with the best fit, having regard to both the unused known as numbers and relative locational co-ordinates

between street number demarcations and title boundaries.

OTHER USEFUL

Related documents

- Figure 1. Town Acre Boundary, and street number spacing.
- Figure 2. Numbering where boundary is less than 500mm.
- Figure 3. Terraces surrounding the City of Adelaide; and
- Figure 4. Numbering of buildings that do not have direct street frontage.

Relevant legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*

GLOSSARY

Throughout this document, the below terms have been used and are defined as:

Allotment – a defined allocation of land within the City of Adelaide.

Certificate of Title – is an official record of land ownership in South Australia and defines the boundary of ownership.

Terraces – the boundaries between the built city and Park Lands. Refers to North, West, South and East Terraces within Adelaide, and Barton, Lefevre, Kingston Terraces, McKinnon and Sir Edwin Parades, Pennington, Strangways, and Mills Terraces within North Adelaide. (*Refer map in attachment, Figure 3.*)

Town Acre – Is 64.008 metres squared. Colonel William Light divided city land into 1042 town acres; 700 in South Adelaide (City) and 342 in North Adelaide.

ADMINISTRATIVE

As part of Council's commitment to deliver the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan, services to the community and the provision of transparent information, all policy documents are reviewed as per legislative requirements or when there is no such provision a risk assessment approach is taken to guide the review timeframe.

This Policy document will be reviewed every **four** years in line with the term of Council unless legislative or operational change occurs beforehand. The next review is required in **June 2029**.

Roles and Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the Associate Director, Finance and Procurement to perform this review.

Review history:

Trim Reference	Authorising Body	Date/ Decision ID	Description of Edits
ACC2025/TBC	Council	24 June 2025	Preamble added, re-ordering of content, minor revisions made (review dates and title of responsible officer). Images updated.
ACC2023/157611	Council	14/06/2022	North side North Tce inclusion
ACC2020/102984	Council	11/08/2020/20411	Transfer to new template.
ACC2008/178358	Council	09/05/1994	Minor revisions made.

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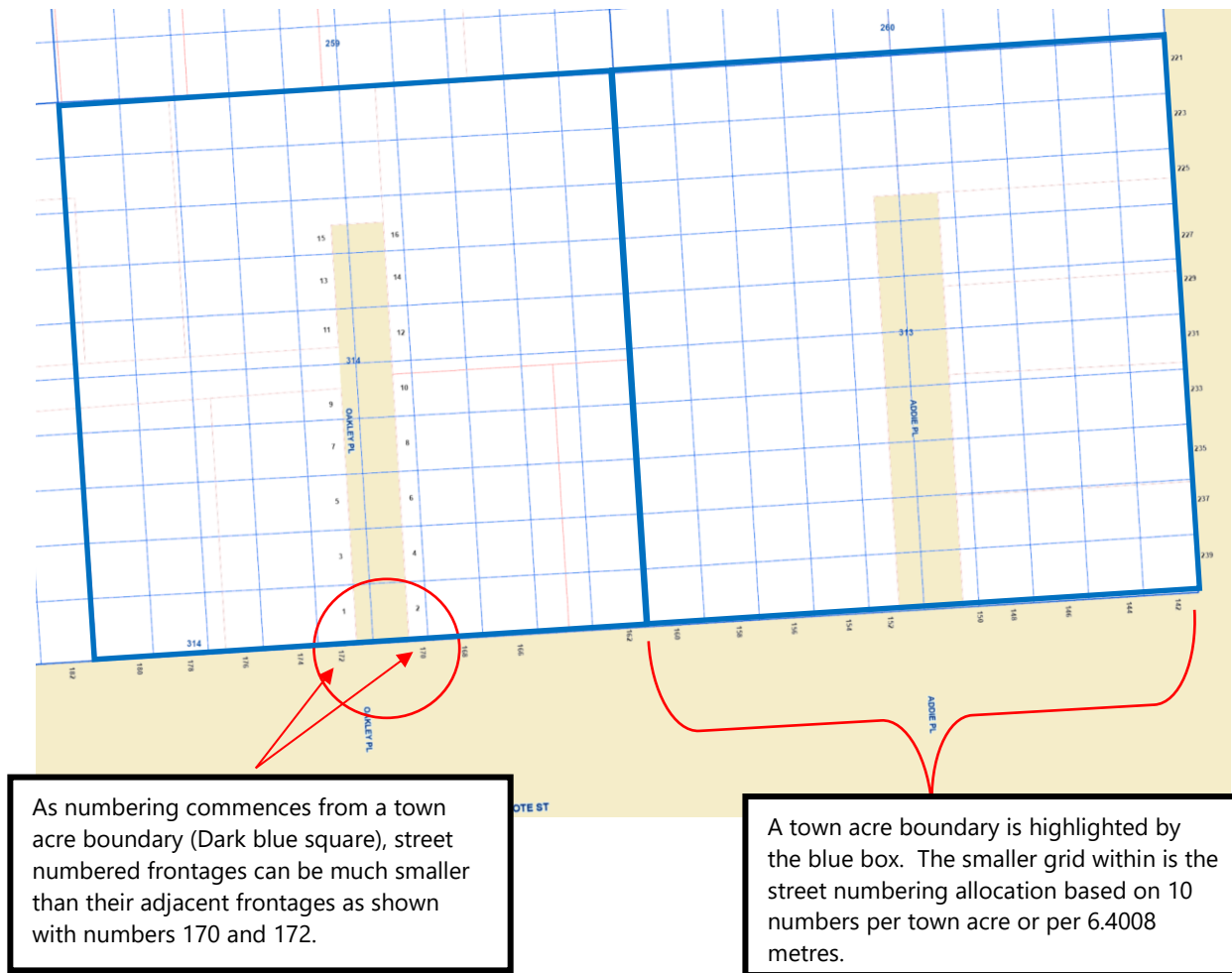
Figure 1. Town Acre Boundary, and street number spacing

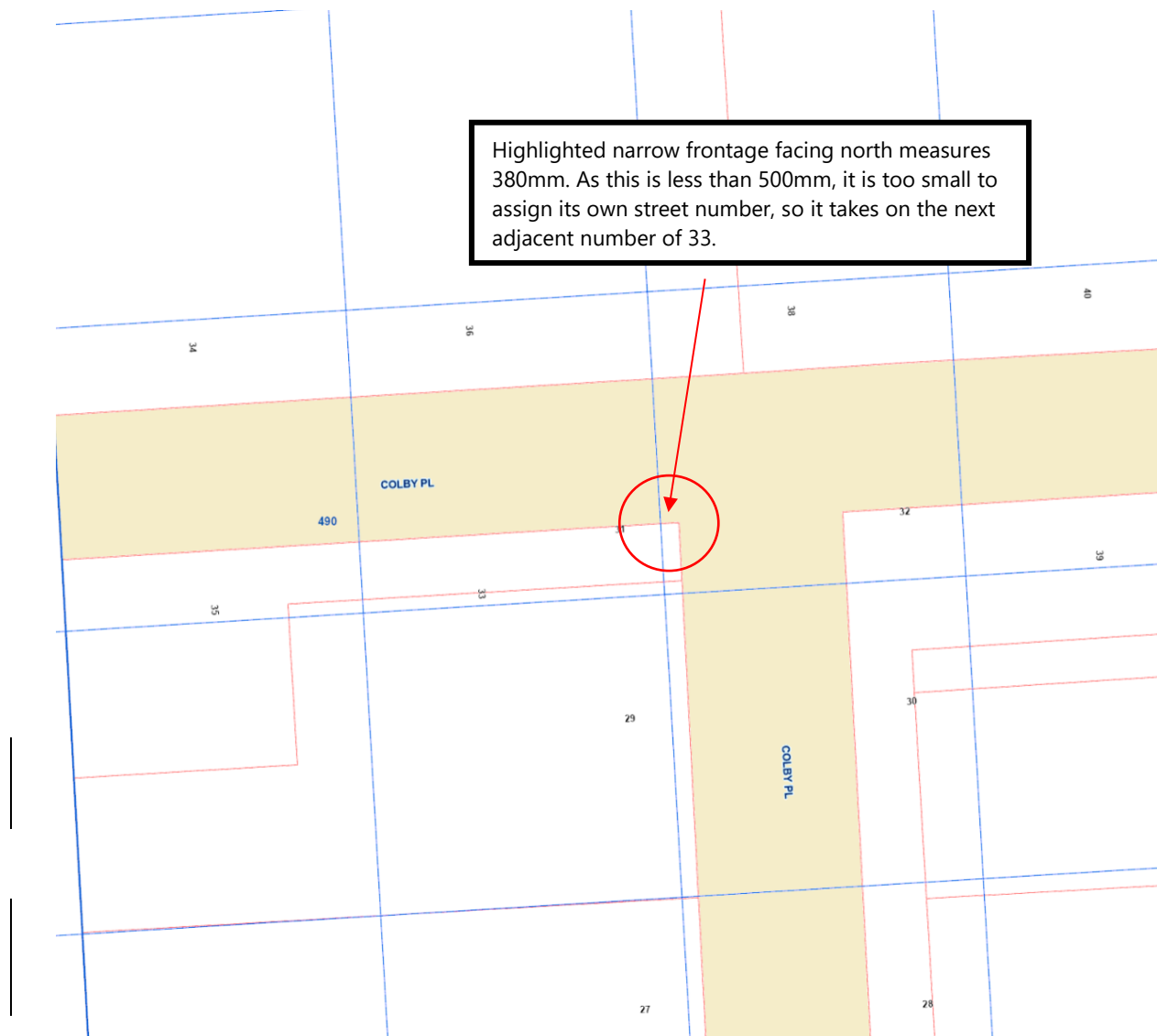
Figure 2. Numbering where boundary is less than 500mm.

Figure 3. Terraces surrounding the City of Adelaide.

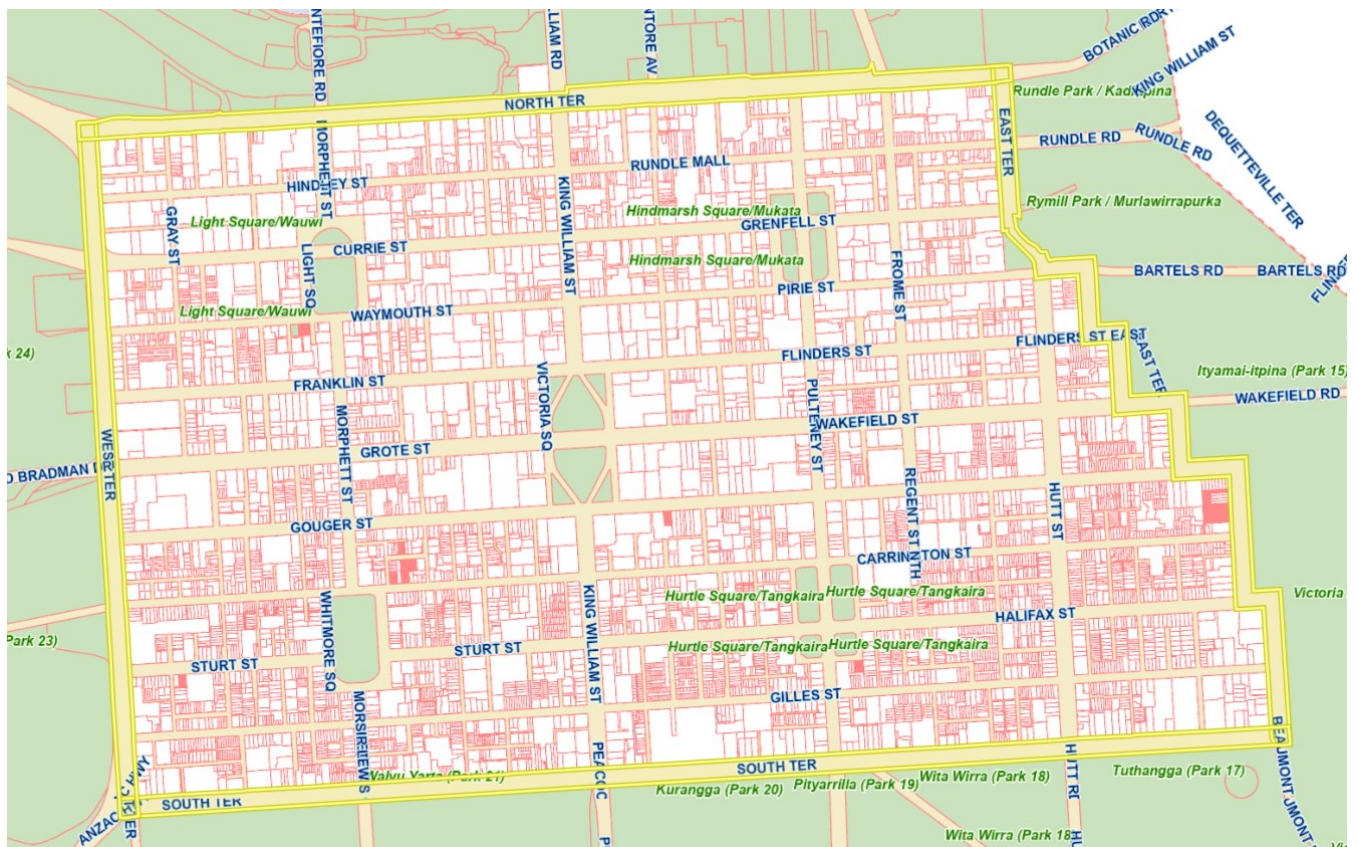


Figure 4. Numbering of buildings that do not have direct street frontage.

The main access to the units highlighted is from Hack Street via the access way.

Due to the number of premises along this access way it was appropriate to have it formally named, Barton Place.