Frequently Asked Questions

The following Q & A's have been collated from the various official websites relating to this project (such as www.landservices.sa.gov.au) as well as Council information.

Who can Name Roads and Assign Property Numbers?

Local Councils have the authority to name public and private roads, streets and places (other than State and Federal Roads) under the Local Government Act 1999. This includes assigning new names or changing a current name in accordance with the Council’s Selection of Road and Public Place Names Policy.

The Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) is responsible for naming South Australian State Roads.

What is Rural Property Addressing?

The Rural Property Addressing Project (RPAP); is an initiative of the South Australian Government with the support of the State Emergency Service (SES), Country Fire Service (CFS), Metro Fire Service, SA Police, SA Ambulance Service, Local Government Association, Country Women’s Assoc. and Australia Post, aimed at providing all occupied rural properties in South Australia with a new, nationally consistent, easier to locate numbered address.

The RPAP, administered by the Department Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), is a distance based numbering system which will quickly tell emergency personnel or anyone trying to find a property how many metres it is from the start of the road and on which side of the road the property entrance is located. This system will replace the RAPID, RSD, RMB and Lot number systems, providing one consistent address for use by Australia Post, Emergency Services, service providers, family and friends.

As part of the RPAP, the names of rural roads are being reviewed by Local Councils and the State Government to ensure that all formed public roads are logical, unambiguous and have a unique name consistent with the Australian & New Zealand Standard. As a result, there will be many new road names and many existing road names and/or their length will change.

Following the national standard now used in all other states, your property will become one of 55,000 properties across rural South Australia to receive an official number, road name, locality or suburb, and postcode for the first time. If your property has a name, naturally you can still choose to make that part of your property address.

The new addresses will not affect residents’ privacy. It will only identify the property, not who lives there. Property owners will be notified once the new address becomes official.
Why is it Being Implemented?

The difficulty of addressing and locating properties has been accepted as a fact of rural life. Examples of people giving ambulances directions such as “turn right at the old gum tree, then turn right at the forty four gallon drum” are commonplace and rely heavily on people’s knowledge of the local area and reference points.

This can be confusing, time consuming and frustrating. When minutes count and an ambulance vehicle is en-route to a property to help an injured or seriously ill person, it is important that the ambulance officers quickly and efficiently locate the property. It is important that properties be numbered in a consistent and logical way to assist emergency services. The Rural Property Addressing Project is aimed at ending that confusion and ambiguity.

Giving rural properties a consistent address will:

- assist emergency services and service providers find properties - eg vets
- improve the safety of people in rural areas
- improve delivery of services and infrastructure
- provide a certainty of location and a recognised address that can be understood nationally.

How is an Address Worked Out?

Each individual rural property is assigned a unique number based on the distance of the property entrance from the designated starting point of the road which is usually an intersection or junction.

A number is allocated every 10 meters along the road. The number is then a measure of the distance of the property entrance from the starting point of the road. The start of the road is determined as the fastest and safest road accessed from the nearest major road or town. Rural road maps are being drawn up to define the start of every rural road.

Distances are based on data collected using aerial imagery and accurate locating technologies - eg GPS. They are accurate to within 10 to 15 meters and are accurate for car odometers.

Odd numbers are given to properties on the left with even numbers being given to the properties on the right.
Who is Providing These Addresses?
Rural property addressing is jointly managed by the State Government and local Councils.

The State Government will:
- provide standard communication, process support and negotiation with third parties
- provide technical support to local councils
- establish the rural property address register, rural road register and maintenance systems.

The local Councils will:
- check rural road names and office generated address
- name any unnamed, occupied roads and notify the State Government
- communicate official addresses to residents
- ask residents to display the appropriate road signs

I Already Have a Number?
You will still be issued with a new numbered address even if you currently have a Rural Areas Property Identification Directory (RAPID) number or equivalent. The RPAP will replace the RAPID, RSD, RMB and Lot number systems, providing one consistent address for use by Australia Post, Emergency Services, service providers, family and friends. The current RAPID numbers or equivalent:
- are not unique
- are not officially recognised as an address
- are of little benefit for people who don’t have access to topographical maps.

If you have a post box, post office, private or locked bag that you have mail delivered to you should continue to use it. If you have any concerns about mail delivery contact Australia Post.

How Will I be Advised of My New Address?
Your council will advise when your new official address will be available for use and, from this time, you should immediately begin using this address.

Can a New Address be Changed?
Once your address has been issued it can’t be changed unless it is incorrect. If the wrong entrance was used to create your new number or if the number is incorrect you should contact Council as soon as possible.

What Will My Postal Address Be?
Australia Post supports the State Government’s standard for Rural Property Addressing to replace the current RSD, RMB and Lot number for roadside letterbox deliveries. You should adopt the new Rural Property Address as your postal address unless:
- you use an address such as a PO Box, Locked Bag or Private Bag;
- you collect your mail at the local post office counter using a Care PO address.
Who Do I Need To Tell About My New Address?

Once you have been allocated an address your Council will notify the national address database which is used by:

- Australia Post
- Emergency services
- Telstra
- State and Federal electoral commissions
- Electricity, gas and water authorities.

You should give your new address to:

- family and friends
- businesses and other organisations you deal with - eg bank, medical organisations, motor registration.

Will I Need To Change My Land Title Documents?

No you won’t. Your Land Title Documents and your Rural Property Address are separate matters. Put simply:

- Land Title Documents ‘describe’ a piece of land, its tenure and ownership, regardless of whether it is occupied or not (Lot Number, Parcel Number, Hundredth etc) and it is not a residential address that you or others can find in a Map Book or on a road-sign.

- Your Rural Property Address is a numbered distance based residential ‘road’ address from the start of a road to the access point (entranceway) of your occupied rural property - and will be signposted with a number and road name. It does not specify anything about ownership rights.

Rural Property Address Signs (Roadside Numbers)?

All residents must ensure that their roadside number is clearly visible and can be recognised from a vehicle travelling along the road from either direction. This will assist services to find properties as every number will help determine a property’s location.

Rural Road Maps?

As part of the Rural Property Addressing Project, the names of rural roads are currently being reviewed by Local Councils and the State Government. A public rural road map is created for each Council area as the review is finalised. The maps reflect the latest official road name for public and emergency service agencies use.