



RACT POLICY STATEMENT

**Office of the Deputy Head of Corps
Royal Australian Corps of Transport
Headquarters Army School of
Transport
Tobruk Barracks
PUCKAPUNYAL VIC 3662**

April 2020

STATEMENT NO 41

NAMING OF RACT WATERCRAFT

This Policy Statement to be reviewed by:

April 2025

Issued by the Head of Corps Royal Australian Corps of Transport for application within the Royal Australian Corps of Transport.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK Walk'.

**JK WALK
Brigadier
Head of Corps
Royal Australian Corps of Transport**

AMENDMENT

RACT Policy Statement No 41 dated

April 2020

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RACT POLICY STATEMENT NO 41 NAMING OF ARMY WATERCRAFT

INTRODUCTION

Reference:

A. DI(A) 12-1 Naming of Army watercraft

1. Army operates various types of watercraft in order to provide appropriate water transport support to amphibious operations. These craft should be named in such a way as to promote historical links between the Army and the community, be recognisable as Australian and foster a sense of esprit de corps within watercraft units and Army.

AIM

2. The aim of this Corps Policy Statement (CPS) is to:
- a. reinforce the naming principles that are to be applied when naming RACT operated Army watercraft;
 - b. specify the staffing procedure for naming proposals;
 - c. list the names of all current Army watercraft; and
 - d. detail a “pool” of reserved names that may be used for future Army watercraft.

NAMING PRINCIPLES

3. Reference A outlines the following principles to be applied to the selection of names for Army Watercraft:
- a. **Landing Craft** are to be named after harbours, rivers, bays, islands and areas of operation in which water transport units have served. Landing Craft will not normally be named after individuals. In exceptional circumstances, Landing Craft may be named after a significant battle or notable military campaign that has a strong connection with the vessel or unit which it serves.
 - b. **Amphibious Craft** are to be named to recognise individuals, either living or dead, who have made a significant contribution to the Army, particularly within RACT and service to the Australian National Antarctic Resupply Expedition (ANARE).
 - c. **Support Craft** are to be named after Australian Flora and Fauna.
4. Army watercraft are not to be named after cities, towns, or districts, since this is reserved for ships of the Royal Australian Navy.

IMPLEMENTATION

5. Naming proposals are to be staffed through the relevant Regional Representative to the RACT HOC Cell. When naming watercraft after a campaign, battle or notable person, the proposal is to state the nature of the association or the reason for such naming. When notable persons are involved, the proposal is to include the full name and address of the named member

or next of kin as applicable and if known.

6. All nominations for naming of Army watercraft will be considered and endorsed by the RACT Committee with HOC retaining the power of veto. Submissions for naming of Army watercraft are to be staffed at least two months prior to the relevant RACT Corps Committee meeting, noting that these meetings are usually held in the first half of each year. Once endorsed by the Corps Committee, the proposal will be forwarded to Directorate of Coordination-Army for approval.

7. A flow diagram for the submission of naming proposals is shown in annex A.

RESPONSIBILITIES

8. **Proposing RACT Sub-units and Units.** OC/CO of RACT sub-units and units that make a naming proposal are responsible for ensuring:

- a. that the proposal is fully justified in accordance with paragraph 5 to 7 and meets the requirements of both reference A and this CPS;
- b. that where necessary, direction is given for further research to amplify the proposal prior to on-forwarding the proposal;
- c. that the proposed name is not in use;
- d. that the proposal is staffed to the appropriate Regional Representative at least two months prior to the next scheduled RACT Committee meeting; and
- e. meeting all costs associated with naming an Army watercraft such as travel expenses for guests at naming ceremonies, sign writing, naming ceremony costs etc.

9. **Regional Representatives.** The Regional Representatives are responsible for:

- a. ensuring that the proposal is complete and adequately justified; and
- b. ensuring that the proposal is staffed to the RACT HOC Cell within 14 days of receipt.

10. **RACT HOC Cell.** The RACT HOC Cell is responsible for ensuring:

- a. that the proposal is complete and adequately justified; and
- b. that the proposal is staffed to the COLs COMDT, RACT Committee for comment and feedback within 14 days of receipt.

11. **RACT Committee.** The RACT Corps Committee is responsible for ensuring:

- a. that the proposal meets the requirements of both reference A and this CPS.
- b. that acceptance of the proposed watercraft name will satisfy the naming principles contained in reference A.
- c. that the proposed watercraft name will enhance esprit de corps within not only the water transport trade but also the wider RACT and Army, and
- d. that the proposed watercraft name will maintain and enhance a professional corporate image of the RACT within the wider ADF.

CURRENT NAMES OF ARMY WATERCRAFT

12. A list of currently approved watercraft names is in Annex B. This list will be amended as necessary. The current names of the LCM8s do not comply with the naming principles. Vide reference A, current names will be retained as they are registered with the relevant maritime safety authorities and any change to names will require significant staff work and additional cost to Army to register new names. When each craft is de-commissioned, these names will cease to be used but will not be moved to the pool.

POOL NAMES

13. Annex C shows the pool of reserved names that may be used for Army watercraft introduced into service. This list will be amended as necessary. Names in this list are to be considered first when compiling naming proposals. However, if considered warranted, alternative names may be proposed in accordance with this CPS.

COMMISSIONING AND DE-COMMISSIONING OF ARMY WATERCRAFT

14. **Naming Ceremonies.** When an Army watercraft is brought into service, units/sub-units may conduct a naming ceremony once the vessel's name has been approved. However, as outlined at paragraph eight above, all costs associated with such a ceremony are to be borne by the relevant unit/sub-unit. Similarly, all organisation and coordination of naming ceremonies is a unit/sub-unit responsibility. Consideration should be given to inviting Head of Corps, the Representative Colonel Commandant, the relevant Colonel Commandant and the Corps RSM to attend such ceremonies.

15. **Life Cycle of Vessel Names.** Names assigned to Army watercraft will remain extant throughout the service life of the vessel. This includes any and all periods where the vessel is undergoing refit or is allocated to a repair pool. A particular name will cease being used only when that vessel is permanently withdrawn from service (i.e. de-commissioned) or when a new name is approved by the RACT Corps Committee.

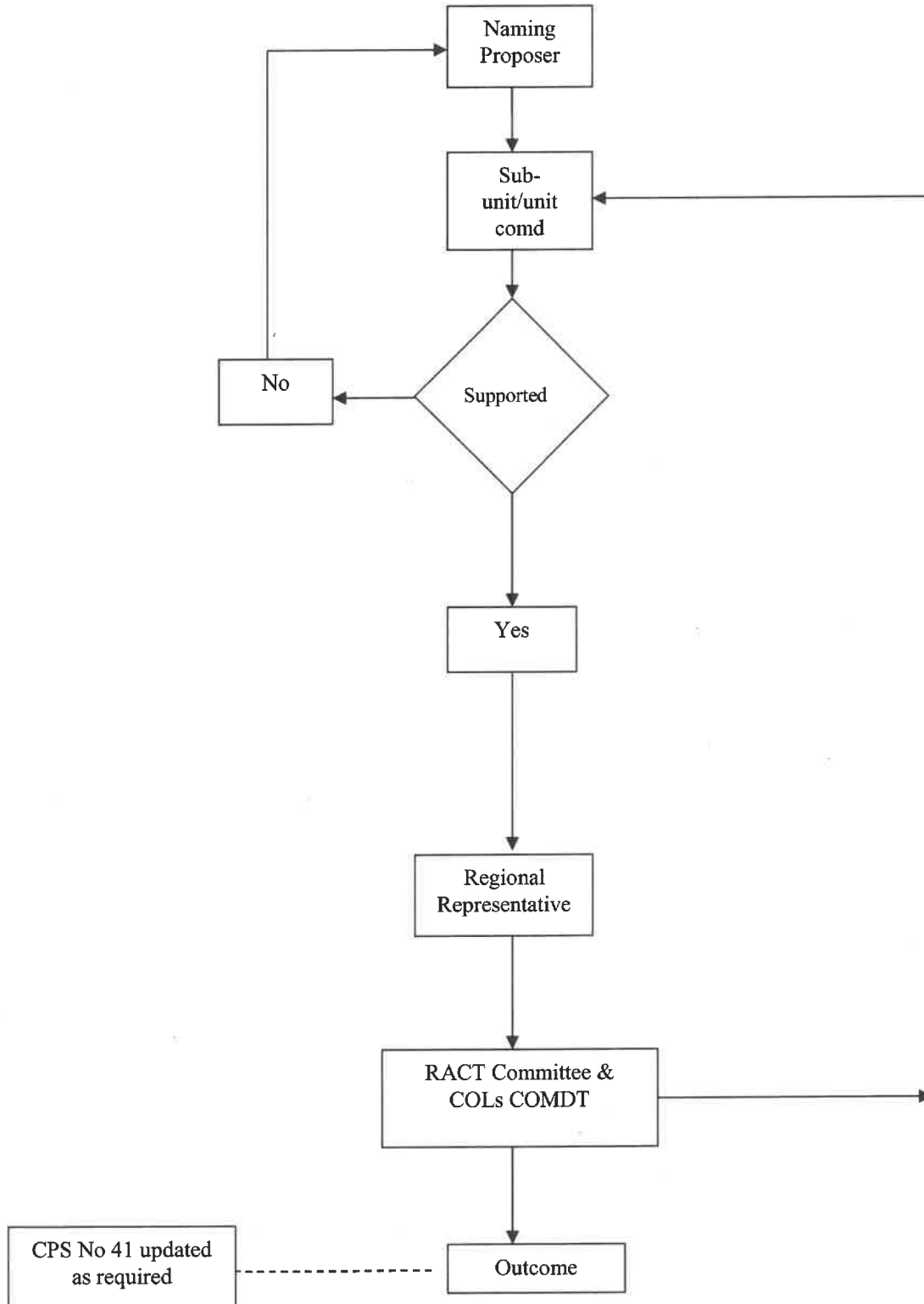
16. **Names of De-commissioned Vessels.** When an Army watercraft is permanently withdrawn from service the vessel name will be transferred to the pool of names in Annex C. Similarly, where a new name is assigned to a vessel, the old name will be transferred to the pool, except as provided at paragraph 12 above.

Annexes:

- A. Flow Chart for Naming Proposals
- B. Current Names of Army Watercraft
- C. Pool Names of Army Watercraft

**ANNEX A TO
RACT POLICY STATEMENT NO 41
DATED APR 20**

FLOW CHART FOR NAMING PROPOSALS



**ANNEX B TO
RACT POLICY STATEMENT NO 41
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CURRENT NAMES OF RACT WATERCRAFT

Vessel Type	Vessel Number	Vessel Name	Vessel Location	Name Justification or Historical Link
LARC V	117 083	W.J. Wark	Army Museum Bandiana	Outdoor display
LARC V	117 087	R. Gorzalka	Townsville	CPL Gorzalka (deceased) made a significant contribution to Army Water transport and the RACT
LARC V	117 094	R.K. Mair	HQ AST, ALTC	COL Mair (Retd) made a significant professional and personal commitment to the AASC, RAASC and RACT in a military career spanning 24 years and after that as Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonel Commandant 3 rd and 6 th Military Districts
LARC V	117 111	K. Stafford	Townsville	WO2 Stafford (deceased) made a significant contribution to Army water transport and the RACT
LARC V	117 115	L. McGrath	Townsville	PTE McGrath (deceased) made a significant contribution to Army water transport and the RACT
LARC V	117 116	D. Searle	Townsville	PTE Searle (deceased) made a significant contribution to Army water transport and the RACT
LARC V	117 117	M.C. Price	Army Museum Bandiana	Indoor display
LARC V	117 121	G. Holland	Townsville	CPL Holland (deceased) made a significant contribution to Army water transport and the RACT
LARC V	117 123	P. Bourke	Townsville	CPL Bourke (deceased) made a significant contribution to Army water transport and RAEME
LARC V	117 125	M. Smith	Townsville	CFN Smith (deceased) made a significant contribution to Army water transport and RAEME
LARC V	117 128	L. Stooke		First Detachment Commander of ANARE 1948-48
LARC V	Spare	J. Cunningham	Townsville	WO2 Cunningham (deceased) made a significant contribution to Army water transport and the RACT
LARC V	Spare	R. Milan	Townsville	CPL Milan (retired) made a significant contribution to Army water transport and the RACT

Vessel Type	Vessel Number	Vessel Name	Vessel Location	Name Justification or Historical Link
LCM8	AB 1050	Coconut Queen	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1051	Seahorse 2	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1053	Sea Widow	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1055	Midnight Sun	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1056	Charlie Brown	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1058	Anzac Cove	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1059	Snoopy	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1060	Wanderer	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1061	Northern Warrior	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1062	Ocean Marie	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB1063	Ice Fire	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1064	Sea Trojan	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1065	Viking Sun	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1066	Hastings	Townsville	Current name
LCM8	AB 1067	Charisma	Townsville	Current name
Noosa Cat	AM 238	TBA	Sydney	
Noosa Cat	AM 240	TBA	Townsville	
Noosa Cat	AM 241	TBA	Townsville	
Noosa Cat	AM 243	Dugong	Cairns	Current name
SAFCOL	AM 1353	Coral Snake	Perth	Current name
SAFCOL	AM 1354	Red Viper	Sydney	Current name

**ANNEX C TO
RACT POLICY STATEMENT NO 41
DATED APR 20**

POOL NAMES FOR ARMY WATERCRAFT

Name	Justification
Kangaroo Point	The original home of 34 Wtr Tpt Sqn prior to moving to Bulimba
Woolwich	The original home of 35 Wtr Tpt Sqn prior to Moving to Ross Island
Colmslie	The base for 11 and 12 Small Ships Coys during WW2
Trinity Beach	Trinity Beach was the location at Cairns where 5 th , 6 th , 7 th and 9 th Divs conducted their amphibious training before moving to the islands of the SWPA
Coochiemudlo Island	Coochiemudlo Island off Brisbane was a training camp during WW2
Harry Chauvel	AV 1353 'Harry Chauvel' was a Landing Ships Medium (LSM) purchased from the United States Navy in 1959 that remained in service until the early 1970s
Brudenell White	AV 1354 'Brudenell White' was another LSM purchased at the same time as the 'Harry Chauvel'
Vernon Sturdee	AV 1355 'Vernon Sturdee' was another LSM purchased at the same time as the 'Harry Chauvel'
Clive Steele	AV 1356 'Clive Steel' was another LSM purchased at the same time as the 'Harry Chauvel'. This particular vessel was involved in an action on the Bassac River in SVN on 5 Jan 69 the first such action for an Army watercraft since WW2
John Monash	AS 3051 'John Monash' was purchased from the Adelaide Steamship Company in 1965. At 1,396 tons she was the largest ship ever operated by Army and saw service in SVN
H.J.B. Burrell	Sapper Harry Burrell was awarded the Military Medal for his actions during the fighting at Buoi Plantation on OP PORTON in June 1945
W.R. Jaensch	Sapper Jaensch was also awarded the Military Medal for his actions during the fighting at Buoi Plantation on OP PORTON in June 1945
J.R. Bourke	A water transport soldier killed in action during WW2
G. Roy	A water transport soldier killed in action during WW2
S.D. Johnston	A water transport soldier killed in action during WW2
R.C. Kennon	A water transport soldier killed in action during WW2
T.K. Kingston	A water transport soldier killed in action during WW2
Sir Ninian Stephan	Sir Ninian Stephen was a CPL in 43 Landing Craft Coy during WW2 and went on to become Governor General of Australia. He also made a significant contribution to the Water Transport Association
Sir Nigel Bowen	Sir Nigel Bowen was 2IC of 43 Landing Craft Coy during WW2 and went on to become Chief Justice of Australia. He also made a significant contribution to the Water Transport Association
J.C.A. Hallett	COL Hallett was an ex-Director of Transportation and the ex-Patron of the Water Transport Association
S.G. Penniger	The first OC of one of the Landing Craft Coys of 1 AWT Gp
R.R. Chester	The first OC of one of the Landing Craft Coys of 1 AWT Gp
G.D. Mitchell	The first OC of one of the Landing Craft Coys of 1 AWT Gp
W. Forman	CAPT Forman was awarded a US Legion of Merit during WW2
C.D.R. Chesterman	LTCOL Chesterman commanded 1 AWT Gp during WW2 and was awarded an OBE