PROPERTY ADDRESSING IN FLINDERS SHIRE

SHIRE OF FLINDERS

MAP LEGEND

Flinders Shire Localities

- Dutton River
- Hughenden
- Marathon
- Porcupine
- Prairie
- Stamford
- Tangorin
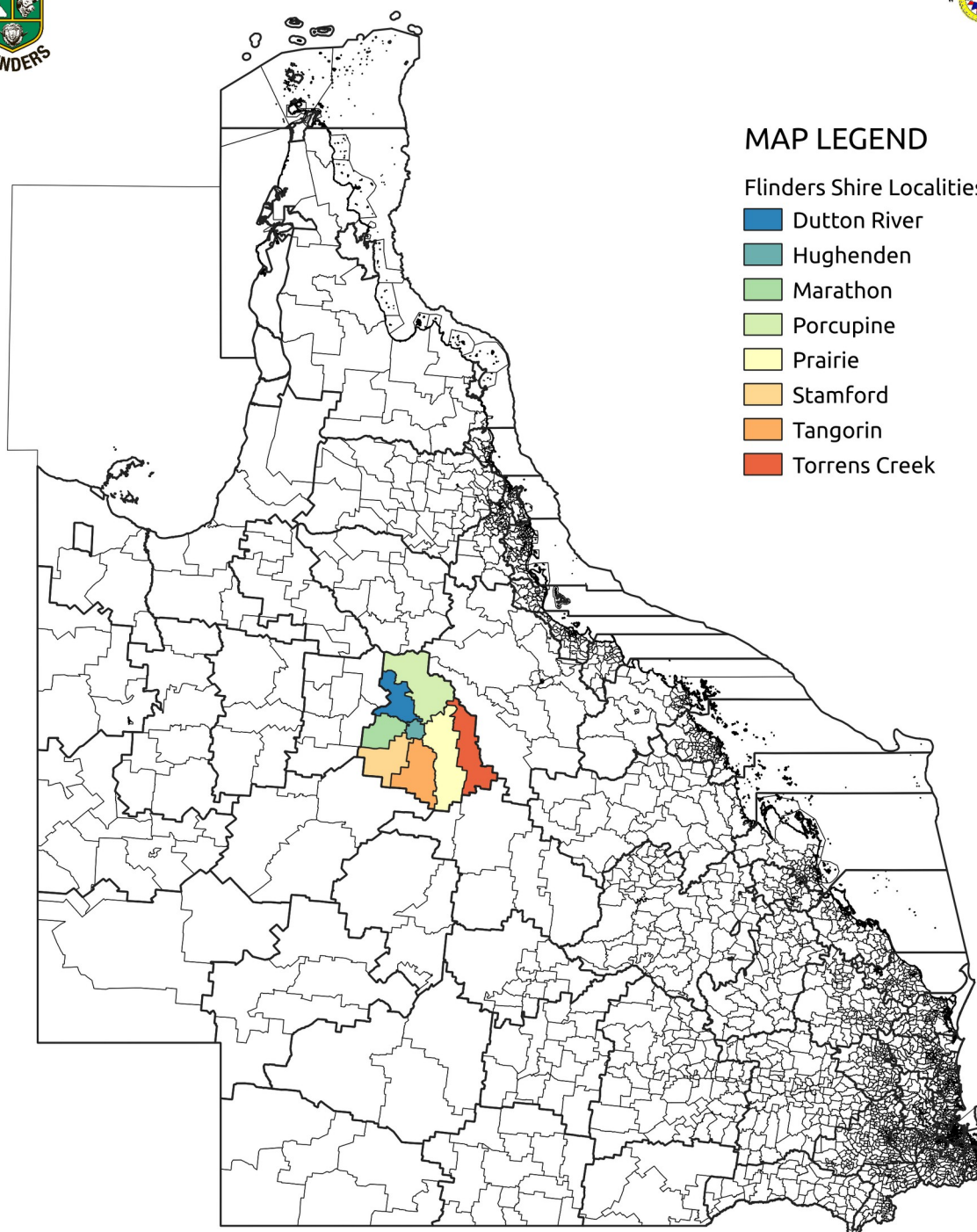- Torrens Creek

Queensland contains 78 local government areas, (shires).
Each shire is divided up into several localities or suburbs.
There are 3359 localities and suburbs in Queensland.

Flinders Shire is made up of 8 localities (highlighted).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IN AN EMERGENCY
As a bare minimum you need to know your :

      (a) address number
      (b) road name
      (c) locality or suburb

If you need to ring triple zero in an emergency you might find yourself talking with somebody in Townsville or Brisbane and they probably won't recognise the name of your station property, but they can look up the above details and find your property in a map.

The call centre staff will send emergency services from the nearest centre with services available. They might not care about shire boundaries. For example if you are closer to Richmond or Muttaburra than Hughenden you might get emergency services from one of those places. If the Richmond or Muttaburra services are busy it will be better if they send the Hughenden emergency services instead. The emergency call centre staff can work that out for you can and get you the best help in the shortest possible time.

Your property name is still important to the mail man and should be included in your postal address. It can also be useful if it is passed on to the emergency services in addition to the above details, because when the information gets back in local hands, it could be up to a local person to help the emergency services find their way to your property. [back]

Flinders Shire does not make the rules when it comes to addressing. Local governments are assigned the responsibility of implementing the addressing scheme within our shire according an international standard called AS/NZS 4819:2011. Interpretation of the addressing standards depends on understanding parts other Queensland laws such the Local Government Act 2009 and the Lands Act 1994, especially the parts about roads.

Local governments in Queensland are in charge of naming roads within their shire boundaries, (except state government roads), and allocating property addresses. The shire provides address updates approximately once a month to the Department of Resources.

The Queensland Government's Department of Resources, (DOR) is in charge of gathering the address data from all 78 shires in Queensland. There is a better explanation about Addressing in the Queensland in the Queensland Government Website.

According to the standards, property addressing is supposed to be the same all over Australia and New Zealand. If you cross a shire boundary or even travel in a different state you should still be able to find your way to an address in the same manner. If we get a new police officer or ambulance person they should be able to find their way around in Flinders Shire the same as they did in shire where they came from. All local governments stick to the same standards, but when we cross shire boundaries we notice differences in the type and placement of rural address number posts and other signage.

The main purpose of this document is not to explain all about property addressing, the state and federal governments are better at that. This web page is just to answer some frequently asked questions about property addressing by residents of Flinders Shire.

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(a) How do I check my property address?

(b) What is the difference between a 'Property Address' and a 'Postal Address'?

(c) What is the difference between 'Rural Addressing' and 'Property Addressing'?

(a) How do I check my Property Address?
There are two ways to check and make sure your address details are correct and make sure your address is registered. You can use either one of these or both it you want to.

> (i) Go to the Queensland Government's [Queensland Geocoder](#) site and click on the 'Individual Request' tab, then enter either your address, your lot plan or your coordinates, and click 'submit'.
> (ii) Open [Queensland Globe](#), click 'search', then 'Street Address', and start entering your address details. Chances are you will only need to type the numbers and the first few letters before it will have a few guesses and you can click on the right one. When you click on it it should zoom you to your location in the satellite map.

If the address you are entering doesn't produce any results it is probably not the correct address or it is not registered for some reason. Contact the council for your address. [[back](#)]

(b) What is the difference between a property address and a postal address?
A property address is not the same thing as a postal address, but it can be used as a postal address if you want. For a postal address please make sure you always add the postcode. Property addresses are associated with lot and plan numbers which uniquely identify each property in Queensland. Property addresses can be used to help emergency services find you faster in an emergency. Property addresses can always be found on a map. The property address where you normally live is to be used as part of your ID and is meant to be on your drivers licence and other important personal documents.
Postal addresses may be or may not be helpful to locate a person or place. A postal address can be a post office box or a mail bag number. Your postal address is probably not suitable to be used for a property address, (unless you happen to live in a post office box), but your property address can optionally be used as a postal address if it suits you to have your mail delivered to your property. [[back](#)]

(c) What is the difference between 'Rural Addressing' and 'Property Addressing'?
Property Addressing is often called 'rural addressing', but rural addressing is only one part of it. In Flinders Shire we have 1733 property addresses, 1456 are 'urban' and 277 are classed as 'rural'. So we have 84% urban addresses and 16% rural property addresses. [[back](#)]

(d) What is the difference between 'Property Addressing' and 'Location Addressing'
Property Addressing means assigning an address to a property by it's lot and plan number. The address will be attached to the properties 'centroid', in a map or in Queensland Globe. Location Addressing means assigning an address to a location on a property, by geocoding. We have some large properties in Flinders Shire and in many cases it's not good enough just to provide an address mapped to the centre point of a lot on plan. In an emergency the station house is often the first destination for emergency services. If a property has remote cattle yards those can also be given an address, especially if they are on a different road. Some stations have more than one house and they might be a long way apart. Using geocoding we can provide separate addresses to different locations on a property. Not all shires have all of their rural properties geocoded. [[back](#)]

(e) What kinds of signs will the council provide for addressing?
There are three kinds of signs to be used for addressing, those are locality signs, road name signs with number ranges and address site number signs.
Address site number signs means number sign for a front fence or letter box for an urban address or a rural number post for a rural address. Flinders Shire has provided urban house number plaques in 2002 and rural number posts between 2014 and 2020.
In Hughenden we have had street signs with address number ranges for each block since 2002 and the shire will do the same thing with rural road name signs in due course.
We will also have signs by the side of the road to remind people when they are leaving one locality and entering a different locality to help remind people which locality they live in.
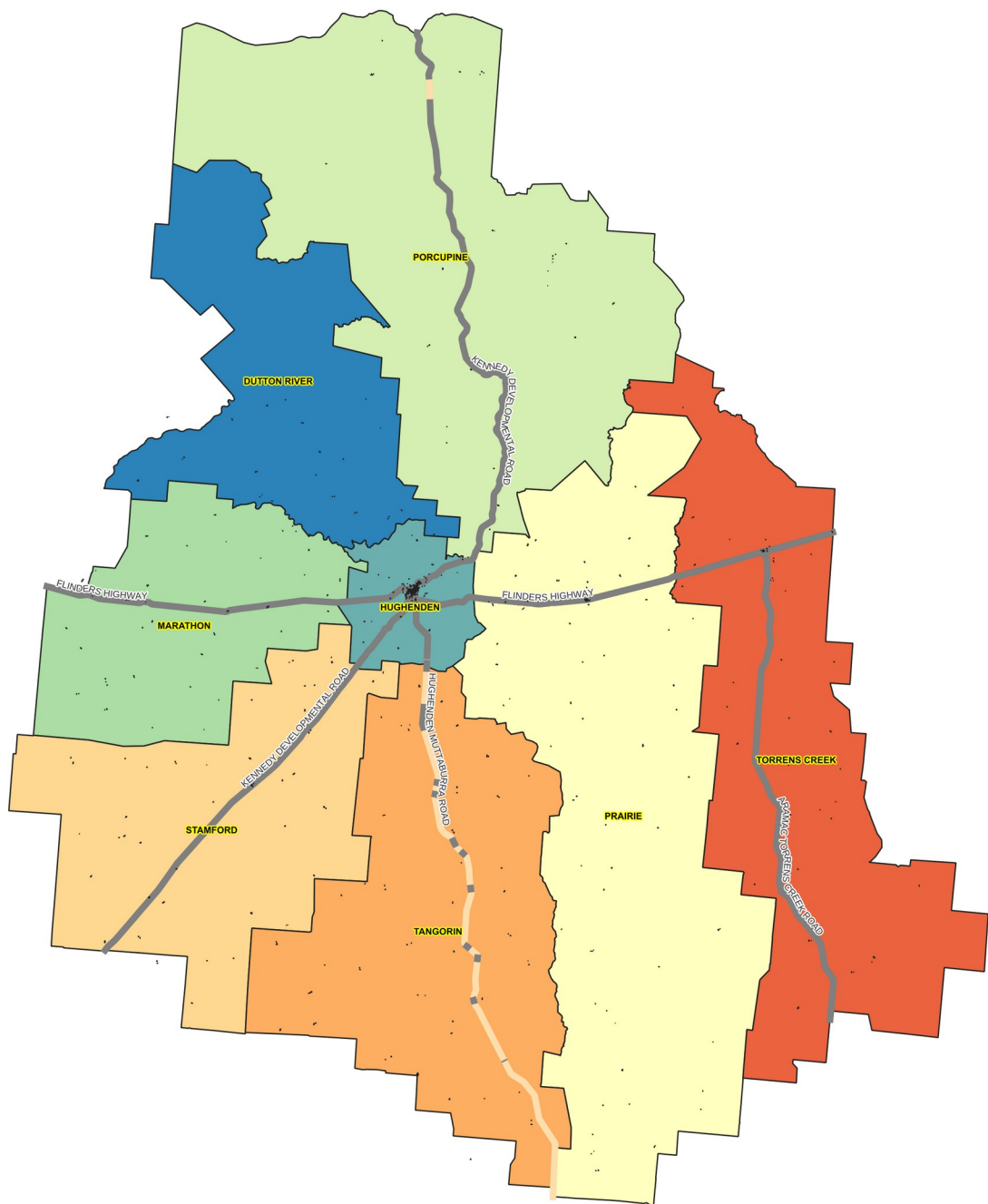Hint: Not everyone in Flinders Shire lives in 'Hughenden' locality. [[back](#)]

(f) What 'localities' are in Flinders Shire?
There are eight localities in Flinders Shire.

- Hughenden ………….   923 sq km ……… 1238 addresses
- Marathon ……….…… 3323 sq km …….…... 34 addresses
- Dutton River ………… 3740 sq km …….…... 20 addresses
- Stamford …………….. 4780 sq km …….…... 54 addresses
- Tangorin …………….. 5705 sq km …….…... 40 addresses
- Torrens Creek ………. 6077 sq km ………... 187 addresses
- Porcupine ……………. 8318 sq km …….....… 23 addresses
- Prairie ……………….. 8321 sq km ……….… 133 addresses

(please see the on the next page) [back]

(g) What are the names of the main roads in Flinders Shire?
We have four main roads in Flinders Shire, Flinders Highway, Kennedy Developmental
Road, Hughenden Muttaburra Road and Aramac Torrens Creek Road. The Department of
Transport and Main Roads, (DTMR), has the say on road naming for all the main roads in
Queensland. [back]

(h) How is rural numbering determined on our main roads?
DTMR provides the chainages, (road 'through' distances from the gazetted start point of the road). Those are available from the Queensland Government's Open Data Portal under 'Road Location and Traffic Data'.

The Flinders Highway starts at a junction with the Bruce Highway near Townsville and it is numbered from there. Flinders Highway 14A ends at Charters Towers, 14B ends and Hughenden and 14C ends at Richmond. The DTMR 'through distances' or chainages, needed to be added together for each road segment and divided by ten to end up with the rural address numbers.

The Kennedy Developmental Road, (KDR for short), is measured from the Forty Mile Scrub near the Gulf Turnoff on the way to Mount Garnet. The rural numbering comes from adding the main roads 'through distances' of KDR 99A with KDR 99B and KDR 99C all together and dividing by ten.

Hughenden Muttaburra Road runs south from Hughenden. The Hughenden Muttaburra Road is the only main road numbered from Hughenden, (from the turnoff near the old tannery).

Aramac Torrens Creek Road runs from Pelican Creek intersection near Aramac to Torrens Creek. The Torrens Creek Aramac Road is measured from Pelican Creek.

(i) How is rural numbering determined on our local government roads?
Local Government has the job of naming local government roads and keeping a list of roads in the shire's Road Register and a corresponding map, both of which should be kept up to date and available to the public. In Flinders Shire we have our Road Register and Map on display at https://www.flinders.qld.gov.au/our-governance/publications/council-registers.

Private Access Roads:
According to the Local Government Act 2009, private roads are roads over land that is owned by a person who may lawfully exclude other persons from using the road.

We have some 'undedicated roads' in Flinders Shire, those are roads that are used by the public but happen to cross private property and are maintained by the shire. Those have caused the application of our rural property addressing to require some 'unique adaptations'.

By default, address numbering is supposed to start in the south and east and run towards the north and west. It is easy to remember that if you imagine yourself standing in Brisbane and you're looking at a map of the rest of Queensland and measuring the distances of everything from Brisbane.
In Flinders Shire, Hughenden-centric as we are, we have taken the opportunity to measure all of our roads from Hughenden where possible. This is more convenient for us. There are some roads which cross shire boundaries where the other shires had registered addresses on those roads before Flinders Shire decided to implement rural addressing.
Those roads are:
    Villadale Road, which starts at the Richmond end,
    Ulva and Gregory Springs Roads, starting in Charters Towers Regional Council area,
    Old Muttaburra Road starts in Winton Shire,
    and Prairie Road which starts in Barcaldine Shire.
On roads where the other shire already has registered addresses we had no choice but to follow their lead and conform with the numbering direction that was already started from the other shire's chosen start point. [back]

(j) What type of rural number posts do we have in Flinders Shire?
The Flinders Shire Council chose to use blue guide posts with a white plastic cap on top and black numbering on a reflective white background. It was hoped these could be seen at night and could be read from a moving vehicle at 100 km per hour. Advantages are they are low cost, frangible, quick to install and obviously different from other types of signs.

Some of our rural address number posts get damaged by vandals, run over by vehicles, rubbed on by cattle, or have the stickers licked off by cattle. Most would be subject to damage in the case of a grass fire. Some address number posts are still remaining in good condition while others have suffered various kinds of damage. At the moment it is up to the property owner to maintain the rural address number posts. Replacement parts can be purchased from the council.

It might be an idea to make the rural address number posts much larger and higher so they can be read from further away and at higher speeds and be less vulnerable to damage. We have 279 rural address number posts in Flinders Shire spread out over 2681 km of roads. It only takes about twenty minutes per number post to install the kind of setup we're using and up to around twenty can be installed by one worker in a day, including driving time outward bound and home again each evening. It takes around 17 working days to get the entire job done. If we needed to dig post holes, mix concrete, set a three inch pipe vertical and bolt on signs it will take longer and the installation costs would soon balloon out, not to mention the extra material costs. If the signs will last longer it might still be worth thinking about. [back]

(k) Where are rural number posts placed in Flinders Shire?
The rural address number posts should be installed near the 'access point' to a private property. An 'access point' means the point where the public road ends and the private property access road begins, often marked with a grid or a gate.
The standards say that the rural number along with the road name and locality need to be able to uniquely identify each site and allow it to be readily locatable by emergency service responders and service delivery providers.
(a) near a turnoff on a through road - If they are at a turnoff beside a 'through' road the odd numbers are on the left and even numbers on the right. Our rural number posts are around 1m off the travelled path and 12.5 m, (one road train trailer length) back from the middle of any turnoff, in the hopes that triple road trains will be able to turn around them without running them over. Some other shires decided to put them opposite the turnoff, but then the numbers will be on the wrong side of the road.
Flinders shire has not enforced standards for some of our turnoffs along local government roads and some of the intersections are more like triangles where vehicles take shortcuts both ways around the corner with a grassy verge on the middle. Some properties have such a large divergence of their intersection that they almost have two roads with two intersections instead of one distinct tee intersection. That makes it hard to decide where best to put the rural number post. A few almost need two rural number posts, one for each road. In some cases the issue was solved by putting the address post in the middle. Other times it was judged better to put it on one leg of the triangle.

(b) at the end of a road on a gate post or grid
 If they are at the end of a road near a grid or gate they have been put on the driver's side gate post or fence frame.

(c) In front of a house yard
In some cases we have a local government road running through the middle of a private property and going past a house and continuing on to a different property at the back.
 In that kind of situation the address posts have been installed by the host property's house or by the turnoff to their shed. [back]

(l) Modern Electric Devices – In Flinders Shire we have limited mobile phone coverage and we are told that as soon as our emergency services, (police, ambulance, fire brigade or SES volunteers), get out of mobile phone coverage range they lose contact with their bases and they are on their own. It can be up to their memories and their ability to follow the road signs to find their way to a rural location. Sometimes the ambulance is able to pick up a local guide, often a member of the fire brigade.

Car and truck GPS navigational devices are useful in more populated places closer to the coast, you only have to type in the first part of an address you want to find and they will auto-complete, and then tell you to turn left or right until you find the address you're looking for. They don't seem to work very well in rural areas of Flinders Shire. One thing we have done recently to try correct that situation was to supply all of our rural road data to the Queensland Department of Resources 'Queensland Roads and Tracks' team. We hope the GPS manufacturers will get the updates soon. [back]

(m) What is the history of Property Addressing in Flinders Shire?

Flinders Shire had 1339 urban addresses registered with the Department of Resources since 2002.

In May 2015 we put out the first twenty experimental rural number posts in the north of the shire. It only took one day to drive around and install all twenty of them. Almost six months passed with no complaints about the first twenty experimental rural addressing posts.

In October 2015 another 188 rural number marker posts arrived and it took about two weeks to drive around 2600 km on the shire's roads to hammer them all in. Work was stopped just before it would have been completed due to a number of complaints.

Between October 2018 and January 2019 we pulled up all the number posts we installed previously and upgraded them with two sided white plastic caps with larger number stickers and moved closer to the road for better visibility. They are reinforced with star pickets driven deep into the ground for better support. This time we installed a total of 268 rural address number posts and it took 31 working days to get the work done.

In March 2019 we registered 264 rural addresses with the Department of Resources.

In November 2019 we worked with the Department of Resources and adjoining shires to agree on how to address properties around shire boundary lines where the entrance or 'access point' of the property is in one shire but the house is in another shire.

In December 2019 all the rural properties were geo-coded on their building centroids. Some properties have more than one house and the different houses can be a long distance from each other so they might want both houses to have separate addresses. A few properties requested their stock yards be addressed separately. Some properties have stock yards many miles from the main house. By having the yards addressed and geo-coded separately the ambulance won't need to waste time detouring by the main house first if somebody gets injured at the yards. Geo-coding promotes better business efficiency as well.

On the 11th of November 2021 we were notified by the Department of Resources that we were successful in our application for the creation of a new locality named 'Marathon', under the Place Names Act 1994. The locality of Marathon occupies lands on both sides of the Flinders Highway between Hughenden and Richmond.

On 1st August 2023 we finished uploading all of our rural road data for inclusion in the Department of Resources 'Queensland Roads and Tracks'. It is hoped that some day

Queensland Globe will be updated from the same data. It is further hoped that car and truck GPS devices will eventually begin to work properly around Flinders Shire, (when they get the updates). People you do business with such as road train operators, vets, back packers, visitors and so on will be able to find your property faster and more efficiently with a GPS in future. [back]

(n) What are the plans for the future of Property Addressing in Flinders Shire?

The Department of Resources is helping us with some undedicated roads and roads off alignment problems which have existed since the pioneering days.

Addressing will be an ongoing project as the shire is always changing. New roads and streets are always being constructed, and existing roads sometimes get new alignments. Flinders Shire has agreed to provide the Department of Resources with monthly updates on our address database along with quarterly updates on our road mapping.

We're still working on new addresses for a few more urban and rural properties. There are just a few anomalies concerning the road register and corresponding road mapping. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, we are are working on these issues and we expect to be able to resolve them soon. [back]

FURTHER INFORMATION ON URBAN AND RURAL ADDRESSING

If you want to learn a little about urban and rural addressing, here are some online resources that you may find interesting.

Triple zero (000) – Australian Government

How addresses are determined – Queensland Government, (DNRME).

The impact of missing or incorrect addresses - by P Pudney and G White - 2016

Providing Certainty in Addressing – A Street Addressing Standard for Australia and New Zealand - by Anselm Haanen and Brian Goodchild

If anybody is really interested you can purchase your own copy of the standard AS/NZS 4819-2011 from SAI Global for only around $199 per copy. If you don't want to spend money you might be able to get a copy from the following URL instead, https://hdp-au-prod-app-brmbnk-yoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ 2816/4194/3511/13_592__AS_NZS_4819-2011_Rural_and_urban_addressing_-_ICSM_Royalty_copy.pdf

To understand rural addressing even more you should also read the Queensland Local Government Act 2009 chapter on roads, and 'Roads Under The Lands Act 1994'. From DOR.

Our Flinders Shire Road Register and our Flinders Shire Road map can both be seen in our Flinders Shire Council website.

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