



## Economic and Social Council

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### **Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21-30 August 2007

Item 4 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Eighth Conference**

### **Report for Australia**

**Submitted by Australia\*\***

### **Summary\*\*\***

The present report outlines the achievements and directions of the Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNS) as applied to Australia. New Zealand, the other member of the Committee, will present its own report.

The document outlines the terms of reference under which the Committee is currently working and relates the projects that have been completed since the Eighth Conference held in Berlin in 2002, and those currently undertaken, to the terms of reference.

It is considered that the following initiatives are of particular note:

- Development of the web-based education package for use in schools in conjunction with the Committee video that has been released and the Berlin Conference
- Protection of geographical names in the domain name environment with the release of a new set of second-level domain names for use by communities
- Initial work in the development of a methodology for determining feature extents
- Refining of the dual naming approach in Australia.

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\* E/CONF.98/1.

\*\* Prepared by Bill Watt (Australia), Chair, Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia.

\*\*\* The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/21/Add.1.



The above subjects will be covered by individual papers delivered later in the Conference.

As a general summing up, the Committee recognizes that much has been accomplished in the 20 years during which the Committee has been in place in relation to the standardization of geographical names in Australia.

However, as can be seen from the details of the paper, there is still much to be done. Emerging and improving technology, new government processes, community expectations and other factors constantly contribute to a need to develop methods that meet new requirements and to ensure that existing policy, guidelines and processes are relevant in this constantly changing environment.

Please feel free to approach any of the Australian delegates if you wish to receive additional information as regards this or any other paper presented during the Conference.

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