

Guidance Notes

when proposing an Official Geographic Name within the Ross Dependency, Antarctica

Introduction

Under the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008, which came into force on 1 November 2008, the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (the Board) may assign, alter, discontinue or approve names, and validate certain names, for geographic features in the Ross Dependency, Antarctica.

Notes

- Assigned names apply to *new* official geographic names¹.
- Altered names apply to *existing* geographic names, whether official or recorded², and include spelling changes.
- Discontinued names apply to *existing* geographic names, whether official or recorded.
- Approved names apply to *existing* recorded geographic names. The Board has discretion not to publicly notify these.
- Refer to Section 4 of the Act for definitions of Antarctica, official geographic name, geographic feature and feature, place, locality, suburb, and recorded name.
- Section 25 of the Act, Geographic features outside territorial limits:
 - (1) The provisions of sections 16 to 20 (the process for approving proposals, including public notification, receiving submissions from the public, and determination of either the Board of the Minister) do not apply if, in relation to a geographic feature that is outside the territorial limits of New Zealand, the Board carries out the function of—
 - (a) assigning an official geographic name; or
 - (b) altering an official geographic name.
 - (2) However, the Board must—
 - (a) consult with any relevant national and international naming authorities that it considers appropriate; and
 - (b) as soon as is reasonably practicable, give public notice of the official geographic name in accordance with section 21(2).
- Section 35 of the Act provides for all Antarctic names existing prior to 1 November 2008, to be valid official geographic names. Any such Antarctic names that were not previously gazetted, will be gazetted under the Board's Act.

Research and consultation

There are a number of sources to help with research, e.g. New Zealand universities, Gateway Antarctica, Antarctica New Zealand, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS), Antarctic Heritage Trust, Canterbury Museum, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the United States Advisory Committee on Antarctic Name (US-ACAN), etc.

Proposers are encouraged to consult as appropriate. The Board will consult with other naming authorities operating in Antarctica, as required.

It is important that copies of all documentary evidence from sources consulted are attached to the proposal. It is also important that evidence is provided of any consultations that have taken place with interested parties. This should at least include support from Antarctica New Zealand.

The proposal form

To ensure the proposal is complete, the following notes are provided for assistance. The following numbers correspond to the numbers on the proposal form.

1. *Proposal to assign a new name, alter an existing name, discontinue an existing name, or approve a recorded, name*

This applies to a geographic feature or place within the Ross Dependency, Antarctica, with a primary or specific name and the generic geographic feature type, where applicable and appropriate, e.g. Beardmore Glacier, Scott Coast, Ross Archipelago, Mount Erebus. Any other applicable details relating to the proposal should be included.

¹ Official geographic name is one that has been gazetted by the Board, or included in Treaty settlement legislation, or is a pre-2008 Crown protected area name.

² Recorded name is not official but is shown in at least two publications that are publicly available and, in the Board's view, are authoritative.

Any proposals outside the limits of the Ross Dependency, may be considered, but the Board must consult with the relevant national and international naming authorities that it considers appropriate.

2. *Current or alternative geographic name*

If the geographic feature or place already has a name, add it here. Details of this name, such as whether it is an official geographic name (i.e. gazetted) or whether it is a recorded name, should be provided, if known.

3. *Location*

- a Description and general vicinity – give a description of the feature or place and its location. Provide the general vicinity.
- b Provide the height, in metres, if known and applicable.
- c Topographic map or hydrographic chart – annotate the location of the proposed name on a map or chart, with its extent clearly marked.
- d Positional coordinates of the feature or place are to be provided in terms of latitude and longitude.

4. *Physical description*

The generic description or term for the type of feature or place being named is to be added here (e.g. Glacier, Valley, Point, Ice Piedmont, Peak), plus any other physical characteristics of the feature or place to assist with identification.

5. *List of accompanying data*

Add details of any consultations, surveys, charts, photographs, reports, published articles, etc. Provide any supporting information that will strengthen the proposal.

6. *Date discovered, seen, mapped or recorded*

Add information about the date of discovery of the feature or place, and details of any existing publications which include the feature and/or name.

7. *Person or persons who discovered, sited or mapped the feature or place*

Add information about the discovery of the feature or place, with reference to the associated scientific event and its purpose, including all participants and their roles. If not associated with a science event, then provide similar details, as appropriate.

8. *Reason for choice of name and feature or place*

This information should indicate the importance of naming the feature or place; from perspectives of science, discovery, commemorating events, honouring individuals with a connection, location and emergency response, etc.

9. *Information concerning the person after whom the feature or place is named*

Naming rules in Antarctica allow for the names of living people to be honoured with a feature or place named after them. Personal names must be in recognition of a significant contribution to New Zealand's Antarctic activities. Therefore, evidence must be provided to support this. Refer to other conditions of personal naming in the Board's Frameworks.

10. *Any other earlier name applied to this feature or place*

Comment on any research into the history of exploration, science, surveying, mapping, conservation, etc. that may have occurred in the area, and whether the feature or place had been referred to by another earlier name.

11. *Name duplication*

Check various online databases for possible duplication of the proposed name:

- * SCAR Composite Gazetteer: http://www3.pnra.it/LUOGHI_ANT/SCAR_GAZE
- * SCAR Antarctic Spatial Data Infrastructure: <http://www.antsdi.scar.org/>
- * Australian Antarctic Division Gazetteer: <http://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/>
- * USGS Atlas of Antarctic Research: http://gisdata.usgs.gov/website/antarctic_research_atlas/viewer.htm
- * USGS Antarctic Names Database:
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/f?p=gnispq:1:16211512735260503590::NO::P1_SHOW_ANTAR,P1_SHOW_ADV,P1_SHOW_FIPS55:Y,

The Board's rules state that duplication should be avoided wherever possible. Duplication of names is undesirable as it may cause confusion for emergency response services. Avoid the exact same combined specific and generic components of a full name. The Board may accept proposals where just the specific component of the name is duplicated, if the generic provides sufficient distinction.