

1) Introduction

- i) The New Zealand Geographic Board (the Board) is a statutory body governed by the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 (the Act). Its chief function is to make provision for the naming of places in New Zealand.
- ii) As a consequence of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, the Board is now required, in terms of an additional statutory function, to encourage the use of original Māori place names on official maps, including maps published by or under the direction or control of the Surveyor-General. To assist it in this function, and to encourage Māori participation in achieving this objective, the Board has developed this protocol (the Protocol) which provides for a process of consultation with appropriate Māori. This process is consistent with the duties and obligations of the Board under the Act.
- iii) The Protocol does not change statutory rights of the public in the consideration of a place name by the Geographic Board. Rather, it provides an opportunity for Māori to be advised in advance of other non-Māori New Zealanders, in recognition of their tangata whenua status over the land, and to have more time to gather information, consult and prepare a response to proposed name changes.
- iv) The Protocol is consistent with the principles of consultation with Māori as the Treaty partner and will be applied inter alia to all Treaty of Waitangi claim settlement issues involving consultation or representation on the place naming process. It is recognised that new names may be proposed through the settlement process.

2) Legislative Requirements - New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946

SECTION 3. NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD ESTABLISHED--

(2) The Board shall consist of--

- (a) The Surveyor-General;
- (b) Two persons to be appointed as representatives of the Māori race on the recommendation of the Minister of Māori Affairs:
- (ba) One person to be nominated by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (as established under section 6 of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu Act 1996), and to be appointed on the recommendation of the Minister;
- (c) One person to be nominated by the New Zealand Geographical Society Incorporated, and to be appointed on the recommendation of the Minister;
- (d) One person to be nominated by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Incorporated, and to be appointed on the recommendation of the Minister;
- (e) Two persons to be appointed on the recommendation of the Minister¹.

SECTION 8. FUNCTIONS OF BOARD--

(1) The general functions of the Board shall be--

- (a) To adopt rules of orthography and nomenclature in respect of place names in New Zealand;
- (b) To examine cases of doubtful spelling of place names in New Zealand, and determine the spelling to be adopted on official maps;
- (c) To investigate and determine the priority of the discovery of any geographic feature;
- (d) To collect original Māori place names for recording on official maps:
- (da) To encourage the use of original Māori place names on official maps, including maps published by or under the direction or control of the Surveyor-General;

¹ The Minister has indicated his intention to appoint the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Māori Development (Te Puni Kōkiri) or his nominee, to one of these positions.

- (e) To determine what alien names appearing on official maps should be replaced by Māori or British names:
- (f) Subject to the provisions of this Act, to investigate and determine any proposed alteration of a place name:
- (g) To make inquiries and recommendations on any matters referred to it by the Minister.

(2) The Board shall have such other functions as are by this Act or any other Act imposed upon it.

SECTION 18. NAMES IN MAPS, SCIENTIFIC MANUSCRIPTS, OR TOURIST PUBLICATIONS--

- (1) No person shall publish or cause to be published in any geographic or scientific manuscript or publication, or in any guide book, handbook, pamphlet, road map, or other publication intended for the use of travellers or tourists generally, or on any map in any such manuscript or publication as aforesaid, any name purporting to be the name of any place, locality, or natural feature in New Zealand to which any provision of this Act applies, unless the name appears on a map previously published by or under the direction or control of the Surveyor-General, or is a name assigned to or approved for that place, locality, or natural feature pursuant to this Act:

Provided that nothing in this section shall apply with respect to the printing or publication as aforesaid of any name if it is stated in the manuscript or other publication or, as the case may require, on the map, that the name has not been approved by the Board.

3) Policies and Principles Relating to Māori Place Names

Under its legislated powers, the Board has established, and applies, the following policies and principles relating to Māori names:

i) Original names to be given preference:

- a) An original name, where suitable, should be given preference.
- b) Where the original name has been changed by publication or by local usage the original name should be restored in the correct form.
- c) Where the choice lies between two or more names each sanctioned by local usage, the name that is most appropriate and euphonious should be adopted.

ii) Retention of incorrect names:

- a) Where an incorrect name has become established by local usage over a long period of time, the Board may at its discretion retain the incorrect name.
- b) When an incorrect Māori name is accepted, the correct version and the component parts of compound Māori names, if known (to assist in pronunciation), are to be noted in the remarks column of the relevant Gazette Notice.

iii) Recording of Māori Names:

- a) As a general rule Māori place names should be written either as one word, or as separate words, as established by usage. The Board will also consider shortening lengthy names for publication where this is thought advisable.

iv) Pronunciation of Māori names:

- a) Although it is not a function of the Board to educate people on how to pronounce Māori names (to ensure correct pronunciation), the Board will fully support any action taken to ensure the correct pronunciation is used.
- b) Full and correct spelling of the place names should be used, but where abbreviated forms are sought, approval by the Board must be obtained.

v) Other conventions:

- a) Macrons are to be used for the publication of approved names. Double vowels are also acceptable.
- b) 'Ngā' should always be joined to the following name.
- c) 'Te' should be written wherever possible without the capital.
- d) Tribal names, 'Ngā', 'Ngāi', 'Ngāti' should be followed by capitalised proper names.
- e) Hyphens should not to be used, and the possessive apostrophe should be avoided.

4) Practices that have Developed and Evolved

In applying these policies and principles, the Board has taken into account the following practices:

- i) Dual naming has been adopted as a practice since the 1920's. The early format tended to have the English or non-Māori name followed by the Māori name in brackets either after or more commonly below the non-Māori name. More recently, and particularly during the last fifteen years, the Board has favoured showing the Māori name first, followed by a forward slash, then the English or non-Māori name. This later practice, which gained impetus following the Taranaki vs Egmont debate, acknowledges social and cultural developments in society, particularly with regard to Treaty issues. Over the past decade, this trend has also been encouraged by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).
- ii) Although not mandatory, consultation by submitters with local interest groups and in particular, local Māori group(s), has also been encouraged over the past decade. The Board's capacity to carry out its own investigative and consultative work has substantially reduced in recent times. As a consequence the submitter has been encouraged to consult as appropriate, and to provide documentary evidence to support his or her name proposal, before consideration by the Board. However, notwithstanding this, the Board still has the capacity through its individual members, particularly those representing Māori, Ngāi Tahu and Te Puni Kōkiri, to initiate and undertake its own consultations.

5) Consultation by Te Puni Kōkiri and the Secretary

The Board hereby undertakes to implement the following consultation procedure:

- i) Upon acceptance of a request to consider a place name proposal (not within the rohe of Ngāi Tahu), the Board member representing Te Puni Kōkiri will be invited by the Chairman of the Board to seek advice or obtain views from appropriate Māori groups about such place name proposals as fall within their particular rohe. This consultation will not involve any publication of the place name submission proposal.
- ii) The results of any consultation, together with the related place name proposal, will be fully considered at the next meeting of the Board. (The Board usually meets twice yearly).
- iii) Where, after consideration of a place name proposal, the Board decides that the proposal should be declined, the Secretary of the Board will convey this decision in writing to the submitter and to those Māori groups whose comments were sought by Te Puni Kōkiri.
- iv) If the Board provisionally endorses a place name proposal, the Secretary of the Board will convey this decision in writing to the submitter and to those Māori groups who commented on the proposal to Te Puni Kōkiri.
- v) This letter to Māori groups will advise that the Gazette Notice and public notification in newspapers, advising of the intention to assign a place name, will appear 4 weeks later, and will seek any further comment, by way of objection, within 3 months from the date of the Gazette Notice.

- vi) Where objections are received, the Board will ‘inquire into and dispose of all objections’, giving full consideration to any objections or advice received from Māori groups, as well as from other objectors.
- vii) At a subsequent meeting of the Board, the intention to assign a place name will be re-considered in light of any objections received, pursuant to Section 13 of the Act and the Board will make a final decision on the matter.
- viii) The Board’s re-consideration may result in the intended name being **declined**, in which case the proposal would go no further.
- ix) Where no objections are received, the Board will confirm its acceptance of the name and the name shall then be publicly notified as final.
- x) If the Board’s re-consideration results in the intended name being **altered**, the altered name will be required to go through the public notification process again; again following prior consultation with appropriate Māori groups as outlined in iv) above.
- xi) If objections are received but the Board’s re-consideration results in the intended name being **upheld**, the final decision is made by the Minister for Land Information. The Minister’s decision shall be final and will be publicly notified.
- xii) All final decisions of the Board and/or the Minister will be advised in writing to the submitter; to those Māori groups whose comments were sought by Te Puni Kōkiri; and to any objectors.

6) Protocol Principles

- i) The Protocol is consistent with and subject to the powers, duties and obligations of the New Zealand Geographic Board within its current legislative and policy framework, and represents a firm commitment by the Board to encourage original Māori place names and consultation.
- ii) The Protocol does not detract from any existing rights of a Treaty claimant group, nor does it conflict with the New Zealand Geographic Board’s duties to other Māori groups or representatives of tangata whenua, or to members of the New Zealand general public.
- iii) The Protocol does not create property rights.
- iv) The Protocol can be varied or cancelled by the New Zealand Geographic Board but before determining whether it should be varied or cancelled the Board shall consult with appropriate Māori groups.

7) Authorisation

Authorised by the Chairman of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa:

Tony Bevin

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