

## Make a submission

### *Submissions can be made by:*

- completing the online submission form on the LINZ website [www.linz.govt.nz/nzgbactreview](http://www.linz.govt.nz/nzgbactreview)
- downloading a submission form from the LINZ website [www.linz.govt.nz/nzgbactreview](http://www.linz.govt.nz/nzgbactreview), completing it, and emailing it back to [info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz)
- posting a hardcopy of the submission to:

Freepost 89661  
New Zealand Geographic Board Act Review  
Land Information New Zealand  
Private Box 5501  
Wellington

Please note that all submissions are subject to the Official Information Act 1982, and may possibly be released, if requested under that Act. If you have specific reasons for wanting your information withheld, please set out the reasons in your submission. LINZ will consider those reasons when assessing its obligation to release information if requested under the Official Information Act 1982.

*The last day for submissions is  
Friday 19 December 2003.*

## What happens to submissions?

The consultation programme will run between October and December 2003. Submissions will then be analysed and used to develop policy options. A summary of submissions will be prepared and made available to submitters and on the LINZ website [www.linz.govt.nz/nzgbactreview](http://www.linz.govt.nz/nzgbactreview)

Cabinet will be asked to decide on final policy and changes to legislation during the first half of 2004 after taking into account the outcome of the review and consultation.

A legislative Bill will then be drafted and introduced to Parliament. The usual process is for the Bill to be referred to a Select Committee for detailed examination, which normally includes opportunities for public submissions.

This will give the public another opportunity to have input into the proposed changes to the current Act.



## Review of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946



October 2003



## Purpose of the review

The Government has decided that the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 should be reviewed. Put into place over 50 years ago the Act was an enlightened piece of legislation for its time. It established the New Zealand Geographic Board as the official place naming authority for New Zealand, recognised the importance of Maori place names and allowed for public consultation over place naming.

The Board is an independent body which reports to the Minister for Land Information. Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) provides administrative support to the Board.

The New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 has generally stood the test of time but now needs to take into account changes which affect its jurisdictional, consultative and administrative provisions. The review of the Act will:

- clarify the jurisdiction of the New Zealand Geographic Board
- revise procedures for public participation in the place naming process
- consider the composition and membership of the Board
- ensure the provisions of the Act align more clearly with the Treaty of Waitangi
- modernise the Act's administrative and procedural provisions.

## Key issues

### *Jurisdiction*

Under existing legislation, the Board is responsible for naming all geographic features (including undersea features within the 12 nautical mile territorial limit). Since the Act was passed in 1946, New Zealand has become more involved in administration of the Ross Dependency (including survey, mapping and charting activities) while strengthening the Antarctic Treaty System established in 1959. Also, we have begun defining the outer limits of our continental shelf in order to claim sovereign rights under the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea.

The review proposes to include a definition of New Zealand in the revised legislation and extend the Board's jurisdiction to include its interests in the naming of geographic and undersea features within the (still to be defined) continental shelf area and in the Ross Dependency.

The review will consider whether responsibility for administrative names should be formally devolved to territorial authorities (for suburb and locality names) and the Department of Conservation (for protected conservation area names). The review will also consider whether it is necessary to establish protocols and standards to ensure consistent administrative area naming by territorial authorities and the Department of Conservation.

### *Consultation*

The current legislation doesn't expressly spell out the right of individuals and organisations to make place name submissions to the Board although many already do so. The review proposes that the Act be changed to explicitly ensure such a right.

Since its inception the Board has paid attention to Maori place names. In recent years a consultation process for Maori place names has evolved. To enable iwi to communicate directly with the Board the review proposes

that consultation with Maori should be carried out by members or staff of the Board.

There is a different consultation process for place names established under the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process. While the Board is asked for comment and advice on place names under Treaty of Waitangi claims, the names do not go through the Board's usual consultation process. It is proposed that place names or name changes proposed under the settlement process go through the Board's usual consultation process before being incorporated into a Deed of Settlement.

### *Board membership and administration*

The changes proposed by the review may result in changes to composition and administration of the Board. Expansion of the Board's jurisdiction and activities may justify an increase in the number of Board members. The type of people appointed and the way they are appointed may also need to change.

## Find out more

### *Discussion paper and submission form*

Copies of the discussion paper and submission form can be downloaded from the LINZ website [www.linz.govt.nz/nzgbactreview](http://www.linz.govt.nz/nzgbactreview) Hardcopies can be requested from LINZ by phoning **0800 665 463** or emailing [info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz)

### *Public meetings*

Public meetings will be held in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin and these will be advertised in major newspapers and on the LINZ website. Special interest groups will be asked directly for their input.

If you have any questions about the review process or submission process please phone **0800 665 463** or email [info@linz.govt.nz](mailto:info@linz.govt.nz)