

Summary

On 20 June 2018 Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council¹ resolved to alter the region name over which it has jurisdiction from the official name Manawatu-Wanganui Region to **Manawatū-Whanganui Region**.

The Council is seeking the alteration for consistency with other official Whanganui names, including Whanganui District, to promote te reo Māori by correcting the spelling, to uphold mana whenua relationships in terms of Te Tiriti² principles, and to enhance the public's perception of the region.

The Council first voted in favour of making a proposal in October 2017, conducting initial public consultation through its Long Term Planning process. This received mixed results. The proposer consulted with 22 mana whenua groups across the region, with positive responses or acknowledgements from over half. Te Puni Kōkiri confirmed that all relevant groups were engaged. Should the NZGB accept the proposal, the submissions process will provide further opportunity for engagement with mana whenua.

The proposer also consulted with all relevant territorial authorities. Manawatu District Council and Whanganui District Council support the proposal. While this proposal would achieve consistency with Whanganui District, there is no current proposal to alter Manawatu District to Manawatū District.

The story of Manawatū is recorded in an oriori³, which the Council has provided. Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) confirmed that based on this oriori, the correct spelling is Manawatū with a macron on the [u]. This spelling is also correct for variations to the story and meaning of Manawatū.

The NZGB has comprehensively investigated the history/origin/meaning and correct orthography of Whanganui for earlier proposals. The NZGB recognises the correct spelling as Whanganui.

Secretariat recommendation

Recommendation 1 **Accept** the proposal to **alter** the official name Manawatu-Wanganui Region to **Manawatū-Whanganui Region** for the local authority area defined in Section 5 and listed in Schedule 2 Part 1 Local Government Act 2002, based on:

- the resolution of Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council to alter the region's name,
- meeting statutory duty and function to enable certain administrative needs of government to be met,
- correcting the spelling based on orthographic advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission),
- evidence of support from some mana whenua in the region,
- evidence of support from territorial authorities within the region,
- some evidence of public support,
- the double name with hyphen continuing to be appropriate to reflect a name for the whole region,

and

Notify for as a proposal to alter for one ~~three~~-months.

¹ Trading under the name 'Horizons'

² Te Tiriti – The Treaty of Waitangi

³ Orioi – *lit* a lullaby

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal In October 2017 Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council voted to correct its region name. Following the alteration of Wanganui District to Whanganui District in 2015 the Council became increasingly concerned about the inconsistency between the region and district names.

The Council advise its reasons for the proposal are to:

- support te reo Māori by correcting the orthography in line with the standards Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) sets,
- be consistent with other official Whanganui names, including Whanganui District,
- uphold Te Tiriti and enhance the Council's partnerships with mana whenua,
- enhance the perception of the region as progressive and culturally sensitive.

The Council advises that altering the region's name would be timely because it is planning to refresh its brand so there would be little additional cost. Official documents that the Council produces, including signs, would be updated sooner instead of replacing them in a typical maintenance cycle.

In late 2017/early 2018 the Council consulted with the public through its Long Term Planning (LTP) process. Of the 318 submissions, 206 opposed to the change. The Council advises that this response was relatively low, and that those in favour of an LTP proposal tend not to make submissions because of the effort required.

The Council also publicly consulted via an informal Facebook poll, which over 17,000 people viewed, and received 1300 votes. The result was 67% supporting the proposal.

The Council formally consulted with 22 mana whenua groups across the region, and received responses from more than half, all positive or neutral. The responses are generally informal rather than letters of support or equivalent. One response from Te Iwi Mōrehu questioned if the council would consider including 'Rangitikei' in the region name. If the NZGB accepts the proposal, it may receive objections proposing alternative names.

The Council has consulted with all territorial authorities falling partially or wholly within the Region. Manawatu District Council and Whanganui District Council support the proposal and their responses are included.

The Council received orthographic advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori confirming the orthography of Whanganui with an [h], and Manawatū with a macron over the [u].

On 20 June 2018 the Council adopted its LTP and resolved to make this proposal to the NZGB. One councillor dissented due to the [h] in Whanganui. A copy of the formal resolution, which is required under section [11\(2\) of the NZGB Act 2008](#), is included in the proposal.

The proposal includes brief statistical details of the region, and a brief 'cultural/historical' context (and the names) from a pre-Treaty perspective.

Names shown on plans and maps

In 1989 Manawatu-Wanganui Region was established as part of the local body reorganisation. The boundaries were originally depicted on SO 36010.

Plan/map	Date	Name
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SO 36010	1989	Manawatu-Wanganui Region
LG-08-2013-Con-1	2013	Manawatu-Wanganui Region

Previous NZGB reports on proposals for the City and District extensively detail the provenance of the Wanganui and Whanganui names.

Some early maps and plans for the 'Manawatu' name refer:

Plan/map	Date	Name
Chart of Cooks Strait	1841	Manawato R.
Chart of the Islands of New Zealand	1841	R. Manewatu
New Zealand	1842	R. Manawatu very large
MISC(D)9 – plan of Manewatu and Orewenua	1844	Manewatu
Plan of the Wairarapa District	1845	Manawatu District Manawatu [river]
Map of New Zealand, the island of New Ulster and the several harbours	1847	Manawatu District Manawatu [river]
MISC(D)36 – Sketch Map of Land in the Manawatu District	1865	Manawatu River
MISC(R)30a - Plan of the Rangitikei Manawatu Block	c.1866	Rangitikei Manawatu Blk River Manawatu

Generic term and geographic feature type

The feature is a region as defined in [Section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002](#). The Council's official name will change should the name of the region be altered.

The following territorial authority areas are within the region:

Horowhenua District	Manawatu District
Palmerston North City	Rangitikei District (most, part in Hawke's Bay Region)
Ruapehu District	Stratford District (part)
Tararua District (most, part in Wellington Region)	Taupo District (part)
Waitomo District (part)	Whanganui District

Location and extent of the feature

The region covers a significant part of the lower North Island (approx. 22220km²) and extends out to New Zealand's 12NM territorial limit.

Wellington Region borders the feature to the south, Taranaki Region to the west, Hawke's Bay Region to the east, and Waikato Region to the north.

Plan LG-08-2013-Con-1 held by the Local Government Commission describes the current boundaries.⁴ Statistics NZ maintains the digital boundaries.⁵

Approximately 241,000 people live in the region. Palmerston North is the largest centre with approximately 85,300 people.

⁴ <http://www.lgc.govt.nz/local-government-boundaries/boundary-descriptions/view/manawatu-wanganui-regional> - last accessed 20 July 2018

⁵ <https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/92204-regional-council-2018-generalised/> - last accessed 20 July 2018

[Manawatu-Wanganui Region](#) is an official name in the Gazetteer by the Local Government (Manawatu-Wanganui Region) Reorganisation order 1989.⁶

Associative names There are six associated Manawatu names within the region:

Name	Feature type	Status
Manawatu District	District	Official
Manawatu Gorge	Valley	Unofficial recorded
Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve	Scenic Reserve	Official
Manawatu Recreation Reserve	Recreation Reserve	Official
Manawatu River	River	Unofficial recorded
Manawatu Scenic Reserve	Scenic Reserve	Official

There are seven associated Whanganui or Whanganui features named within the region, eight names including the alternative names for the city.

Whanganui or Wanganui	City	Official
Whanganui District	District	Official
Whanganui National Park	National Park	Official
Whanganui River	River	Official
Whanganui River Scenic Reserve	Scenic Reserve	Official
Wanganui East	Suburb	Unofficial recorded
Wanganui Freight Branch	Railway line	Official

Duplication

There are no exact duplicates of the proposed name in the Gazetteer.

[Manawatuhatuha Stream](#), near Kawhia, partially duplicates the Manawatu name.

Whanganui and Wanganui names are extensively duplicated throughout New Zealand, with 14 in the South Island and nine in the North Island. The closest duplicates are Whanganui (locality), Whanganui Falls, Whanganui Bay, and Whanganui Stream, at the southwest side of Lake Taupo.

A number of original Māori 'Whanganui' names are Collected in the Gazetteer for other features, eg Te Whanganui a Tara for Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson).

There are no concerns of confusion with other geographic features with the same or similar names.

Addressing implications, concerns or issues for emergency services

Regions under the Local Government Act 2002 do not form part of an addressable locality.

There are no concerns for identification to emergency services. Dispatches to 'somewhere in Manawātū-Whanganui Region' are very unlikely.

Research, history and references to the feature and name

In 1989 Manawatu-Wanganui Region was established with the abolition of 40 United Councils, Drainage Boards, Pest Destruction Boards, Noxious Plants Authorities, and Catchment and Regional Water Boards.

In 1855 Reverend R. Taylor recorded the oriori composed by Te Rangitakoru, which gives the meaning/origin of Manawātū that the Council

⁶ NZ Gazette 1989 (99) p.2351

provided.⁷

There are variant stories and meanings of Manawatū recorded, eg:

- 'Again he [Haunui-a-Nanaia] came on as far as Manawatu, where his mind was at ease, and so the place became known as Manawatu, the tranquillity of the breast of Hau.'⁸
- The next stop was made at "Manawatu." This river was in high flood, and the waters were rushing in such waves that it almost made their [a party of warriors from Taranaki] hearts stand still. Hence the name "Manawatu," meaning "hearts stand".⁹
- A party of warriors rejuvenated themselves in the Manawatu River, and having obtained 'New heart' went on to claim victory in battle.¹⁰

Consultation with iwi

In December 2017 the Council contacted 22 iwi/hapū/Māori groups by letter and/or email. On 14 August 2018 Te Puni Kōkiri confirmed that all relevant mana whenua groups had been consulted.

The Council advises that 15 groups provided a positive or neutral response, although only 11 responses are included with the proposal. All responses are relatively informal. The positive responses included from nine groups are highlighted green in the table below.

Also included is an acknowledgement from Ngāti Kauwhata, and a response from Te Iwi Mōrehu questioning if consideration would be given to including Rangitikei in the name [ie Manawatū-Rangitikei-Whanganui Region]. These are highlighted orange in the table below.

Māori groups from the northern part of the region are not well represented in these responses:

Muaūpoko Tribal Authority	Ngāti Whitikaupeka
Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust	Rangitāne o Manawatū
Ngāti Hauti	Rangitāne o Tamaki Nui a Rua
Ngāti Hinemanu Ngāti Paki	Rereahu Regional Management Committee
Ngāti Hinemihi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa	Tamaūpoko
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tamaki Nui a Rua	Te Iwi Mōrehu
Ngāti Kauwhata	Te Kaahui o Rauru
Ngāti Maru	Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa
Ngāti Rangī Trust	Tuhua Hikurangi Regional Management Committee
Ngāti Raukawa	Tūpoho
Ngāti Tamakōpiri	Uenuku Charitable Trust

Very small areas of northernmost Manawatu-Wanganui Region are within the Maniapoto, Raukawa, and Te Arawa Minister's river Accord areas. If the NZGB agrees to notify the proposal, they will be advised along with all other relevant Māori groups.

⁷ Richard Taylor (1855), *Te Ika a Maui, or New Zealand and its inhabitants*, Wertheim and Macintosh; London, pp.139-141

⁸ Eldson Best, [Hau and Wairaka. The Adventures of Kupe and his relatives.](#) *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, Volume 36 1927 No.143, pp.260-282

⁹ [A change of Name. Palmerston North or Manawatu?](#) *Otago Daily Times*, Issues 20072, 12 April 1927

¹⁰ Reed, AW & Dowling, P (ed.), (2010). *Place names of New Zealand*, North Shore: Penguin Group

Consultation with others	<p>In January 2018 the Council sent formal consultation letters to five of the eight territorial authorities within Manawatu-Wanganui Region. In July 2018 it sent consultation letters to the three remaining part districts.</p> <p>The Council has provided evidence of support from Manawatu District Council and Whanganui District Council. Manawatu District Council has indicated that it will likely follow suit with a proposal to alter the name of its District.</p> <p>An extensive number of public, private and government groups, businesses, tourist operators, etc use 'Manawatu' and/or 'Wanganui' in their names and publications. If the NZGB accepts the proposal the public consultation process will give these groups the opportunity to submit their views.</p>
Advice on orthography	<p>The proposer sought advice on the orthography of the name from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (TTWh), who advised that Manawatū-Whanganui is correct.</p> <p>A TTWh licenced translator, has also advised that for the variations of the story and meaning behind the name <i>'It doesn't matter which one is the most correct, Manawatū has a macron over the 'ū'. It is a compound made of up of manawa (the physical heart) + tū (stop, stand etc)'</i>.</p> <p>The NZGB last reconfirmed the orthography of Whanganui during the proposal for Whanganui District in 2015, for the meaning of 'the long wait'.</p>
Relevant sections from the NZGB Act 2008	<p>Section 3(f) of the NZGB Act 2008: enables certain administrative needs of government (including local government) to be met.</p> <p>Section 11(1)(f) of the NZGB Act 2008: seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) on the correct orthography of any Māori name.</p> <p>Section 11(2) of the NZGB Act 2008: Without limiting section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Board may alter the name of a district or region if, by resolution, a meeting of the relevant local authority—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) consents to the alteration; or (b) requests the alteration. <p>Section 22 of the NZGB Act 2008: Alteration of name of local authority</p> <p>(1) This section applies if the Board carries out the function to alter the name of a district or region provided for under section 11</p> <p>(2) Before the Board may give public notice of a determination to alter the name of a district or region, it must request the Minister to recommend to the Governor-General to make an Order in Council under section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002 to amend the name of the relevant local authority in Schedule 2 of that Act to give effect to the alteration.</p> <p>(3) An Order in Council must specify the date when the amendment takes effect, which must allow the Board sufficient time to give public notice as required by section 23(2)(a).</p>
Media	<p>There has been some media coverage of the proposal, focused on W[h]anganui controversy with little attention for the proposed Manawatū.¹¹ 12 13 14</p>

¹¹ [Regional council proposes adding 'h' to Manawatu-Wanganui](#), Radio New Zealand, 21 April 2018

¹² [Thorny H in Whanganui debate resurfaces](#), *Wanganui Chronicle*, 24 May 2018

¹³ [Rachel Stewart: Why the 'h' do they bother?](#) *New Zealand Herald*, 2 May 2018

A Radio New Zealand article on 20 June 2018 described mana whenua reaction as 'mixed',¹⁵ but this is not reflected in the proposal material from the Council.

An article in the *Wanganui Chronicle* on 21 June 2018¹⁶ covered the Council's resolution, although it incorrectly stated that the resolution completed the name alteration.

Further media coverage is likely.

Supporting information

1. Proposal from Manawatu-Wanganui District Council – 2018-07-17
2. Proposal map of Region – 2018-07-17
3. Proposal addendum with consultation responses – 2018-07-31
4. Table summarising mana whenua consultation
5. Secretariat map of Manawatu-Wanganui Region with Territorial Authorities
6. Media articles
7. Email from Te Puni Kōkiri – 14 August 2018

¹⁴ [Your letters: Horizons obliged to consult on name change](#), *Wanganui Chronicle*, 7 May 2018

¹⁵ [Regional council votes to add 'h' to Wanganui](#), *Radio New Zealand*, 20 June 2018

¹⁶ [Whanganui Horizons councillors divided on facilities fund, nearly united on 'H'](#), *Whanganui Chronicle*, 21 June 2018