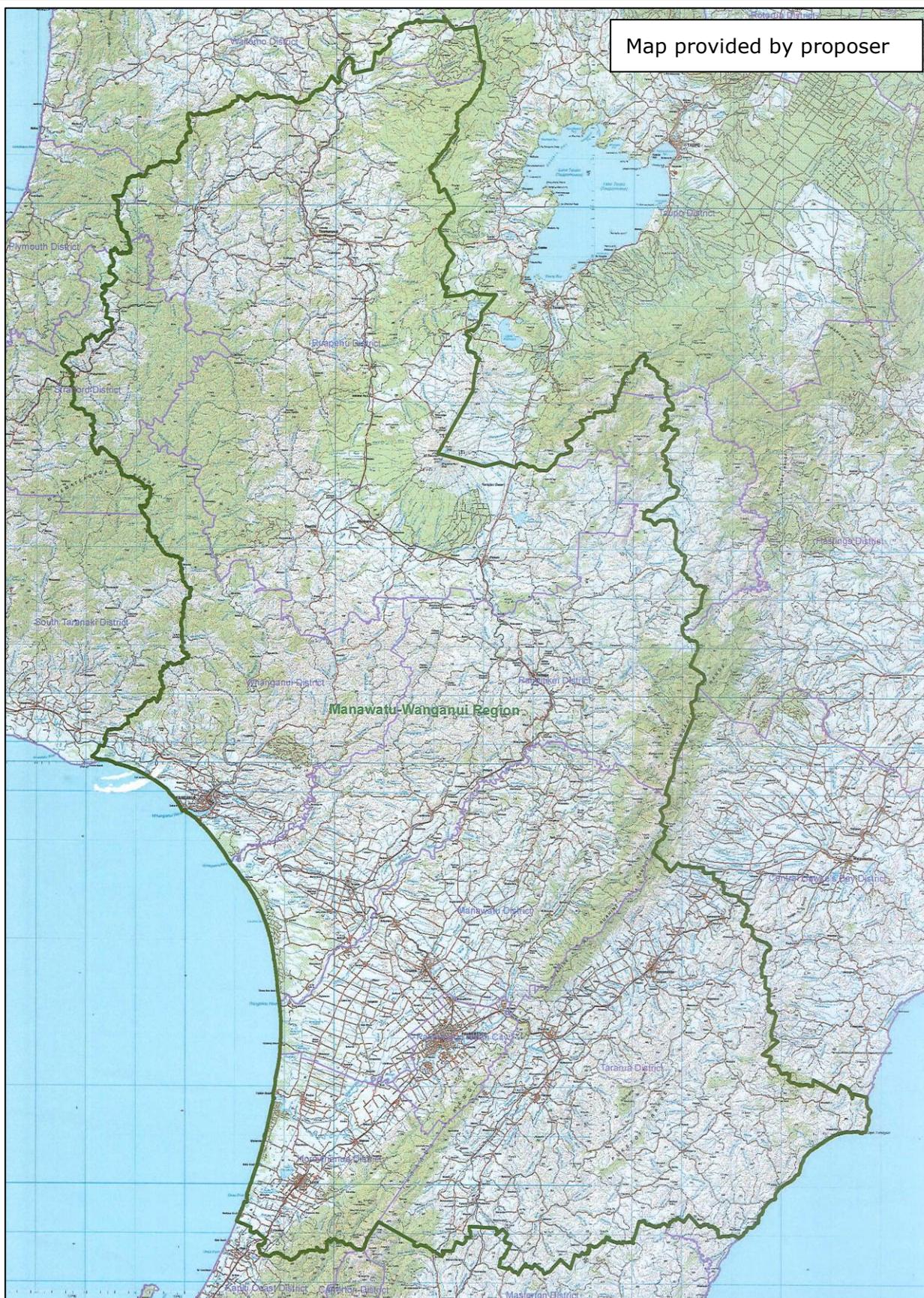


# Submissions for Manawatū-Whanganui Region [altered from Manawatu-Wanganui Region]

Considered by the NZGB at its 11 April 2019 meeting



## Summary

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At its meeting on 27 September 2018 the NZGB agreed to accept a proposal made by Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council (MWRC)<sup>1</sup> to alter the local authority region from Manawatu-Wanganui Region to **Manawatū-Whanganui Region**.

During the notification period from 5 November 2018 to 5 December 2018 the NZGB received **33 supporting** and **eight objecting** submissions to the proposal.

The supporting submitters primarily want both parts of the region's name spelled correctly. Consistency with other Whanganui names, and respect for mana whenua are also strong reasons in the supporting submissions. The supporting submitters provided further reasons summarised below.

Two objecting submitters made alternative proposals based on the name 'Manawatū-Whanganui' not appropriately representing them. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Raukawa advised that it identifies with 'Horowhenua' and 'Rangitikei' and seeks the name Horizons, being representative of the whole region. The other objecting submitter questioned why 'Manawatū' and 'Whanganui' are joined together as a region.

The other six objecting submissions support the existing name, with some focused on the alteration of Wanganui to Whanganui without comment on 'Manawatū'. These objectors gave a number of reasons such long term use of Wanganui, the potential cost of change, and that the proposal being political correctness.

The reasons provided by the objecting submitters are responded to below, and are not considered to outweigh the original reasons the NZGB accepted for the proposal.

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## Secretariat recommendation

At its meeting on 11 April 2019 the NZGB resolved this recommendation.

**Consider** all submissions on the proposal to alter Manawatu-Wanganui Region to **Manawatū-Whanganui Region**, and their reasons,

**and**

**Reject** the objecting submissions based on the reasons provided not outweighing those previously accepted by the NZGB for the proposal being:

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

and these further reasons following notification:

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<sup>1</sup> Trading under the name 'Horizons'

- pronunciation of Whanganui not being the NZGB's concern,
- concerns about cost and political correctness not being material to the decision,
- the proposal not likely to be 'divisive' or causing a loss of identity,
- the alternative name Horizons not resolved and proposed by the Council,
- further evidence of support from the supporting submissions

**and**

**Confirm** the NZGB's earlier decision to alter Manawatu-Wanganui Region to **Manawatū-Whanganui Region**,

**and**

**Report** the NZGB's decision to the Minister for Land Information,

**and**

**Request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

## Background

**Draft NZGB minutes 27 September 2018** [abridged]

### NZGB discussion

The NZGB noted that regions in New Zealand are based on water catchment areas, and it is uncertain whether northern iwi would consider the name appropriate for the whole region. The NZGB noted that if the council changed through amalgamation, the region would cease to exist. The NZGB noted that Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council, who made the proposal, had included its minuted resolution. The NZGB agreed that the proposal be notified for one month only, based on the alterations being orthographic corrections.

## Notification

Advice to mana whenua that the NZGB would be publicly notifying the proposals

On 1 October 2018 the Secretariat advised 22 mana whenua groups, who Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK) confirmed as representative, that the NZGB would be publicly notifying the proposal for one month.

Advice to councils

On 27 September 2018 the Secretariat advised MWRC of the NZGB's decision to proceed to public notification, and that the proposal would be publicly notified for one month.

On 5 November 2018 the Secretariat advised all other local authorities that the proposal was open for submissions until 5 December 2018.

Advice to MPs

On 6 November 2018 the Secretariat advised the MPs for Ōtaki, Rangitīkei, Wairarapa, Whanganui, Te Tai Hauāuru, Ikaroa-Rāwhiti and all neighbouring electorate MPs that the proposal was open for submissions until 5 December 2018.

Public notification including social media

The NZGB advertised that the proposal was open for submissions:

- in the *New Zealand Gazette*,
- in the *Sunday Star Times*, *Manawatu Standard*, *Whanganui Chronicle* and *Ruapehu Bulletin*,
- on the LINZ [Consultation](#) and [Facebook](#)™ pages, and the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page. TPK's online events calendar [Rauika](#) was requested to post the notice, but unfortunately were unable to do so until after submissions had closed.

## Media

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LINZ<sup>2</sup> Communications circulated a general media advisory on 5 November 2018, which was published on the LINZ website the following day.<sup>3</sup> A number of sites such as Scoop.co.nz and Voxy.co.nz syndicated the media advisory. The Secretariat did not note significant media coverage.

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## Submissions

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### Overview

During public notification from 5 November 2018 to 5 December 2018 the NZGB received 33 supporting submissions and eight objecting to the proposal.

All except four submitters identified as living within the region. Information on the location of submitters is provided to inform of local community engagement – it does not indicate that they have a greater influence

A spreadsheet in the supporting information summarises the submissions. Any late submissions will be tabled at the NZGB's meeting.

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### Secretariat summary and analysis of the supporting submissions

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	<p>The supporting submissions mainly support the spelling corrections, although some just focus on the alteration of Wanganui to Whanganui.</p> <p>Correcting the names to achieve consistency is also a significant theme. However, this would be the first of the associated Manawatu place names to be corrected to Manawatū.</p> <p>Ngāti Rangi Trust and Tararua District Council made supporting submissions. The NZGB had not previously received their views as part of the proposal.</p> <p>The reasons for supporting the proposal in order of frequency are:</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>To correct the spelling. Correct spelling reflects meaning and aids pronunciation.</td></tr><tr><td>Consistency with other place names, signs, businesses, etc. Inconsistency causes confusion.</td></tr><tr><td>Respect for mana whenua. Correct place names can be cultural redress. The names have cultural significance.</td></tr><tr><td>Support of te reo Māori in general.</td></tr><tr><td>Historic use of Whanganui spelling. Whanganui the original name.</td></tr><tr><td>To uphold the Treaty of Waitangi.</td></tr><tr><td>The names are connected to identity, whakapaka.</td></tr><tr><td>'Wanganui' is an expression of colonialism.</td></tr></table>	To correct the spelling. Correct spelling reflects meaning and aids pronunciation.	Consistency with other place names, signs, businesses, etc. Inconsistency causes confusion.	Respect for mana whenua. Correct place names can be cultural redress. The names have cultural significance.	Support of te reo Māori in general.	Historic use of Whanganui spelling. Whanganui the original name.	To uphold the Treaty of Waitangi.	The names are connected to identity, whakapaka.	'Wanganui' is an expression of colonialism.
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### Secretariat summary and analysis of the objecting submissions

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	The objecting submissions gave a number of reasons against the proposal,
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<sup>2</sup> Land Information New Zealand

<sup>3</sup> [NZGB consults on four place name changes](#), 5 November 2018

but there are no particularly strong themes.

Two of the eight objecting submitters made alternative proposals. One questions why Manawatū and Whanganui should be joined as a region, though supports the spelling corrections. The other from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Raukawa advised that it identifies with 'Horowhenua' and 'Rangitīkei' and is concerned that issues in those districts are 'invisible' under the name Manawatū-Whanganui Region. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Raukawa considers that 'Horizons' is representative of the whole region.

The remaining objections support the existing name, though some only refer to the alteration of Wanganui to Whanganui without comment on the proposed 'Manawatū'. The Secretariat has summarised the objections as follows:

Made an alternative proposal:
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- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- split the region</li><li>- alternative name <b>Horizons</b></li></ul> |
|---|

Māori was not a written language, so Wanganui is not incorrect
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Long term use of the existing name
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Loss of identity, family connections to the existing name
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Written form 'Whanganui' results in people incorrectly pronouncing the name
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Political correctness
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Cost
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Proposal unnecessary
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Proposal divisive
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## Secretariat's assessment of the objecting submissions

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### **Manawatū and Whanganui should not be combined as a region**

While assessing the connection of name to place is a key purpose of the NZGB, the NZGB can only consider the alteration of names of local authority areas, not their extents. The process for abolishing and creating new local authorities is set out in [Part 3 Subpart 2 of the Local Government Act 2002](#) and is a function of the Local Government Commission.

### **Alternative name of Horizons**

The NZGB previously noted that some groups within the region including mana whenua might not associate with the names Manawatū and/or Whanganui. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Raukawa's concern that the name does not represent 'Horowhenua' and 'Rangitīkei' is valid.

However, the NZGB can only alter the name of a local authority area by request or with the consent of the relevant local authority. While MWRC uses 'Horizons' as its trading name, and it is likely to have currency and be recognisable, it was MWRC who made the proposal for Manawatū-Whanganui Region.

### **Māori was never a written language, Wanganui is correct without an [h]**

Te reo Māori is now a written language with standardised orthography<sup>4</sup> set by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (TTWh) (the Māori Language Commission). The NZGB takes advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori on the correct orthography of Māori names. The spelling 'Whanganui' is correct based on expert advice from TTWh, and conveys the correct meaning of the name.

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<sup>4</sup> The conventions and rules of how to write a language

This was reaffirmed for several proposals for associated Whanganui place names.

**Written form 'Whanganui' results in people incorrectly pronouncing the name**

The NZGB considers the standardisation of Māori place names as words to be a separate issue from their pronunciation. While standardised Māori orthography can aid in the correct pronunciation of Māori names, the NZGB acknowledges the dialectical difference of the aspirated [h].

**Long term use**

Long term use is a relevant consideration, and Manawatu-Wanganui Region has been in use for 29 years. However, the NZGB's functions to correct spelling as requested by the relevant council are considered to outweigh this reason.

**Loss of identity, family connections**

The NZGB acknowledges the strong connections people have to place. However, the proposal is to standardise the spelling of an existing name. The proposed name is unlikely to disassociate people from place.

**Political correctness**

The NZGB considers the merits of a proposal in terms of its statutory functions, policies, standards.

**Concerns about cost**

Official documents such as signs are typically updated in the course of planned maintenance programmes. MWRC has also advised that a branding review is budgeted for as part of its long term plan so change is accounted for.

**Proposal unnecessary**

MWRC requested the proposal in terms of section 11(2)(b) of the NZGB Act 2008. Therefore the NZGB has a statutory responsibility to process the proposal. Applying consistent and orthographically correct place names is a purpose of the NZGB.

**Proposal divisive**

The objecting submissions did not state how standardising the orthography of the region's name may cause division.

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## Supporting information

1. Proposal report - Manawatū-Whanganui Region – 2018-09-27
2. Submissions spreadsheet
3. Copies of all supporting submissions
4. Copies of all objecting submissions