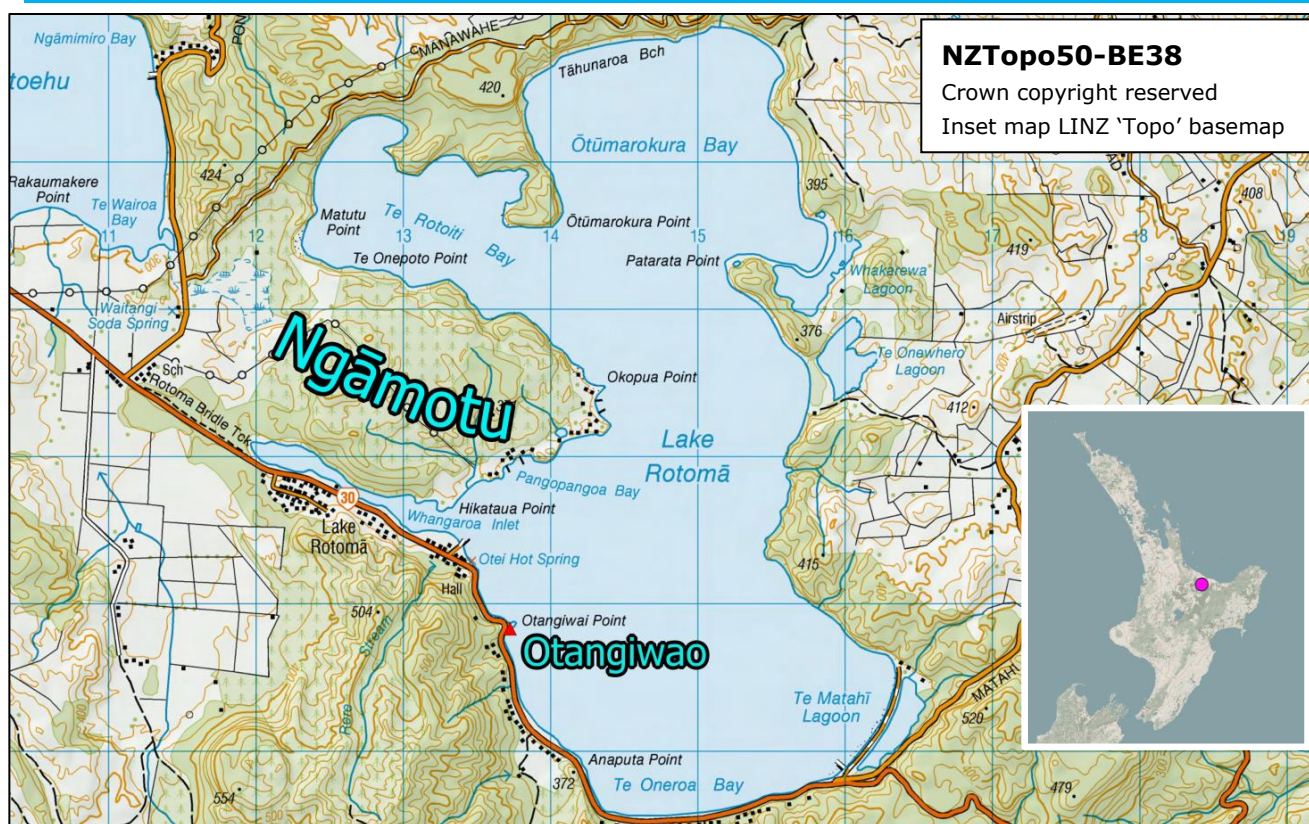


Proposals considered by the NZGB on 18 October 2019 for:
Ngāmotu [assign a new name]
Otangiawao [altered from Otangiwai Point]



Summary

The proposals are to restore two original Māori names by:

- assigning **Ngāmotu** to an unnamed peninsula on the west shores of Lake Rotomā, approximately 30km east-northeast of Rotorua, and
- altering Otangiwai Point (unofficial recorded) to **Otangiawao**, for the small point on the southwest shore of Lake Rotomā, correcting the spelling and dropping the English generic term, Point.

The proposers, Ngāti Tamateatūtahi/Ngāti Kawiti, advise they are mana whenua, and their preference is no English generic term be included with either name.

A local marae, Tapuaeharuru, Te Tatau o Te Arawa (a governance body), and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council support the proposals. Ngāti Pikiao, Rotorua Lakes District Council, and other iwi and post Settlement entities with interests in the area have not provided their views.

Ngāmotu names are duplicated many times in the North Island, including a hill ~30km southeast of the proposal. The NZGB may consider adding a generic term to Ngāmotu, for example, Ngāmotu Peninsula, to make the name unique and the feature easily identifiable in an emergency. A local use name Doctors Point may apply to the entire feature or only the eastern end.

Otangiwai Point is a popular site for diving, including commercial operations, so to identify the feature in an emergency the NZGB may consider retaining the 'Point' generic term, which is in long term use. Otangiwai Point is also known as Ngātangiawao, and Letterbox Island (or Letterbox Point) is a local use name. Other local use names are Mailbox Point, Tourist Point, and Divers Point.

Assigning and altering the names as official may help reduce any ambiguity,

ensuring people know what the correct names are.

Secretariat recommendations

At its meeting on 18 October 2019 the NZGB resolved recommendations 1, 3 and 5, and that consultation would be for one month.

Recommendation 1 **Accept** the proposal to **assign** a new official name **Ngāmotu** based on:

- the NZGB's function to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names on official maps,
- a licenced Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori translator having confirmed the orthography, noting no meaning is known,
- evidence of support from some Māori groups,
- evidence of support from Bay of Plenty Regional Council,
- no concerns for identification of the feature without a generic term,
- no concerns that duplication will cause confusion or ambiguity,

and

Notify as a proposal to assign for ~~three~~one months.

and

Recommendation 2 ~~**Accept** the proposal to **alter** the existing unofficial recorded name Otangiwai Point to an official name **Otangiwao**, based on:~~

- ~~— the NZGB's function to examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted on official maps,~~
- ~~— a licenced Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori translator having confirmed the orthography, noting no meaning is known,~~
- ~~— evidence of support from some Māori groups,~~
- ~~— evidence of support from Bay of Plenty Regional Council,~~
- ~~— no concerns for safety and identification with the removal of the English generic term 'Point', and noting that the generic term has 50+ years use on authoritative government maps.~~

~~**and**~~

~~**Notify** as a proposal to alter for three months.~~

and

Recommendation 3 **Take account of** the NZGB new *Generic Terms Policy* decided under item 6 of the agenda for this NZGB hui.

Options

Option 4 ~~**Accept** a new proposal to **assign** an official name **Ngāmotu Peninsula**, based on:~~
(replaces recommendation 1)

- ~~— the NZGB's function to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names on official maps,~~
- ~~— a licenced Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori translator having confirmed the orthography of Otangiwao, noting no meaning is known,~~
- ~~— the addition of the English generic term 'Peninsula' needed for identifying the feature in an emergency,~~
- ~~— preventing confusion with other features named Ngāmotu by adding a generic term to make the name unique,~~

~~**and**~~

~~**Notify** as a proposal to assign for three months.~~

Option 5 **Accept** a new proposal to **alter** the existing unofficial recorded name Otangiwai Point to an official name **Otangiwao Point**, based on:

- the NZGB's function to examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted on official maps,

- a licenced Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori translator having confirmed the orthography, noting no meaning is known,
- long term use of Point in the existing unofficial recorded name,
- retaining Point being valuable for identification in an emergency, which is supported by the Bay of Plenty Council Senior Maritime Officer (lakes),

and

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

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposals The proposers advise that they are mana whenua, being hapū of Ngāti Pīkiao, a Te Arawa iwi. The proposers seek to:

- restore the original Māori name **Ngāmōtu** for the large peninsula on the west shores of Lake Rotomā,
- alter the spelling of Otangiwai Point to **Otangiwao** for the small point on the southwest shore of Lake Rotomā, to correct the name and drop the English generic term, Point.

Their preference is not to include English generic terms for either name.

Ngāmōtu was historically a native forest with many mahinga kai due to the fern root grounds, berries, kiore, and kūmara plantations. Pā, urupā and other wāhi tapu are also on the peninsula. The feature is now mostly commercial plantation forest operated by Rotomā No.1 Inc.

Otangiwao was the site of one of four Ngāti Tamateatūtahi pā at Lake Rotomā, with palisades said to still be evident in 1893. Tradition states the feature would become an island when lake levels were high. Bay of Plenty Regional Council erected signs naming the feature 'Otangiwao' and 'Otangiwao Point' in 2013.

The proposers advise the point is also known as 'Ngātangiwao', and there is a local use name Letterbox Island (or Point) due to a letterbox or similar structure that locals used for jumping off into the lake.

A story that Otangiwao was a launch for waka to get to grave sites in the bush on the other side of the lake, hence Otangi [to cry] wao [forest] is not endorsed by the proposers. The proposers advise 'no interpretation was left from the ancestors' for the meaning/origin of either name.

The proposers have provided letters of support from Tapuaeharuru, a local marae, and Te Tatau o Te Arawa, a governance body formed to work with Rotorua Lakes District Council. The proposers advise they expect support in writing from Ngāti Pīkiao, but it has not yet been received.

The proposers also consulted with the relevant local authorities. Bay of Plenty Regional Council supports the proposals and Rotorua Lakes District Council has not yet responded. The proposers sought the views of Rotomā Ratepayers Association, but have yet to receive a response.

Names shown on plans and maps

Early survey plans record 'Otangiwao'. Otangiwai has been used consistently on authoritative maps since the 1940's, with 'Point' later added to the name. No maps or plans naming the peninsula Ngāmōtu or any other name were noted.

Plan/map	Date	Name for point	Name for peninsula

ML 5625	1883	<i>Unnamed</i>	<i>Unnamed</i>
SO 13825/16	1906	Otangiwoa [<i>Old pah</i>]	
ML 9351	1914	Otangiwoa	
NZMS13, SAK56 1 st ,3 rd eds.	1931 1950	<i>Unnamed</i>	
NZMS3, N77-1	1949	Otangiwai	
NZMS1, N77 1 st -4 th eds.	1952	Otangiwai	
	1965	Otangiwai Pt.	
	1971	Otangiwai Pt.	
	1979	Otangiwai Pt.	
NZMS260, V15 1 st -3 rd eds	1988	Otangiwai Point	
	1998		
	2004		
NZTopo50-BE38 v.1-03	2019	Otangiwai Point	

Location and extent of the features

The proposed Ngāmotu is the peninsula between Te Rotoiti Bay and Whangaroa Inlet on the west shores of Lake Rotomā. The feature is mostly covered in a commercial plantation forest, with some properties on the eastern point not accessible by road.

Otangiwai Point is a small point on the southwest shore of Lake Rotomā approximately 1.4km southeast from Lake Rotomā locality, and 30km east-northeast of Rotorua.

Generic terms and geographic feature types

'Peninsula' and 'Point' accurately describe the features. However, the proposers do not want English generic terms added.

Otangiwoa is also referred to as an island with traditions stating that high lake levels would make the elevated end of the point an island.

Note the Generic Terms policy decided under item 6 of the agenda for this NZGB hui.

New Zealand Gazetteer, associative names duplication

Otangiwai Point is an unofficial recorded name. There are no associated names in the Gazetteer, however the traditional fishing grounds at the point are also known as Otangiwoa (see cultural impact document in the Research block below).

Otangiwoa is not duplicated, and the feature is geographically distant (150-200km southwest) from two similar Otangiwai names.

No name is recorded in the Gazetteer for the proposed Ngāmotu. There are no associated names. Ngāmotu names are duplicated 11 times in the North Island with and without a macron and/or space. The closest duplicated name is Ngamotu (hill) approximately 30km east-southeast. The NZGB may consider distinguishing the name uniquely by adding 'Peninsula' as an appropriate generic term.

Research, history and references to

There is evidence of divers, fishers, community groups, businesses, and Rotorua Lakes District Council using Letterbox Island, Letterbox Point, and

the feature Mailbox Point for Otangiwai Point.¹²³ Other local use names appear to include Tourist Point by Whakatane Historical Society⁴ and Divers Point by Fish and Game.⁵

There is some use of Ngamotu and Ngamotu Peninsula in documents from Rotomā No.1 Inc, who manage the forestry block on the feature. Some Council documents refer to Ngamotu (Doctors Point)⁶ others to Pangopangoa Bay (Doctors Point)⁷. Doctors Point may be a local use name for the easternmost point of the peninsula where there are a number of properties, and not for the entire feature, but it is unclear.

A recent cultural impact assessment by Rotorua Lakes District Council describes the values and histories associated with the features.⁸

Consultation with iwi

The proposers have provided letters of support from:

- their marae, Tapuaeharuru Marae at Lake Rotoiti, also the marae for Ngāti Wahanui, a further Ngāti Pīkiao hapū,
- Te Tatau o Te Arawa, a Te Arawa governance body.

The proposers advised they sought support from Ngāti Pīkiao but are yet to receive it in writing.

Separately, views were sought from the following iwi/post Settlement entities on advice from Te Puni Kōkiri:

- Ngāti Makino Iwi Authority,
- Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Bay of Plenty) Settlement Trust,
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa,
- Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitīhi Trust,
- Te Arawa Lakes Trust,
- Te Pūmāutanga o Te Arawa Trust.

To date no responses have been received.

In late September the proposers further advised they also wrote to the same six groups, but had yet to receive responses.

Consultation with others

The proposers have consulted with the relevant local authorities. Bay of Plenty Regional Council has provided a letter of support, and Rotorua Lakes District Council is yet to provide its views.

The proposers have sought the views of Rotomā Ratepayers Association but have not received a response.

Advice on orthography⁹

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licenced translator has advised that Ngāmotu and Otangiwao are correct, noting that no origin/meaning is

¹ [Boating, diving restrictions around Lake Rotomā's Otangiwai Point](#), Rotorua Lake District Council, 28 November 2012

² <https://theoldtroutcafe.com/> - last accessed 28 August 2019

³ <http://divehq.co.nz/blog/lake-rotoma-dive/> - last accessed 23 August 2019

[Rotorua Lakes Community Board minutes](#) 14 March 2013

⁴ Whakatane Historical Society, *Historical Review*, Volume 46 Issue 2 1998

⁵ <https://fishandgame.org.nz/dmsdocument/49> - last accessed 28 August 2019

⁶ [Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group](#) - accessed 30 August 2019

⁷ [Rotoma Community Sewerage Scheme](#) - Sewer Servicing Options, Rotorua Lakes District Council - last accessed 30 August 2019

⁸ Wairangi Whata on behalf of Ngāti Tamateatutahi-Ngāti Kawiti, Ngāti Hinekura, Ngāti Te Rangiuuora, Ngāti Rongomai, Ngāti Tarawhai and Ngāti Mākinō for the Rotorua Lakes Council, [An Assessment of Cultural Impacts Regarding the Proposed East Rotoiti/Rotoma Sewerage Scheme](#),

⁹ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

known.

Relevant sections from the [NZGB Act 2008](#)

Section 3(e) established a purpose of the NZGB to provide the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features

Under Sections 11(1)(b),(e) and (f) functions of the NZGB are to:

- examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted on official charts or maps
- encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps
- seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori on the correct orthography of any Māori name

The proposers, who advise they are mana whenua, seek to restore an original Māori name and correct the spelling of another, both without English generic terms.

Relevant policies from the NZGB's [Frameworks](#) v.10

Generic terminology: Including an English generic term with either Māori or foreign names that already have embedded generic terms as part of the name, may be necessary to avoid ambiguity or confusion, particularly for emergency services.

Name duplication: The Board will not approve a proposal for a name if that name has been duplicated extensively throughout New Zealand, that is, not just in a neighbouring area. The use of unique generic or qualifying terminology added to the specific name component may help to avoid confusion caused by duplication, except for locality, suburb or populated place names.

The NZGB may consider that retaining the English generic term for Otangiawao, ie Otangiawao Point, and adding one for Ngāmotu, eg Ngāmotu Peninsula, being necessary for identification to emergency services, and due to extensive duplication of Ngāmotu including a hill relatively nearby.

Hydrographic considerations, concerns or issues for emergency services

The proposer has not provided evidence of consultation with emergency services.

Otangiwai Point is a significant site for diving with approximately 1000 divers using the site each year. There are also hazards due to competing use of the lake by divers and recreational fishers adjacent to the point. In 2018 a diver died at the point.¹⁰

In 2013 the Bay of Plenty Regional Council erected a sign at the point naming it Otangiawao Point, and detailing the history of the site and the commercial dive operator requirements. The proposers advise this sign was also to stem potential confusion as Otangiwai Point remained the name shown on authoritative maps.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council Senior Maritime Officer (Lakes) advised 'we have concern from a safety aspect that the word "point" refers to a feature and if removed then may be interpreted as an area therefore creating delays in response. Points are commonly referred to in maritime navigation as they are a quick reference both on paper and visually. I have asked what the locals know it as and most refer to it as Mailbox point.'

The proposed Ngāmotu is mostly covered in commercial forestry plantation. Forestry is currently NZ's most hazardous occupation per capita.¹¹

¹⁰ [Man dies while diving in Lake Rotoma, Rotorua](#), NZ Herald, 28 April 2018

¹¹ Gerard Hutching, [Forestry not agriculture is NZ's most dangerous job](#), stuff.co.nz, 19 August 2018

Officially naming both features would provide authoritative information on the correctly spelled names for the features, which could reduce ambiguity and may aid emergency services.

Media

Media attention is possible due to Ngāmotu being a sizeable feature and Otangiwai Point being a popular recreational site, and due to several local use names.

Supporting information

1. Proposals – 22 August 2019
2. Additional supporting information
3. Letter of support – Tapuaeharuru Marae – 17 July 2019
4. Letter of support – Te Tatau o Te Arawa – 24 July 2019
5. Letter of support – Bay of Plenty Regional Council – 22 August 2019
6. Email from Bay of Plenty Senior Maritime Officer (Lakes) – 4 September 2019