



Our ref: GES-N15-03-20/3700005

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 19 November 2024 for documents referring to the change of spelling of the name 'Ōwhiro Bay', from 'Owhiro Bay'. You also asked, 'when was the first occurrence of the spelling 'Ōwhiro Bay' published in LINZ material'.

Ōwhiro Bay (for the suburb), with the macron, was part of a project Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board undertook in 2019 to make official the top 200 Māori place names searched on Google.

Ōwhiro Bay (for the bay) which had been made official as Owhiro Bay in 1948, was corrected with a macron at the same time.

Please find enclosed the requested documents relating to the Board's decisions:

- Report on the 'Say it Tika project' that the Board considered at its 11 April 2019 hui, which includes background to the project
- advice from a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator that Ōwhiro, with a macron on the [Ō], is the correct spelling
- confirmation from a Te Ātiawa – Taranaki Whānui kaumātua that Ōwhiro is correct
- the minutes of the Board's 11 April 2019 hui (pages 13-14 refer), also available online at: [11 April 2019 minutes](#)
- emails with Wellington City Council advising that updating the orthography for Ōwhiro Bay

Please note that the names of the Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator and Te Ātiawa kaumātua are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The 2019 New Zealand Gazette entries notifying the macron in the suburb and bay names are the first occurrences. You can find the notices for [the suburb](#) and [the bay](#) at these links.

The names were then also published on the [Board's Gazetteer of place names](#).

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please contact Wendy Shaw, Secretary for Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board at wshaw@linz.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

The response to your request, with any personal details withheld, will shortly be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Haanen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anselm Haanen

Chairperson for Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board

Proactive release