

Say it Tika project

Summary

At its 27 September 2018 hui the NZGB agreed to process the top 200 most searched Māori names that Google™ had advised, with standardised orthography¹. The recorded (unofficial) names would be approved as official place names, and the existing official names amended by corrigendum².

Following the hui, the NZGB Acting Chairperson requested further analysis of the names, noting that approving some names may cause concerns in the affected communities. The analysis is now completed.

Due to duplication and groups of associated names, more than just 200 names are affected. For example, eighteen 'Makara' names could be standardised as **Mākara**.

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licenced translator has provided additional advice to indicate where:

- there is only one possible form of the name, although the names may have different meanings (ie, the story is not required to determine the orthography),
- where standardised orthography could differ in other occurrences of a name, compared to a well-known iteration. For example, Titirangi Point at North Cape (Otou) requires no change, but it is possible Titirangi names elsewhere in New Zealand might be for a type of hebe, correctly 'Tītirangi'. These have been removed from the list (**Appendix C**).

However, this advice cannot identify where the name may be incorrect, but still a valid word, ie, one of the Makara Streams might correctly be a 'Makaro'. It also does not identify if the existing recorded name is not an original Māori name.

These names are out of scope:

- Crown protected areas, local authority names, due to other requirements of the NZGB Act 2008,
- within Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's takiwā, as they will be processed separately (Agenda item 13.2),
- those affected by a pending Treaty settlement name,
- recorded names that do not meet other standards, eg old dual names with brackets [()] (refer Agenda item 18),
- undersea feature names within 12 nautical miles.

Therefore the NZGB may:

- **approve 203** recorded names as official with macrons added to standardise their orthography and **approve 426** recorded names as official where the orthography is already standardised (**Appendix A**)
- **notify corrigenda** for **24** official names to standardise their orthography (**Appendix B**).

There are a number of significant populated places and features, eg Whakatāne (standardised with a macron) and Manukau Harbour (no change). Section 24 of the NZGB Act 2008 cannot be used when the NZGB considers public objection would be likely if it approved a name. The name could be left as recorded, or processed through sections 16-20 of the NZGB Act 2008, requiring public participation.

¹ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

² Notifying a correction in the *NZ Gazette*

Secretariat recommendations

Recommendation 1 **Approve** as **official** the **629** recorded place names listed in **Appendix A** [separate document] based on:

- the NZGB previously agreeing that the addition of a macron does not prevent a recorded place name being approved as official under section 24 of the NZGB Act 2008 because it is not an alternative name,
- there being no other recorded names known for the features,
- public objection being unlikely, and
- this action addressing increased expectations from government and the public that the NZGB as the national naming authority will hold standardised orthography for Māori place names,

and

Notify in terms of section 21(2) of the NZGB Act 2008.

and

Recommendation 2 **Notify corrigenda** to standardise with macrons the **24** official place names listed in **Appendix B** [separate document].

Option

Option 3 **Defer** any names in **Appendix A** where the NZGB considers public objection to their approval is likely, to process in the future under sections 16-21 (the standard process).

Background

Report on NZGB-LINZ Agreement 12 April 2018
[extract]

Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (TTWh) has advised that when the NZGB changes the orthography of a written Māori word it is standardising the spelling rather than 'correcting' it.

Vodafone and Google™ are collaborating on an initiative to get people to pronounce Māori place names correctly in everyday use with a text-to-speech app 'Say it Tika'. TTWh does not have the capacity to provide orthographic advice for 5000+ Māori place names, and does not want to undermine the NZGB's authoritative role in determining official place names and their spelling. Therefore TTWh is working collaboratively with the NZGB to provide orthographic advice to Vodafone. Over time those names may be processed through the NZGB Act 2008.

Approving names as official with standardised orthography

In the past the NZGB has requested LINZ³'s Hydrographic and Topographic teams to update recorded Māori place names requiring macrons on their products (maps, charts, databases, etc) in terms of the November 2013 *LINZ/NZGB Agreement*. The standardised names would continue as 'recorded', with the intention of approving them under [section 24 of the NZGB Act 2008](#) after a period of time [five+ years].

At its hui on 12 April 2018 the NZGB noted LINZ Legal Services' advice that the addition of macrons to a recorded place name does not make it a different word. It is the same word with standardised spelling.

The NZGB agreed that when recorded names are standardised with macrons and the meaning remains unchanged, it can approve recorded place names as official under [section 24 of the NZGB Act 2008](#) (no public

³ Land Information New Zealand

consultation). The former name recorded without macrons is not considered to be an alternative name.

The NZGB agreed that the technical risk is low. If there is found to be an error made in approving a name as official under section 24, or if people oppose the change, it can be resolved by a full proposal being made through sections 16-21 of the NZGB Act 2008, which includes public consultation.

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minutes 27
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Resolutions

Approve under Section 24 as official any of the 'recorded' 200 Say it Tika Māori place names, with standardised orthography (whether macrons were added or not). Noting that the NZGB agreed at its 12 April 2018 hui that recorded names standardised with macrons are not alternative names,

and

Defer processing the other ~5700 Say it Tika Māori place names until the Secretariat's analysis is completed,

and

Agree on the process to be followed to standardise with macrons the 200 Say it Tika place names that are official, after considering the LINZ legal advice dated 6 September 2018, publish a corrigendum to make the correction (not alteration)

and

Noting that whichever process the NZGB agrees to, it will be used for other official names that require standardised orthography with macrons.

Supporting information

1. **Appendix A** [approved recorded], **Appendix B** [corrigenda for official names], **Appendix C** [names excluded] – on tabs in spreadsheet