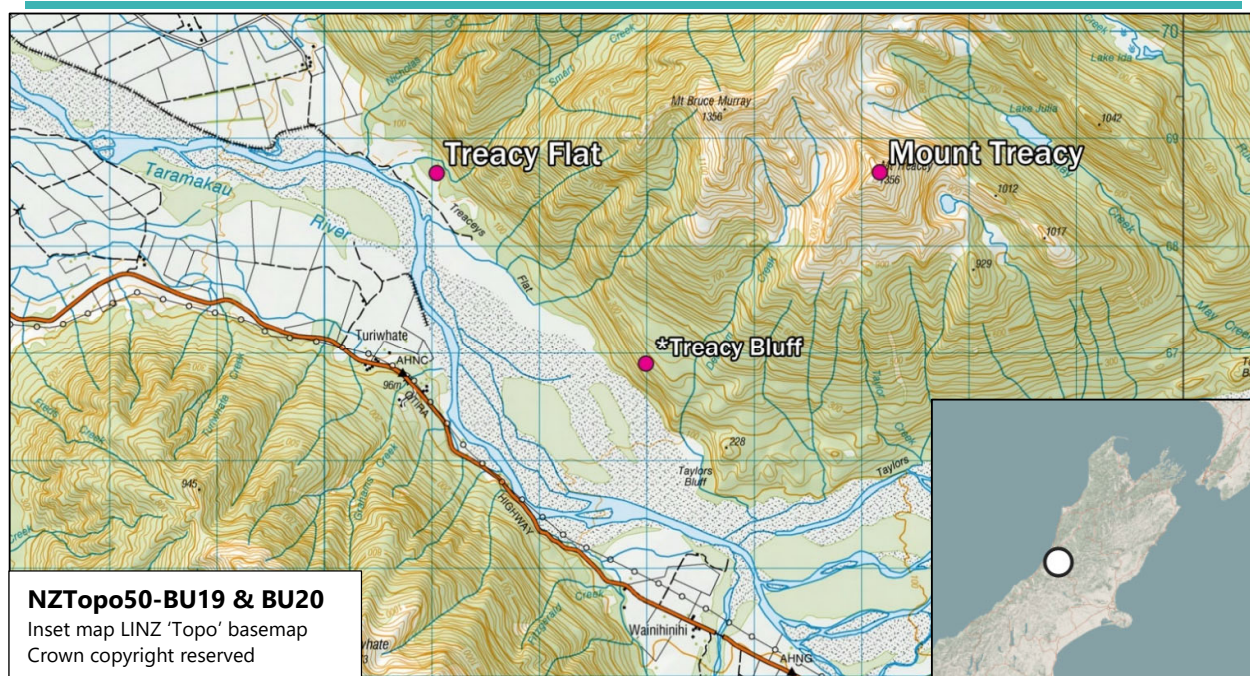


Proposal report considered by the Board on 30 April 2026 with the Board's decisions for:

Mount Treacy and Treacys Flat or Treacy Flat

[altered from Mount Treacey, Treaceys Flat]



Summary

The proposals are to alter the existing unofficial recorded¹ names for two features, 14-16km southeast of Kumara, West Coast Region:

- Mount Treacey to Mount Treacy, for a 1356m mountain at the south of Hohonu Range, and
- Treaceys Flat to Treacys Flat or Treacy Flat, for a flat on the right bank of Taramakau River.

The proposer has provided comprehensive evidence that Treacy is the correct spelling, the features being named for Michael Treacy (1838-1903) and Eliza Treacy (1858-1927). The Secretariat agrees with the evidence, although found that the Treacys settled earlier in the area than what the proposer advised and noted earlier use of the names on maps and plans.

The existing names are in long term use, consistently misspelled on official topographic maps since the late 19th century. Early official cadastral maps also included a third name, Treacey's Bluff, which dropped off later topographic maps. As this is legally a recorded name it has been added to the Gazetteer. The Secretariat recommends that the Board also consider officially altering Treacey's Bluff to Treacy Bluff.

The proposer and Secretariat have written to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) for its views on the proposals and advice on whether there are original Māori names for the features. No response has been received to date. Should the

¹ A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative publications such as maps, charts or databases, which the Board has resolved to be: NZMS map, LINZ Archived Place Names Database, Kā Huru Manu, and all hydrographic and bathymetric maps and charts published under a New Zealand hydrographic authority at the time of publication. A recorded place name is not official.

Board accept the proposals, TRONT will be advised prior to public notification and could make submissions.

Board's decisions

At its 30 April 2026 hui the Board made these decisions on the proposals:

Accept the proposals to officially **alter** the unofficial recorded place names:

- Mount Treacey to **Mount Treacy**, and
- Treaceys Flat to **Treacy Flat**,

based on:

- the Board's responsibility to examine cases of doubtful spelling,
- significant evidence from the proposer of the correct spelling for the namesakes Michael and Eliza Treacy,
- removing the possessive [s] from the name of the flat in terms of the Board's *Standards* and for consistency with the name of the mountain,
- an alteration to the spelling being unlikely to impact on emergency services as there is likely no difference in how the current and proposed names are correctly pronounced,

and

Notify as proposals to alter for one month.

AND

Accept a new Board proposal to officially **alter** the unofficial recorded name Treacey's Bluff to Treacy Bluff, based on:

- consistency with the above two proposals,
- the Board's responsibility to examine cases of doubtful spelling,
- the correct spelling Treacy having been confirmed,
- removing the possessive [s] from the name of the bluff in terms of the Board's *Standard*,

and

Notify a proposal to alter for one month.

Secretariat assessment

The proposal

The proposer is seeking to alter the unofficial recorded names Mount Treacey and Treaceys Flat to correct the spelling to 'Treacy'.

He has proposed altering Treacey Flat to either Treacys Flat or Treacy Flat, being primarily interested in correcting the spelling of the personal name and less concerned with the Board's policies around the possessive [s]. This report treats Treacy Flat as the proposal, removing the possessive [s] in line with the Board's standard and for consistency with the proposal for Mount Treacy.

The proposer advises that the features are named for Irish immigrants Michael P. Treacy (1838-1903) and Eliza Treacy (nee Keelan) (1858-1927). The Treacy family lived at Rangiriri (now Turiwhate) on the left bank of Taramakau River and their descendants continue to live in the area (see Secretariat research). The proposer surmises that the Treacy family were present at Rangiriri from the early 1890s and may have owned land at Treaceys Flat. Newspaper articles referred to the family as some of the 'first settlers in the district'² and 'well-known'³, with the Treacy homestead being a landmark in this rural area.⁴ The proposer has supplied copies of maps and concluded, based on timing of the appearance of the names, that the features may have been named during a 1905-1906 geological survey.

The proposer has provided a significant amount of biographical research and reference material that spell the name Treacy as proposed. This includes:

- death certificates and probate files,
- numerous newspaper articles,
- electoral rolls,
- cemetery records.

The Secretariat agrees that the features are named for the Treacy family but found earlier dates for their presence in the area and the naming of the features (see maps and plans and Secretariat research below).

Name shown on maps and plans

Treaceys Flat and Mount Treacey are named on official maps since 1895. The NZMS 13 and NZMS 15 series spelled the names with a possessive apostrophe and named another associated feature, Treacey's Bluff.

Two earlier topographic surveys from the 1880s⁵ record the names, one with the spelling 'Mt. Tracey'. The Secretariat considers it likely these topographic surveys were the first to name the features.

Map/plan	Date	Name
Waitohi Gorge To Teramakau River	c.1865	<i>unnamed</i>
Province of Westland	1874	<i>unnamed</i>
SO 6128 [topo]	1880s	Mt. Tracey
SO 6300 [topo]	1880s	Mt. Treacey, Treacey's Flat, Treacey's Bluff
NZMS 13 WD 23	1895	<i>ditto above</i>

² [Grey River Argus](#), 28 March 1927, Page 4

³ [KUMARA NOTES](#). *Grey River Argus*, 27 February 1923, Page 8

⁴ [BODIES FOUND](#), *Press*, Volume LXIX, Issue 21019, 22 November 1933, Page 15

⁵ Dated from the Surveyor-General's annual *Surveys of New Zealand* reports to the House of Representatives. A campaign of topographic mapping surveys were completed across Te Waipounamu in the 1880s and 1890s.

NZMS 15 Grey Sheet 3	1920 1955	<i>ditto above</i> Mt. Treacy
NZMS 1 S50-51	1944-1978	Mt. Treacey, Treaceys Flat
NZMS 260 K32 NZMS 260 K33	1982-2000 1989-2000	Mt Treacey, Treaceys Flat Treaceys Flat
NZTopo50-BU19	2009-2018	Mt Treacey, Treaceys Flat

Location, geographic feature type and generic term

Mount Treacey is a prominent 1356m mountain, the southernmost in Hohonu Range, southeast of Kumara in West Coast Region.
Treaceys Flat is a river flat or terrace between the right bank of Taramakau River and the base of Mount Bruce Murray, in Hohonu Range.
Treacey's Bluff steeply rises 240m on the right bank of Taramakau River, just southeast of Traceys Flat.
'Mount', 'Flat' and 'Bluff' are appropriate generic terms.

New Zealand Gazetteer, associated names and duplication

[Mount Treacey](#) and [Treaceys Flat](#) are unofficial recorded names in the *NZ Gazetteer*. Treacey's Bluff is an associated name that has been added to the *NZ Gazetteer* in the course of processing these proposals, noting it was recorded on older official maps.

There are no associated or duplicated names. There is a similarly spelled and sounding [Tracy Stream](#) (official) 108km north-northeast.

Research, history and references

Michael P. Treacy (1838-1903) was born in Toomevara, Tipperary, Ireland and migrated to New Zealand c.1865 to work on the Christchurch to Kumara road⁶. He married another Irish immigrant Eliza Keelan (1858-1927) in 1873 at Arahura⁷, and proceeded to have at least fourteen children. The Treacy family lived at Rangiriri on Christchurch Road (now SH 73, Ōtira Highway) from at least the late 1870s⁸. Over time they and their children bought or leased several parcels of land between Mount Turiwhate and Taramakau River.

Rangiriri was the same place now named [Turiwhate](#) on official maps and directly opposite 'Treaceys Flat' across Taramakau River. Historic documents refer to the locality as Rangiriri, and a 'Rangiriri School' once operated there. This locality was named for [Rangiriri Creek](#) which used to flow 1.5-2km further northwest through river flats before [joining Grahams Creek](#) and into Taramakau River. However, by 1910⁹ Taramakau River had eroded a 1km stretch of the flats to the base of Mount Turiwhate, separating the creek and the locality named for it. The proposer noted that by 1927 when Eliza Treacy died, Rangiriri was referred to as Turiwhate. In the 1930s one of the daughters of Michael and Eliza Treacy, Erina Treacy, sought county assistance with erosion and rates relief on the land that no longer existed. Rangiriri School also appears to have moved southeast to Wainihinihi by the 1940s¹⁰.

⁶ [Untitled](#), *Grey River Argus*, 16 June 1903, Page 2

⁷ BDM 1873/8857

⁸ Possibly starting with Section 2016, WS6/191 in 1877

⁹ SO 2/22 (1868) shows ~700m of flat from the base of Mount Turiwhate to the closest channel of Taramakau River, SO 7628 (1880) and SO 6291 (1880s?) show about ~400m of flats, on SO 1438 (1910) the flats are completely eroded. SO 6295 (1880s) also shows the banks as of 1910 and 1920, penned on as a later edition.

¹⁰ Based on NZMS 15

The proposer surmised that the Treacy's may have owned land at Treaceys Flat. However, the area of the flat was Crown land. In 1912 the adjacent landowner Philip Ryan Nicholas (cf the immediately adjacent [Nicholas Creek](#)) received an occupation licence for the northwest part.¹¹ The southeastern part remained unregistered Crown land, becoming State Forest in 1920¹² and is currently part of the Conservation Area - Hōhonu Forest. The Treacys may still have occupied the flat in the 1870s-80s for economic benefit (such as running stock) but no specific information has been identified.

Otherwise, the flat and mountain were likely named by proximity to the Treaceys as nearby landowners. Many features in the area are named for the residents, eg [Fitzgerald Creek](#) is clearly named for Michael Fitzgerald, the next landowner to the southeast.

One of Michael and Eliza's daughters, Mary Treacey, married Amos Pugh in 1917 and in 1973 Erina Treacy (above) bequeathed half her property to Mary and Amos' children Vivian and Patrick Pugh. This passed to John Patrick Pugh who over time acquired the remaining Treacey land. The Pugh family remain in the area.

Consultation with iwi

The proposer wrote to TRONT in November 2025 requesting its views and advice on whether there were original Māori names for the features. The Secretariat likewise wrote to TRONT about the proposals in January 2026 and followed up regarding Treacy's Bluff in early March. To date no response has been received from TRONT.

Relevant sections from the [NZGB Act 2008](#)
[Standard for New Zealand place names](#)

Under sections 10(1)(c) and 11(1)(b) of the Act the Board has a responsibility to examine cases of doubtful spelling.

1.5 Orthographic standards

- (d) The English possessive form should not be used. However, existing names with the possessive [s] that do not have the possessive apostrophe, have been in long-term use and have low public value, will not be altered.

Should it accept the proposals, the Board is required to publicly consult on correcting the Treacey spellings to Treacy. Therefore, it should also take the opportunity to remove the possessive [s] (as the family name is Treacy, not Treacys) and to be consistent across the three place names.

1.6 Altered names

Any alteration should balance the cultural and historical significance of the name against long-term use and the practical need for location identification. *Secretariat comment: Official topographic maps have spelled the names 'Treacey' for 131 years. However, the spelling is clearly incorrect and descendants of the Treacy family still live in the area. There is likely no difference in how the current and proposed names are pronounced, so there are unlikely to be issues when identifying features in an emergency.*

¹¹ WS21/83

¹² NZ Gazette 1920 (85) p.2837

Media

Mount Treacey is a prominent feature visible from SH 73 and there may be some local interest in the proposals given the connection to a well-known family.

Should the Board accept the proposals, part of the standard advice process is to advise the current Electorate MP. In this instance, the current West-Coast Tasman MP Maureen Pugh was married to John Patrick Pugh.

Supporting information

1. Proposals for Mount Treacy, Treacys Flat or Treacy Flat – 2025-11-20