



## Summary

The proposal is to alter the unofficial recorded<sup>1</sup> place name The Cone to an original Māori name Pūāwhē, which at 953m is the second highest hill/peak on Pirongia Mountain, approximately 20km west of Te Awamutu.

The proposer advises that Pūāwhē is a traditional name on Pirongia Mountain as recorded in the mōteatea (lament) *Kāore te rangi nei*, a story of love and conflict between Māori and patupaiarehe (spirit people). The proposer advises that historically Pūāwhē has referred to the maunga as a whole. However, The Cone is the only major peak on Pirongia Mountain not to have an original Māori name and the proposer considers that it is a fitting name for The Cone and should be applied to that specific feature.

Based on an updated kōrero provided by an acknowledged expert on the cultural history of Ngāti Maniapoto, that the patupaiarehe who bewitched Tāwhaitu had used a bundle (pū) of (ā) tree fern called a 'whē', or caterpillars 'whē', the Pou Taunaha<sup>2</sup> expert translator has confirmed that Pūāwhē is the correct orthography.

<sup>1</sup> A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative maps, charts or databases, which Pou Taunaha 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. It is not official.

<sup>2</sup> Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board

The Cone has been in long term use on plans and maps (120 years). However, there is evidence in a waiata published in 1894 (129 years ago) and Ngāti Maniapoto oral history that Pūāwhē is an original Māori name on the maunga. There is no evidence on authoritative maps of the feature being named with a generic term such as peak or hill, and none of the other high points on the maunga have a generic term.

The proposer has provided evidence of support on behalf of Pūrekireki Marae, and Pou Taunaha member Shane Te Ruki on behalf of Te Kōpua Marae, home of Ngāti Unu and Ngāti Kahu. The views of Waikato-Tainui have not been provided to date.

The maunga attracts high recreational use and The Cone may be an important reference for emergency response, much like Fanthams Peak on Mount Taranaki. However, altering the name is unlikely to cause identification issues when communicating with emergency services as they rely on digital technology to locate an emergency. The Cone would also be recorded as an alias in emergency services' databases.

## Secretariat recommendation

At its 26 April 2023 hui Pou Taunaha resolved this recommendation

**Accept** the proposal to **alter** the existing recorded place name The Cone to an official place name **Pūāwhē**, based on:

- the function of Pou Taunaha to collect and encourage the use of original Māori place names on official charts and maps,
- evidence in a waiata published in 1894 (129 years ago) and Ngāti Maniapoto oral history that Pūāwhē is an original Māori name, and is not being translocated (noting the proposer's advice that it has historically referred to the maunga as a whole), and
- altering the name being unlikely to impact on emergency services, although noting the high recreational use on the maunga.

**Noting** that the views of Waikato-Tainui have not been provided to date. However, they will have an opportunity to make a submission on the proposal during the public notification period.

**and**

**Notify** as a proposal to alter for one month.

## Secretariat assessment and advice

### The proposal

The proposer is seeking to alter the existing unofficial recorded place name The Cone (hill) to Pūāwhē. The proposer advises that in 2018 he began consultation with Waikato-Tainui and Ngāti Maniapoto to identify traditional Māori place names on Pirongia Mountain for a new geological map of the maunga being completed for his PhD. An acknowledged expert (kaumātua) of the cultural history of Ngāti Maniapoto and Pirongia Mountain, provided the name Pūāwhē for the hill/peak currently known as The Cone. Pūāwhē was subsequently added to the Pirongia Geological Map, which was published by

the Geoscience Society of New Zealand in 2020. This work was presented to Kiingi Tūheitia at the Pūrekireki Marae (on behalf of Ngāti Maniapoto) as the official gift marking the king's visit to unveil carvings at Mātakitaki Pā, near Pirongia.

The proposer advises that Pūāwhē is a traditional name on Pirongia Mountain as recorded in the oral history of Ngāti Maniapoto. The name was bestowed by the patupaiarehe after the stormy winds that ranged over the maunga as recorded in the mōteatea (lament) *Kāore te rangi nei*, a story of love and conflict between Māori and patupaiarehe. The proposer advises that all other major hills/peaks on Pirongia Mountain have traditional Māori names, for example, Ruapane, Tirohanga, Tahuānui, Wharauoa, Mahaukura, Tihitoetoe, Tiwarawara, Kohatupiko, Te Akeohikopiro, Hihikiwi and Pirongia (summit).

The proposer advises that historically Pūāwhē, which translates as 'the windy place', referred to the maunga as a whole.<sup>3</sup> However, the proposer considers that it is a fitting name for The Cone and should be applied to this specific feature, which faces towards Kāwhia Harbour and is characterised by high winds [see orthographic advice below for an updated translation]. The proposer advises that the restoration of Pūāwhē would reflect the deep and ongoing relationship between tangata whenua of Ngāti Maniapoto, other iwi, and the patupaiarehe on Pirongia Mountain.

The proposer has provided evidence of support on behalf of Pūrekireki Marae, and Pou Taunaha member Shane Te Ruki on behalf of Te Kōpua Marae, home of Ngāti Unu and Ngāti Kahu.

**Names shown on maps and plans**

The Cone has been in long term use on plans and maps (120 years).

Map/plan	Date	Name
ML 6221	1890	Not named
SO 12815	1903	The Cone
<a href="#">Geological map of Pirongia survey district</a>	1925	The Cone
NZMS 13, SAK49, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> editions	1934, 1951, 1959	The Cone
NZMS 1, N65, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> editions	1946, 1959, 1965, 1974	The Cone
NZMS 260, S15	2003	The Cone
NZTopo50-BE33, edition 1.03	2021	The Cone

**Location, geographic feature type and generic term**

The feature is a hill, which at 953m is the second highest peak on Pirongia Mountain, approximately 20km west of Te Awamutu. Geodetic mark B14Q, also named The Cone, is at the summit.

The [Generic Terms Policy](#) of Pou Taunaha encourages the use of generic terms. However, there is no evidence on authoritative maps of the feature being named with a generic term, and none of the other high points on the maunga have a generic term, for example, [Hihikiwi](#), [Mahaukura](#), [Tirohanga](#).

<sup>3</sup> Secretariat note: SO 315 dated 1867 records 'Pirongia Ranges' for the larger feature and [The Journal of Polynesian Society \(1893:203\)](#) records that the 'Pirongia ranges' separated the Kawhia district from Waikato country.

**New Zealand Gazetteer, associated names and duplication**

The Cone is the recorded name for the feature. Two hills in Southland are also named The Cone – one ~45km north of Invercargill and the other ~75km northeast of Invercargill.

No other features in the jurisdiction of Pou Taunaha are named Pūāwhē.

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**Research, history and references to the features**

There is no record in the archives of Pou Taunaha for The Cone, which is named for the shape of the feature. Given that the geodetic mark name is The Cone, it is plausible that the feature was named by an early surveyor.

The proposer has provided [Patupaiarehe - Spiritual beings - Waka Huia explores the existence of the Mist people - YouTube](#), a documentary produced by Waka Huia about Ngāti Maniapoto and Pirongia Mountain which explores the existence of the Mist people. At 6:21 in the recording, the mōteatea *Kāore te rangi nei* is recited, and at 11:50 Tom Roa explains that Pūāwhē is the name given for the maunga by the patupaiarehe. The proposer has advised (pers. comm.) that 'Puawhea' (at 11:50) is a spelling error made when the documentary was transcribed.

An article in *The Journal of the Polynesian Society* (1894) also records the mōteatea *Kāore te rangi nei* under the heading 'Waiata Whaiāipo' (*lit.* love song), although with slightly different spelling - 'Ka pukohua mai te puke ki Puawe'.<sup>4</sup>

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**Consultation with iwi and others**

In terms of the *Kaupapa for Māori place names*, the Secretariat has invited Ngāti Maniapoto and Waikato-Tainui, who have mana whenua interest in the area, to comment on the proposal. The Secretariat also asked Te Puni Kōkiri to advise of other relevant mana whenua who should be contacted.

Because the feature is within Pirongia Forest Park, DOC<sup>5</sup> has also been asked for comments on the proposal.

To date Pou Taunaha has not received any feedback.

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**Advice on orthography<sup>6</sup>**

A Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator initially advised that Pūawhe would require one macron when interpreted as 'be blown about by the wind'.

The proposer subsequently passed on the advice that 'Our kōrero agrees with the space being wind-blown. There is an accompanying kōrero that the patupaiarehe who bewitched Tāwhaitu had used a bundle (pū) of (ā) tree fern called a 'whē', another account is that he used caterpillars - 'whē' ... hence the pū - ā - whē with macrons on each vowel. The use of 'whē' by the patupaiarehe was extant long before Māori arrived on the scene ...!'

Based on this further advice, the translator has confirmed that Pūāwhē does require three macrons. The proposer has advised that as far as is known the triple macron version hasn't yet appeared in any published text or map, so it is very important that it be recorded correctly (with three macrons) in the future.

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<sup>4</sup> Hoani Nahe, [Maori, Tangata Maori](#), pp. 27-34

<sup>5</sup> Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

<sup>6</sup> The conventions and rules of how to write a language

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

The functions of Pou Taunaha include investigating and determining the priority of the discovery of geographic features and collecting and encouraging the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps (sections 11(1)(c)(d)(e) refer).

**1.1 Acceptable names**

(a) Names that reflect New Zealand culture, society, exploration, events, tradition, and history. The NZGB encourages the restoration of original Māori place names.

(c) Names that recognise the priority of discovery of significant places, including those of Māori pre-European contact.

**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.

*The current recorded place name, The Cone, is well established and has been in use for at least 120 years. However, there is evidence in a waiata published in 1894 (129 years ago) and oral history that Pūāwhē is an original Māori name on the maunga.*

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**Concerns or issues for emergency services**

The feature is on Bell Track on the western slope of Pirongia Mountain, which forms part of the Te Araroa Trail.<sup>7</sup> The proposed alteration could cause confusion for identification to emergency services. However, The Cone would be recorded as an alias in their databases.

The views of Federated Mountain Clubs member, Shaun Barnett, in respect of recreational use will be of particular interest to Pou Taunaha.

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**Minister's Accord**

The feature is within the Minister for Land Information's upper Waikato River Accord Area A for Waikato-Tainui.<sup>8</sup> The Accord sets out the expectations of the relationship with Toitū Te Whenua and provides for Pou Taunaha to also build relationships with the iwi. The Secretariat has advised Waikato-Tainui of the proposal and invited their comments.

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**Media**

There is unlikely to be media coverage if Pou Taunaha accepts the proposal for public consultation.

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## Supporting information

1. Proposal for Pūāwhē – 2023-03-01
2. Email to Ngāti Maniapoto – consultation – 2023-03-02
3. Email to Waikato-Tainui – consultation – 2023-03-02
4. Email to TPK – request other contacts for consultation – 2023-03-02
5. Email from orthographic expert – orthographic advice – 2023-03-08
6. Email to DOC – consultation – 2023-03-17
7. Email to DOC Waikato – consultation – 2023-03-17

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<sup>7</sup> Department of Conservation, [Pirongia summit via Bell & Tahuānui Tracks](#). Accessed 20 March 2023.

<sup>8</sup> Area A, SO 409144