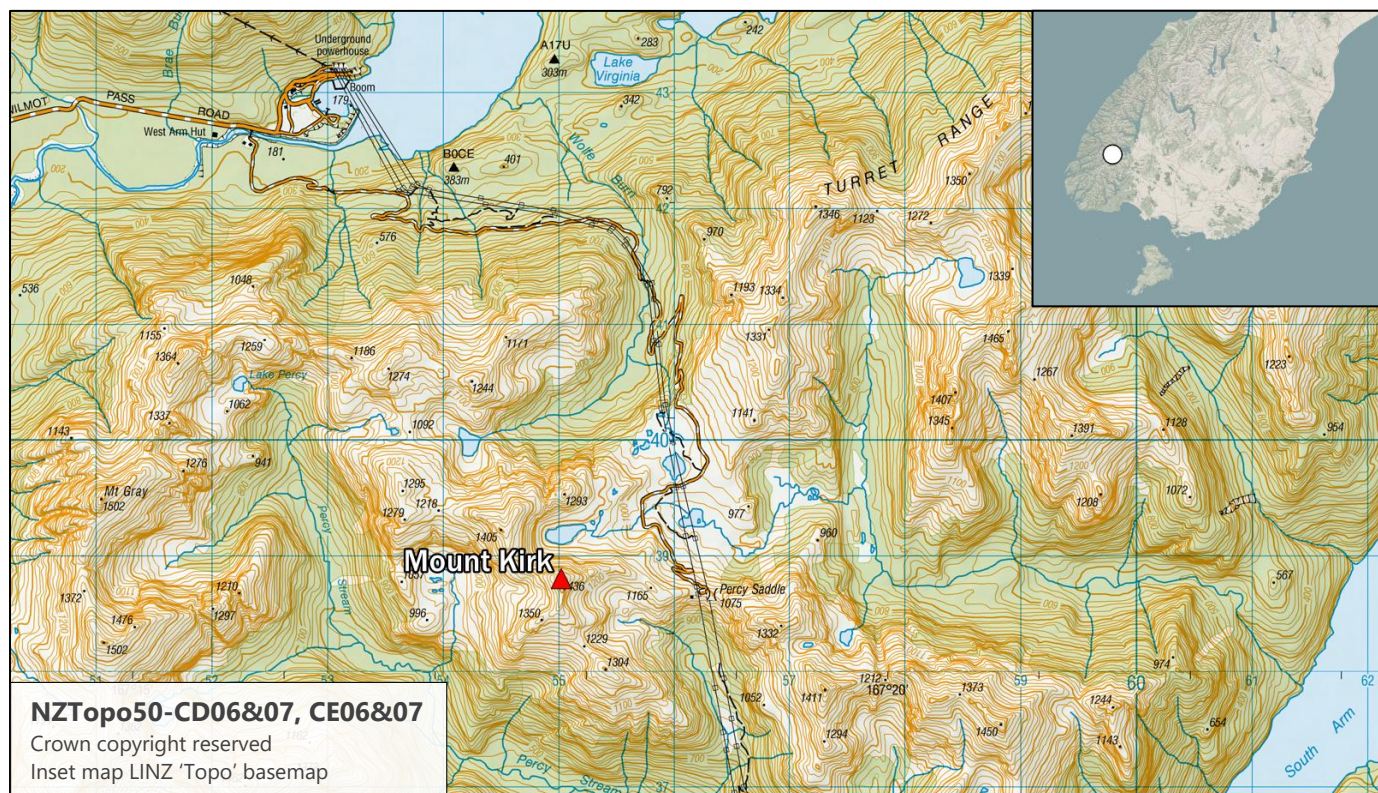


# Submissions considered by the Board on 30 April 2026 for Mount Kirk

[new name]



## Summary

At its 15 September 2025 hui the Board accepted the proposal from the two original surviving members of the 'Guardians of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau to assign Mount Kirk as the official geographic name for a prominent 1436m mountain at the west side of Percy Saddle, Turret Range, in Fiordland National Park.

During public notification from 23 October 2025 to 19 December 2025 the Board received ten submissions supporting and four<sup>1</sup> submissions objecting to the proposal.

The supporting submissions provided reasons that align with the reasons why the Board accepted the proposal. They noted that it was appropriate to commemorate a 'significant', 'inspiring', 'influential' New Zealander and mark his role in upholding the Save Manapouri campaign to preserve the environment of Lake Manapouri and Lake Te Anau.

Of the four objecting submissions, two supported naming the feature for Norman Kirk but preferred Big Norm or Kirk Peak. If the Board upheld one of these alternative proposals, it could renotify inviting a second round of submissions.

One objecting submission considered there must be an original Māori name for the feature. The last objected to naming for a politician and sought a more 'culturally appropriate, inspirational name' on the basis future New Zealanders '*won't know or care*' who Norman Kirk was. These objections are not considered to outweigh the reasons for accepting the proposal.

<sup>1</sup> Two submissions were submitted as supporting but proposed alternative names of Big Norm and Kirk Peak, so are considered objections with alternative proposals as per s.17(b) of the NZGB Act 2008.

## Board's decision

At its 30 April 2026 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

**Considered** the submissions and their reasons on the proposal to assign **Mount Kirk**,

**and**

**Rejected** the **four** objecting submissions, including those proposing the alternative names Big Norm, Kirk Peak or an existing Māori name, based on the reasons given not outweighing the reasons that the Board originally accepted for the proposal, being:

- marking a notable event in New Zealand's history and acknowledging former Prime Minister Norman Kirk's leadership role in upholding the petitions of the Save Manapouri campaign and establishing the Guardians of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau,
- marking a notable New Zealander worthy of commemoration for his service and impact and so meeting the Board's standard 1.1(c) 'a notable leader, of good character, and/or contributed to, or had a strong association with the feature, place or area',
- the location of the chosen feature being appropriate given its connection to the history and its close proximity to Manapōuri hydro station and Lake Manapouri,
- support from Fiordland Community Board,
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) advising there is no known original Māori name for the feature and not objecting to the proposal progressing, and
- giving a name in an area with few place names and therefore potentially assisting with back country recreation and search and rescue response,

**and**

**Confirmed** the earlier decision of the Board to accept the proposal to assign **Mount Kirk** as an official place name,

**and**

Will **report** the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information and request the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

## Background

Draft Board minutes 15 September 2025

'The Board noted that TRONT and Ōraka-Aparima rūnaka have no objection to the proposal and there is no known original Māori name for the feature. The Board agreed to advise the family of the late Norman Kirk of the proposal as a courtesy as they may wish to make a submission.'

## Notification

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairperson's decision                       | At its 15 September 2025 hui the Board agreed to notify the proposal for one month's consultation. The Chairperson decided to extend this to nearly two months considering that the proposal would be of public interest.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Advice to mana whenua of public notification | On 17 September 2025 TRONT were advised that the proposal for Mount Kirk would be publicly notified on 23 October 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Advice to MPs                                | The Secretariat advised the MPs for Southland, Te Tai Tonga and all neighbouring electorates that submissions on the proposals were open until 19 December 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Public notification including social media   | The Board advertised the proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- in the <a href="#">New Zealand Gazette</a>,</li><li>- in the <i>Sunday Star Times</i>, <i>Southland Times</i>, and <i>Otago Daily Times</i></li><li>- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ <a href="#">consultation</a> page, its <a href="#">Facebook page</a> (including a <a href="#">follow up reminder</a>), and on the New Zealand Government's <a href="#">consultation</a> page.</li></ul> |
| Other advice                                 | The Secretariat wrote to the widow of the late Rob Kirk, Norman Kirk's son, to advise of the proposal, invite her to make a submission should she wish to and request assistance in advising other family members. No response was received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## Media

The Board circulated a [media release](#) on 23 October 2025. There was limited media coverage with one published RNZ article, which was also republished elsewhere:

- [Former prime minister Norman Kirk could soon have a Fiordland peak named after him](#), RNZ, 23 October 2025

## Submissions

| Summary           | During public notification from 23 October 2025 to 19 December 2025 the Board received ten submissions supporting and four submissions objecting to the proposal.                                                                                                                                                             |                      |              |                      |              |         |            |   |   |   |   |           |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|---------|------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|
| Local engagement  | Submissions were mainly from South Island residents from various towns and cities. With few submissions received there was no particular trend.                                                                                                                                                                               |                      |              |                      |              |         |            |   |   |   |   |           |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |
|                   | <table><tr><th>#</th><th>Southland</th><th>Rest of South Island</th><th>North Island</th><th>Unknown</th></tr><tr><td>Supporting</td><td>0</td><td>7</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Objecting</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>0</td><td>9</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr></table>  | #                    | Southland    | Rest of South Island | North Island | Unknown | Supporting | 0 | 7 | 1 | 2 | Objecting | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Total | 0 | 9 | 3 | 3 |
| #                 | Southland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Rest of South Island | North Island | Unknown              |              |         |            |   |   |   |   |           |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |
| Supporting        | 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 7                    | 1            | 2                    |              |         |            |   |   |   |   |           |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |
| Objecting         | 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2                    | 2            | 1                    |              |         |            |   |   |   |   |           |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |
| Total             | 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 9                    | 3            | 3                    |              |         |            |   |   |   |   |           |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |
| Affiliation field | The Southland Forest & Bird Committee made a supporting submission. The current chair of the Guardians of Lakes Manapouri, Monowai & Te Anau, also made a supporting submission in a personal capacity.                                                                                                                       |                      |              |                      |              |         |            |   |   |   |   |           |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |
| Issues            | Two submissions strongly support naming the feature after Norman Kirk, but proposed alternative names, so are treated as objections with alternative proposals. One supporting submission provided no reasons. Submissions that do not have reasons are not valid under the NZGB Act 2008, so do not need to be considered by |                      |              |                      |              |         |            |   |   |   |   |           |   |   |   |   |       |   |   |   |   |

the Board. They continue to be reported to the Board and counted together with the rest of the submissions per the Board's 15 October 2024 resolutions.

## Secretariat comments on the ten supporting submissions

The supporting submissions generally reflected on Norman Kirk's personal qualities ('honourable', 'inspirational', 'respected', etc) and his leadership. They noted his leadership role in upholding the Save Manapouri campaign, protecting the ecological values of the lake and noted the appropriateness of naming a feature in this area marking a strong association.

## Objecting submissions (4) summarised or verbatim with Secretariat comments

| Submitter                         | Submission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wānaka resident                   | <p>Supports naming the feature but it would be more appropriate to name the feature Big Norm, in line with the amusing and unconventional naming of many other prominent peaks.</p> <p>Provided a link to Wellington band Ebony's award winning song <i>Big Norm</i> (1974).</p> <p><u>Secretariat response:</u> The suggested name Big Norm was highlighted for the Board's consideration at its 15 September 2025 hui. The Board opted to proceed with Mount Kirk. The <i>Standard for New Zealand Place Names</i> deems surnames to be acceptable.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Southland Forest & Bird Committee | <p>Supports naming the feature for Norman Kirk for all the reasons considered by the Board. Particularly for establishing the Guardians of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau, ensuring the preservation of the lakes' environment by management of water levels within their natural range.</p> <p>However, the submission refers to supporting the names Big Norm or Kirk Peak.</p> <p><u>Secretariat response:</u> The Southland Forest &amp; Bird Committee submission appears to be unaware the proposal as notified is for Mount Kirk (which was discussed with the original proposers), not Big Norm or Kirk Peak. The Secretariat requested confirmation whether they supported the proposal for Mount Kirk. As no clarification was received, the submission remains treated as an objection, proposing alternative names.</p> |
| Auckland resident                 | <p><i>'I support a more culturally appropriate name and/or a name that links to the children of Aotearoa. Most future New Zealanders won't know or care who Kirk was. We should be looking for a more inspirational name rather than just naming after a politician like we have done for decades.'</i></p> <p><u>Secretariat response:</u> Officially naming a geographic feature for Norman Kirk will help preserve his memory and his accomplishments.</p> <p>While the Board has officially named other features after politicians, proposals are assessed on their merits and the Board's standards, including the person's connection to the feature/place, not just because they are politicians.</p>                                                                                                                     |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hamilton resident | <p><i>'The peak will already have a name. Ask the tangata whenua about it. Do not colonise this manga. Give it its rightful name in Maori.'</i></p> <p><u>Secretariat response:</u> The Board consulted with TRONT who advised no original name was known for the feature and that they did not object to the proposal.</p> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Supporting information**

- 1. Board proposal report – Mount Kirk – 2025-09-15
- 2. Submissions summary spreadsheet for Mount Kirk
- 3. Unedited copy of original online Qualtrics platform submissions output for Mount Kirk
- 4. Copies of original direct supporting email submissions