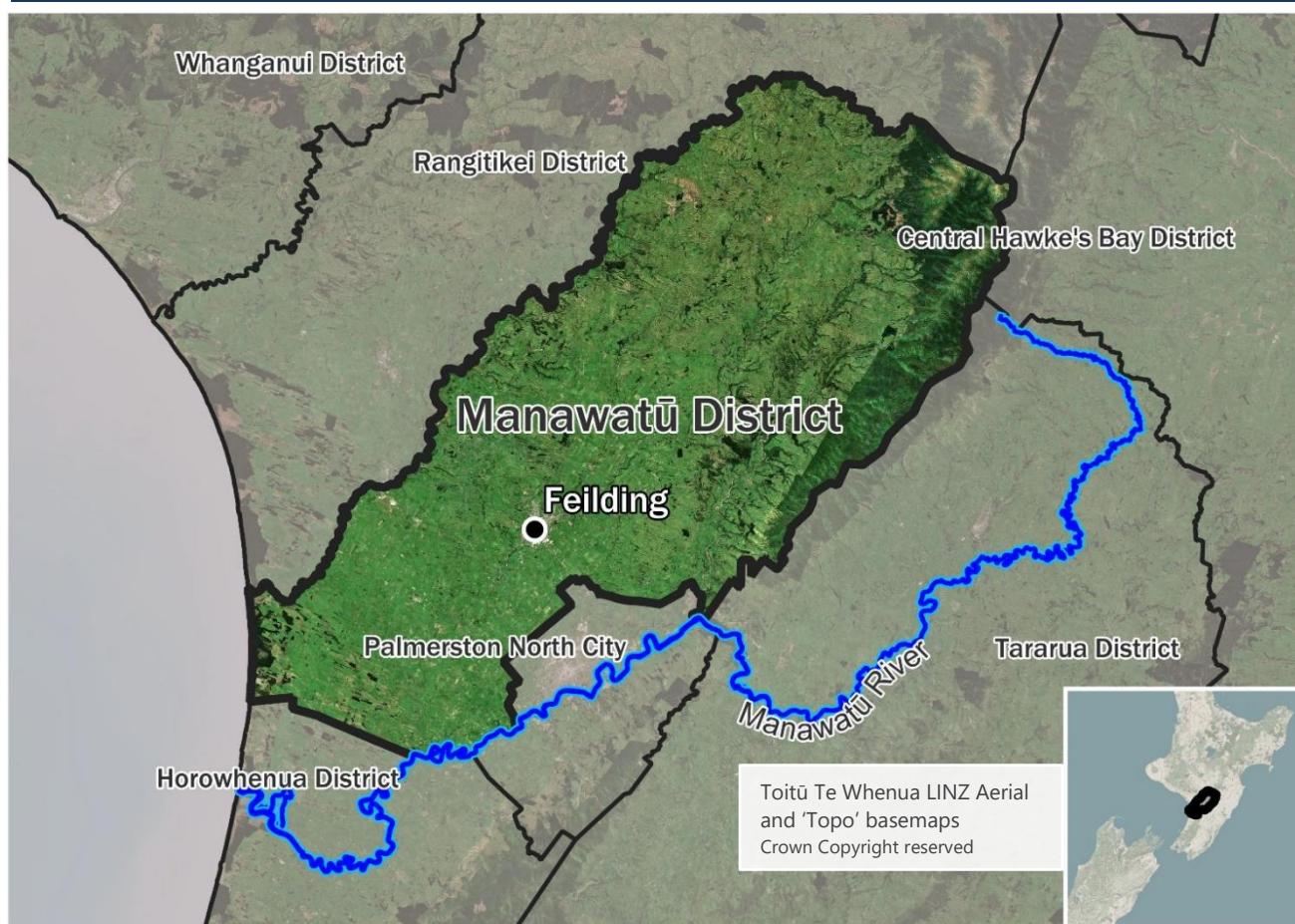


Proposal considered by the Board on 3 October 2023 for Manawatū District

[altered from Manawatu District]



Summary

On 20 April 2023 Manawatu District Council resolved to alter the name of its local authority district from Manawatu District to Manawatū District, so that it can formally change its local authority name under s.22 of the NZGB Act 2008. The proposal would standardise the orthography of the district name and be consistent with the region name, Manawatū-Whanganui Region, (altered in 2019) and its namesake Manawatū River (approved in 2020).

Manawatu District Council has consulted widely and provided evidence of support from marae, hapū, iwi, other relevant territorial authorities, and Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council.¹ Due to the level of support the Secretariat recommends notifying for the statutory minimum of one month.

There are four other associated Manawatu names without the macron and processes are already underway to amend the three Crown protected area (CPA) names for consistency. However, in 2020 Manawatu Gorge was not recommended for fast-track approval (with the macron) with Manawatu River, because its original Māori name is Te Āpiti. Te Āpiti has since been collected in the Gazetteer against Manawatu Gorge as a result of the Tangata Whenua map project.²

The Secretariat recommends that the Board therefore requests Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's Topo team to update Manawatu Gorge to Manawatū Gorge on its official

¹ Trading as Horizons Regional Council

² NZMS 346/1-02 Te Ika-a-Māui: <https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/guide/te-ika-maui-tangata-whenua-place-names-map>

topographic maps. The Gazetteer will then be updated to Manawatū Gorge but would remain an unofficial recorded name.

Secretariat recommendation

At its 3 October 2023 hui the Board resolved these recommendations.

Accept the proposal to **alter** the official name Manawatu District to **Manawatū District** for the district (as defined in Section 5 and listed in Schedule 2 Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2002), based on:

- the resolution of Manawatu District Council to alter its district name,
- the Board meeting its statutory duty and function to *'enable certain administrative needs of government to be met'*,
- Manawatū being the correct standardised orthography as previously advised by an expert licensed translator,
- consistency with Manawatū-Whanganui Region and the district's namesake Manawatū River,
- evidence of support from several marae and several iwi and hapū groups,
- evidence of support from six territorial authorities and the relevant regional council,

Noting processes are underway to standardise the names of three associated Crown protected areas,

and

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

and

Request Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's Topo team to **update** Manawatu Gorge to **Manawatū Gorge** on official topographic maps, based on the desire to provide consistent orthography for all Manawatū place names. The unofficial recorded³ name will then be updated in the Gazetteer,

Noting Manawatu Gorge was not recommended for approval as an official name (as Manawatū Gorge) in 2020 due to its original Māori name being Te Āpiti.

³ A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative 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. It is not official.

Secretariat assessment and advice

The proposal	<p>On 20 April 2023 Manawatu District Council resolved to alter the name of its district from Manawatu District to Manawatū District.</p> <p>Manawatu District Council considers that officially standardising the orthography of its name will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- demonstrate <i>'a small but significant indication of its support for te reo Māori'</i>.- align with increasing use of the correct orthography in its documents and correspondence.- be consistent with the official names Manawatū-Whanganui Region and Manawatū River. <p>The proposer has provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the history/origin/meaning of the name Manawatū. For efficiency and brevity, Manawatu District Council quote from Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council's proposal to the Board in 2018,- a brief history of how the current Manawatu District came about in 1989 and of prior local authorities named 'Manawatu',- the results of its consultation with marae, hapū, iwi, which were all supportive. A table of responses is below under Consultation with mana whenua,- the results of consultation with other relevant local authorities, all supportive. A list is below under the Consultation with 'others' heading. <p>Manawatu District Council does not appear to have conducted its own public consultation, noting this is not a mandatory requirement of the Board. In 2017 the then Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council publicly consulted prior to making its proposal.</p>
Names shown on maps and plans	<hr/> <p>Manawatu District was established in 1989 as part of the local body reorganisation. The district boundaries were originally depicted on SO 36036. The new district replaced the former Manawatu District (itself only established the year prior⁴), Feilding Borough, Oroua County, Pohangina County, and KIWITEA County, though not with the exact same boundaries.</p> <p>The Local Government Commission manages local authority boundaries and the current boundaries as depicted on plan LG-039-2022-W-1.⁵ Stats NZ publishes digital boundaries annually.</p> <p>The Board report for Manawatū-Whanganui Region covers early records of the name Manawatu (for the river) on historic maps, charts, surveys (see Supporting information).</p>
Generic term and geographic feature type	<hr/> <p>The feature is a local authority district as defined in Section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002.</p>

⁴ Kairanga County – Manawatu County Union Order 1988: *NZ Gazette* 1988 (19) p.375

⁵ https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/LG-039-2022-W-1_Manawatu-District.pdf - last accessed 22 August 2023

The name of the Council must be altered through an Order-in-Council by the Governor-General updating [Schedule 2 Part 2 Local Government Act 2002](#), before the final alteration of a district name can occur (refer Section 22(2) NZGB Act 2008).

Location and extent

The district is in the lower North Island generally between Rangitikei River, Ruahine Range, and Manawatū River. It covers ~ 2567km² and is fully within Manawatū-Whanganui Region. It had a population of 30,165 in the 2018 Census,⁶ and the main urban centre is Feilding.

The district has three wards: Feilding Ward, Manawatū Rural Ward, and Ngā Tapuae o Matangi Māori Ward. Names of wards are not within the Board's jurisdiction and the Manawatū Rural Ward name is already standardised with a macron.

[New Zealand Gazetteer](#),

associated names, duplication.

[Manawatu District](#) is an official local authority district name established by The Local Government (Manawatu-Wanganui Region) Reorganisation Order 1989.⁷ Manawatu District is in [Manawatū-Whanganui Region](#). In 2019 the name of the region was altered to correct and standardise the spelling (for both parts).

[Manawatū River](#) is an associated name and the namesake for all other Manawatū names. The Board approved the name as official in 2020, adding the macron in a bulk approval of significant Māori place names.

Manawatū River flows through [Manawatu Gorge](#) (unofficial recorded) between Ruahine Range and Tararua Range. In 2020 no recommendation was made to the Board to approve the name along with Manawatū River because its original name is Te Āpiti. [Te Āpiti](#) was recently published in the Gazetteer with the status of 'unofficial collected', having been named on the Board's Tangata Whenua Te Ika-a-Māui map. The collection of original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps is a statutory function of the Board.

As Manawatu Gorge may otherwise end up being the only non-standardised Manawatū name, the Secretariat recommends that the Board request Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's Topo team to update the name on topographic products as Manawatū Gorge. Then the Secretariat will update the recorded name in the Gazetteer.

[Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve](#), [Manawatu Recreation Reserve](#) and [Manawatu Scenic Reserve](#) are associated official Crown protected area names. At its 8 April 2022 hui the Board and Department of Conservation (DOC) agreed to standardise existing CPA names by amendment, subject to DOC's request/confirmation. 141 CPA names requiring macrons for consistency with associated geographic features, including the three Manawatu CPAs were sent to DOC in July 2022, requesting DOCs sign-off to proceed. The Secretariat has recently sent DOC a reminder about this request.

There are no other duplications of Manawatu in the Gazetteer other than a partial duplication, [Manawatuhatuha](#) Stream, near Kawhia.

⁶ <https://www.stats.govt.nz/tools/2018-census-place-summaries/manawatu-district> - last accessed 22 August 2023

⁷ NZ Gazette 1989 (99) p.2351

Research, history, and references to the feature

The prior Board report on the proposal for Manawatū-Whanganui Region (see Supporting information) covers the derivation of the original Māori name, including four different views on the origin and meaning.

The most common version recorded in 1855 by Reverend R. Taylor from an oriori⁸ composed by Te Rangitakoru is (paraphrased):

'Haunui-a-Nanaia on a quest searching for his wife who eloped with another man travelled south, naming the major waterways as he crossed them. Manawatū describes how his heart (manawa) settled or momentarily stopped (tatū) when he saw the river. The compound noun formed from the two words is Manawatū.'

Manawatu District Council has provided a short history of the formation of the district in its proposal.

Consultation with mana whenua

Manawatu District Council consulted widely with marae, hapū and iwi. The groups highlighted below responded with support for the proposal. The two not highlighted did not respond. There were no contrary views or previously unknown versions of the Manawatū story.

Aorangi Marae	Ngāti Te Au
Kauwhata Pā	Ngāti Tūroa
Parewahawaha Marae	Ngāti Hauiti
Poupatatē Marae	Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata
Taumata o te rā Marae	Rangitāne o Manawatū
Te Hiiri Marae	Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa
Te Rangimarie Marae	Te Rūnanga o Raukawa
Te Tikanga Marae	

The Secretariat wrote to Muaūpoko Tribal Authority who may have interests in part of the district based on Te Puni Kōkiri's online Te Kāhui Māngai. Te Puni Kōkiri were requested to advise if views of any other groups should be sought. To date no response has been received.

Consultation with others

Manawatu District Council received support for its proposal from representatives of Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council and these territorial authorities:

- Horowhenua District Council
- Palmerston North City Council
- Rangitikei District Council
- Ruapehu District Council
- Tararua District Council
- Whanganui District Council

⁸ A type of lullaby

Parts of Stratford District, Waitomo District and Taupo District are also in Manawatū-Whanganui Region, and Central Hawke’s Bay District (in Hawke’s Bay Region) adjoins the northeast of Manawatu District. There is no Board requirement for support from every council in the region nor every adjoining council, just that other ‘relevant’ local authorities are consulted (as specified on the proposal form).

Manawatu District Council has not publicly consulted on the proposal, noting this is also not a Board requirement. In 2017 the then Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council consulted on making a proposal for its name through its Long Term Planning process and via social media.

Advice on orthography⁹

For the Manawatū-Whanganui Region proposal Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) advised that Mawanatū is correct.

Separately, an expert licenced translator also advised that *‘It doesn’t matter which [version of the story] is the most correct, Manawatū has a macron over the ‘ū’. It is a compound made of up of manawa (the physical heart) + tū (stop, stand etc)’.*

Relevant sections from the [NZGB Act 2008](#)

[Section 3\(f\) of the NZGB Act 2008](#): enables certain administrative needs of government (including local government) to be met.

[Section 11\(1\)\(f\) of the NZGB Act 2008](#): seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) on the correct orthography of any Māori name.

[Section 11\(2\) of the NZGB Act 2008](#): Without limiting section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Board may alter the name of a district or region if, by resolution, a meeting of the relevant local authority—

- (a) consents to the alteration; or
- (b) requests the alteration.

[Section 22 of the NZGB Act 2008: Alteration of name of local authority](#)

(1) This section applies if the Board carries out the function to alter the name of a district or region provided for under section 11.

(2) Before the Board may give public notice of a determination to alter the name of a district or region, it must request the Minister to recommend to the Governor-General to make an Order in Council under section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002 to amend the name of the relevant local authority in Schedule 2 of that Act to give effect to the alteration.

(3) An Order in Council must specify the date when the amendment takes effect, which must allow the Board sufficient time to give public notice as required by section 23(2)(a).

Other considerations

There are requirements to use official names in the NZGB Act 2008 ([Section 32](#)) and Local Government Act 2002 ([Section 23](#)). Six other local authority district

⁹ The conventions and rules of how to write a language.

names could be standardised with macrons (possibly seven).¹⁰ Manawatu District Council has not pre-emptively rebranded itself with the macron (eg in its logo), however five of the other district councils have pre-emptively used the macrons without officially altering their names. Councils have expressed views that the correct statutory process to officially alter their names is onerous and the Board's process lengthy.

At its 14 October 2020 hui the Board discussed encouraging proposals for the remaining district names via Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), through its then nominee Bonita Bigham. On 4 December 2020 the Chairperson and Secretary presented at the LGNZ national council hui (see Supporting information) on streamlining the process as much as possible.

In April 2023 Rangitikei District Council enquired about officially altering its name though has not yet formally resolved to do so.

[Standard for altering region and district names criteria](#)

1.2 When can a region or district name be altered? A name may be altered when...to standardise the orthography of Māori names.

1.7 Orthographic standards (b) The correct use of macrons on Māori place names is dependent on expert advice from a licensed translator.

Secretariat comment: The proposal is to standardise the orthography. The orthography for Manawatū was confirmed as correct in the proposal for Manawatū-Whanganui Region and when approving Manawatū River.

1.3 Acceptable alterations to region and district names. The names of regions and districts....generally use the most common or predominant place or feature name within the region or district.

Secretariat comment: Manawatū River borders the district for 750m at Manawatu Gorge, and approximately 12km to the southwest. The physical connection of Manawatu District to its namesake has diminished over time with changing boundaries.

The former Manawatu District encompassed Manawatū River from its mouth to Manawatu Gorge. Before that Manawatu County's southern boundary encompassed the lower reach of the river from its mouth to near [Opiki](#). However, having been in use since 1987 people will likely have an association of the name 'Manawatū' with the area of the current district.

The proposal is simply to standardise the existing name with a macron, but the proposal must be publicly notified. Submitters may object and propose alternative names, which the Board must consider. For Manawatū-Whanganui Region in 2018 the Board received two objections from iwi that the region name was not appropriately representative.

Concerns or issues for emergency services

There are unlikely to be concerns for emergency management if the local authority district name is altered to include a macron.

¹⁰ Kaikoura District, Rangitikei District, Taupo District, Waipa District, Whakatane District, Whangarei District, and possibly Timaru District.

Media

News media reported on Manawatu District Council's intention to make the proposal.¹¹ While the proposal is only to standardise the orthography of the existing name there may be further media attention given the size of the district.

Supporting information

1. Proposal from Manawatu District Council for Manawatū District – 2023-07-24
2. NZGB Report – Proposal for Manawatū-Whanganui Region – 2018-09-27
3. Board presentation to LGNZ National Council – 2020-12-04

¹¹ [Manawatū District Council seeks to correct its name with macron addition](#) *Stuff*, 20 April 2023 ; [Manawatū District Council to request name alteration to include a macron](#), *Manawatu Guardian*, 25 April 2023