

Media release

18 January 2023

Proposal to change Clive River to Te Awa o Mokotūāraro now open for consultation

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa is calling for public feedback on the proposal to change Clive River to Te Awa o Mokotūāraro.

The river, which was the original course of the lower section of the Ngaruroro River, flows for about 7 km from Pakowhai Road Bridge northeast of Hastings to join the mouth of the Ngaruroro River, which flows into Hawke Bay.

This proposal seeks to restore the mauri and mana of the river by altering the name to one that reflects the cultural, historical and spiritual beliefs of local tangata whenua. It is a shortened version of Ngaruroro Moko-tū-ā-raro ki Rangatira, the original name for the river. Mokotūāraro was gifted by Ruawharo, a high priest aboard the Takitimu waka when it entered Hawke Bay, named after one of his sons.

The Board supports the new proposal and notes the efforts of the local marae to improve the health of this ancestral waterway.

Clive River was named after the township through which it flows. It was named after Major-General Robert Clive (1725-1774), who had no association with the area. He is remembered for his success in securing an Indian empire for Great Britain but also for amassing a fortune using his political and military influence. The proposal is open for public submissions from 18 January 2023 to 23 February 2023.

Anyone can make a submission supporting or objecting to the name change, either [online](#) or by emailing nzgbsubmissions@linz.govt.nz.

Submissions can also be made by letter to the Secretary of the New Zealand Geographic Board, c/o Land Information New Zealand, PO Box 5501, Wellington 6145.

About Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board is an independent statutory body. The Board is supported and administered by Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand.

Anyone may propose a name for a geographic feature or place. The Board uses naming guidelines and standards and follows international good practice to help it to make robust and enduring decisions.

The Board recognises the importance of pronunciation in te reo and macrons support both pronunciation and meaning. Therefore, the Board follows the orthographic conventions of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission).

If the Board doesn't agree with a proposal, it may consult on a different proposal considered to be more appropriate.

The Board consults with relevant agencies, local communities, stakeholders and iwi. It researches all proposals and encourages the use of original Māori place names. Official place names must be used in all official documents like road signs, maps, websites, databases and publications for tourists.

Anyone can [make a submission](#) on proposed place names, either [online](#) or by emailing nzgbsubmissions@linz.govt.nz, or by mailing directly to the Board's Secretariat.

Official and recorded place names can be searched in the [New Zealand Gazetteer](#).

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