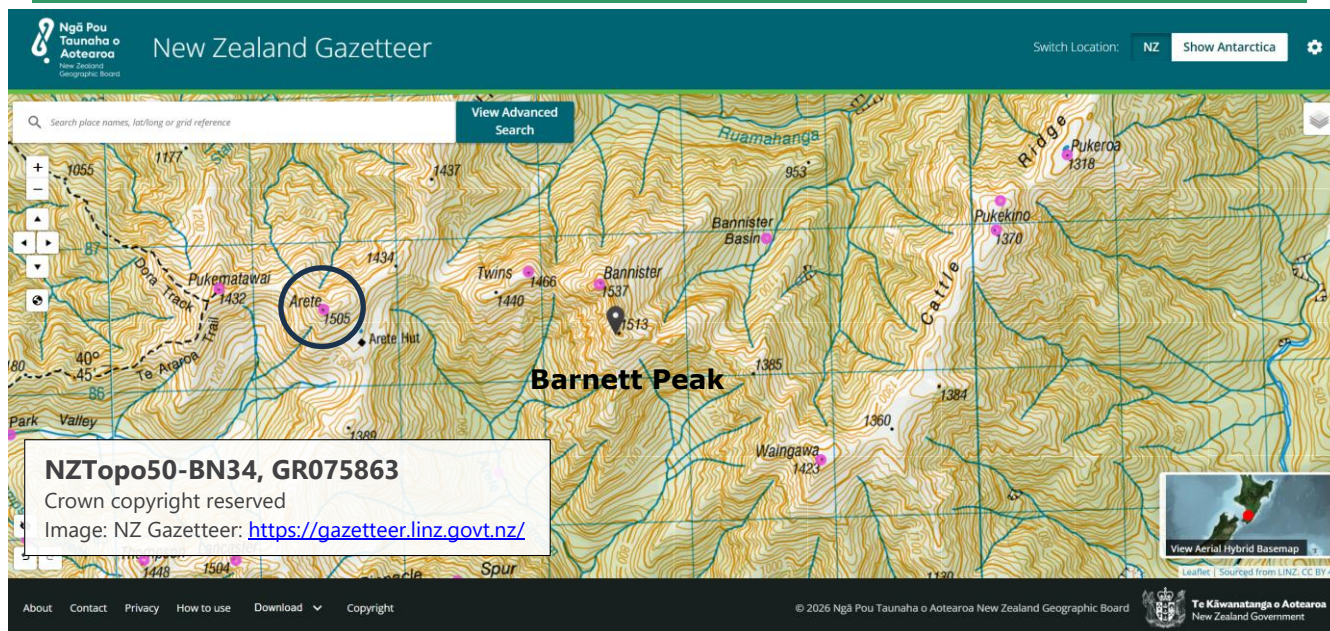


Submissions considered by the Board on 13 October 2026 for Barnett Peak

Tararua Range

[new name]



Summary

At its 30 June 2026 hui the Board accepted a proposal to assign Barnett Peak as an official geographic name to a 1513m peak in the Tararua Range.

During public notification the Board received 20 submissions, with 75% supporting the proposal.

The 15 supporting submissions generally align with the reasons that the Board initially agreed to the proposal.

The five objecting submissions offered these summarised reasons:

- The feature is within the area of significance of iwi, through the Post Settlement Group Entity. They believe that the feature may in fact be named after an ancestor Hiatangata and be related to events of ancestral significance. They have asked for the Board to not approve Barnett Peak and to give consideration to iwi and the descendants for naming it.
- Two objectors say that Shaun Barnett was more closely connected to the Ruahine Range than the Tararua Range.
- One objector says Shaun Barnett's involvement with the Tararua Range was no greater than that of hundreds of other people, and so no feature is justified to be named for him.
- Concern about the feature's significance and that it is already commonly known as South Bannister.
- One objector says that features should not be named after people.
- Concern about the need to name this peak at all.

The objection from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust advises that the peak's original Māori name may be **Te Tihi o Hiatangata** or **Te Taumata o Hiatangata**. Their oral history recounts the significance of this area to Ngāti Muretū, Kahungunu and their many descendants. Hiatangata is the mother of their eponymous ancestor Muretū. Although their Deed of Settlement and many other

references name Arete¹ (west of pt 1513m) as Te Hanga o Hiatangata², they consider pt 1513m may be the correct feature within the hanga³ or group applying to a number of peaks. Their one-page objection is appended at the end of this report.

The Board has statutory functions to collect and encourage the use of original Māori place names and Shaun Barnett himself would not have wanted to replace an existing original Māori name (even if only maybe).

Another objection from offers rationale for Shaun Barnett being commemorated in the Ruahine Range rather than the Tararua Range. They suggest that a 1407m peak in the Ruahine Range be named instead.

A further lengthy objection from concludes that 'his involvement with the Tararua Range was no greater than that of hundreds of other people, and justifies the naming of no feature there after him.'

For the remaining two objections⁴, their reasons relate to the significance of the peak and to a preference for descriptive or historic names and not personal names.

Board's decision

At its 13 October 2026 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

Considered the submissions on the proposal to assign the new geographic name **Barnett Peak**,

and

Upheld the objections, particularly the objection from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust, based on the feature likely having an original Māori name⁵,

Te Tihi o Hiatangata or **Te Taumata o Hiatangata**,

and

Declined the proposal to assign Barnett Peak to the 1513m peak in the Tararua Range, making this final determination under s.19(2) of the NZGB Act 2008.

AND

Will **invite** the proposers to consider making a new proposal for a more suitable feature to commemorate Shaun Barnett with support of mana whenua.

AND

Will **advise** Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust that if they want any Māori names for this and related features, they will need to make a formal proposal.

Notification

Advice to local authorities The Secretariat advised all local authorities including Masterton District on 6 August 2026. No submission was received from Masterton District.

Advice to mana whenua On 2 July 2026, the Secretariat advised six mana whenua groups (Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa - Tāmaki

¹ <https://gazetteer.linz.govt.nz/place/15680>

² See https://whakatau.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND_Treaty_Settlements/Ngati-Kahungunu-ki-Wairarapa-Tamaki/DOS_documents/Ngati-Kahungunu-Rua-Deed-of-Settlement-schedule-Documents-Part-1.pdf

³ Hanga translating to group

⁴ One submission submitted as supporting is considered an objection based on its content

⁵ S.11(1)(e) provides for the Board to encourage the use of original Māori names

nui-ā-Rua, Rangitāne o Wairarapa, Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Incorporated, and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga Trust) that the proposal would be publicly notified on 6 August 2026. On 6 October the Secretariat received an objection from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust.

Advice to MPs On 6 August 2026 the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Wairarapa, Ikaroa-Rāwhiti, and adjacent general electorates that the proposal was open for consultation. No responses were received.

Public notification including social media The Board advertised the proposal from 6 August 2026:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#)
- in the *Sunday Star Times and Wairarapa Times-Age*
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ [consultation](#) page and the New Zealand Government's [consultation](#) page.

Media The Board circulated a [media release](#) on 6 August 2026. This media coverage refers:

- *Wairarapa Times-Age* on 7/08: Park peak may bear Barnett name
- *The Post* on 7/08: Tararua Forest Park peak could bear name of well-respected tramper.

Submissions

Summary During public notification from 6 August 2026 to 6 October 2026, the Board received 20 submissions in total for the proposal.

Objecting	Supporting	Total
5	15	20

Local engagement Nine submissions were from Wellington Region, four from Manawatū-Whanganui Region, three from Canterbury Region, and the remaining two from Auckland and Denver, United States.

Four notable submissions (see supporting information)

- Email supporting submission #2
- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust (Email objecting submission #3)
- Email objecting submission #2
- Email objecting submission #1

Supporting submissions

The supporting submissions generally reflected on:

- Remembering, memorialising, commemorating and recognising Shaun Barnett
- Acknowledging his significant and exceptional contributions throughout New Zealand to backcountry recreation, tramping, conservation advocacy, preservation, whenua advocacy and hut heritage
- Respect for mana whenua, nature and history, heritage and culture
- Outdoor advocacy, health and participation benefits
- Personal inspiration, impact, mentor, influence
- Having a Tararua connection and knowledge (one supporter said strong ties to the Tararua Range through tramping and writing)
- Community esteem and personal qualities, generosity and humility

- Prolific writing, story-telling, editing, photography and publications, public promotion of tramping
- The suitability of a very humble peak. Pt 1513m reflects his connection to the area and outdoor expertise. 'Barnett Peak' would fittingly honour him and the peak.

Objecting submissions

All objecting submissions are summarised in the table below.

Submitter, location	Submission reasons with alternative names proposed and Secretariat's comments
Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust (Email objecting submission #3)	This objection is relatively succinct and is best read in full – it is appended at the end of this report. <u>Secretariat comment:</u> Treaty Settlement documents for Rangitāne o Manawātū also contain a Statement of Association for 'Hanga o Hia Tangata' in a schedule of Significant Sites⁶. The schedule does not explicitly associate the name with Arete, but a further Statement of Association for Mangahao River indicates 'Hanga o Hia Tangata' is in its upper catchment. Rangitāne o Manawātū would likely have views on the kōrero from WIDT, especially given several recent disputed place names in the Wairarapa.
Email objecting submission #2 (summarised)	• <i>Shaun Barnett had no strong or distinctive connection with Point 1513, the Bannister area, or the wider Tararua Range sufficient to justify a commemorative name.</i> • <i>Considers that Shaun Barnett does not meet the Board's criteria for using personal names, including significant association with the place and widespread national or international recognition.</i> • <i>Point 1513 already has an established history of local and common usage as 'South Bannister', including references in tramping accounts and Barnett's own writing.</i> • <i>Barnett Peak is viewed as inconsistent with the historic naming pattern of Tararua tops and with the limited local use of the suffix 'Peak'.</i> • <i>The feature is described as a minor shoulder of Bannister rather than a distinct peak, and the submitter sees no navigational or public-interest need for a new official name.</i> • <i>The proposal risks erasing more than a century of local, oral, and documented history associated with Bannister and South Bannister.</i> • <i>The objector questions the adequacy of fact-checking, mana whenua consultation, and management of conflicts of interest in the proposal and decision-making process.</i> • <i>Preferred outcomes are to formalise 'South Bannister', adopt an appropriate Māori name, or leave the point unnamed; if Barnett is to be commemorated geographically, a feature in the Ruahine Range is considered more meaningful. This objector proposes that:</i> – <i>Point 1407 in Ruahine Range be named 'Barnett' (not Mount Barnett nor Barnett Peak) and</i>

⁶ https://whakatauranga.govt.nz/assets/Treaty-Settlements/FIND_Treaty_Settlements/Rangitane-o-Manawatu/DOS_documents/Rangitane-o-Manawatu-Documents-Schedule-Nov-2015.pdf p.17

	– Point 1513 be named 'South Bannister'; or that it be named 'Te Rangihaeata'; or that it be allowed to rest unnamed in perpetuity.
Email objecting submission #1 (summarised)	• Considers that the proposer, as a friend of Shaun Barnett, conflicts with the Board's guidance on using personal names and the proposal should have been 'automatically disqualified'. • Shaun Barnett did not have a sufficiently strong or distinctive association with the Tararua Range; his tramping and writing covered mountain areas throughout Aotearoa. • They made no special local contribution through track or hut maintenance, pest control, exploration, mapping, discovery, science, or leadership in the Tararua Forest Park. • His national recognition was largely within the tramping community, and there is little evidence of wide local support in Wairarapa. • No clear public-interest benefit has been identified for naming the feature after him. • The proposal overstates his dedication to and familiarity with the Tararua Range and inaccurately describes Point 1513 as a prominent or central peak. • Naming the feature after someone without a strong local connection could detract from, rather than enrich, local heritage. • In conclusion the objector writes 'Shaun Barnett was a fine person, whose writing and photography contributed significantly to the tramping community's knowledge of the backcountry of Aotearoa and of its own history. However, his involvement with the Tararua Range was no greater than that of hundreds of other people, and justifies the naming of no feature there after him.' <u>Secretariat comment:</u> This objector is well-known and regarded, having 'tramped in the Tararua Range since 1963, and over the last 20 years have researched and written an 800-page book about the natural and human history of the range, to be published in 2027.'
Qualtrics objecting submission #2	'Shaun was a great guy and is remembered fondly but I object to adding yet another persons name to the peaks of the Tararua. If the peak needs a name at all it should be descriptive in nature. I strongly object to the obsession of naming geographical features and new plant and animal taxonomic names after people, no matter how great that person was. These names should be descriptive, or historic, and preferably have some intrinsic meaning that will be obvious to future generations.'
Qualtrics objecting submission #1	'Concern about feature significance and need for naming.' <u>Secretariat comment:</u> This objector's main concern was that the peak is too insignificant to name for Shaun Barnett, who deserves a grander peak. Also, they think that the small bump does not need a name and that it could be referred to as the east or low peak of Bannister.

Supporting information

1. Board proposal report – Barnett Peak – 2026-06-30
2. Unedited copy of original online Qualtrics platform submissions output for Barnett Peak

3. Email supporting submission #1 – 2026-09-08
4. Email objecting submission #1 – 2026-09-13
5. Email objecting submission #2 – 2026-09-23

Objecting submission from Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust



6 October 2026

To whom it may concern,

Re: Spot 1513

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua is the post settlement group entity (PSGE) and mandated iwi authority representing over 11,000 Kahungunu descendants along the eastern side of the Tararua and Ruahine ranges. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Iwi Development Trust (WIDT) is the Wairarapa branch of the PSGE.

WIDT wishes to acknowledge Mr Shaun Barnett, his many accomplishments and applaud the considerations to recognise Mr Barnett's many feats.

WIDT also wish to note the significance of spot 1513 to iwi and to Ngāti Muretū, a hapū of Papawai Marae. Please also note the proposed Barnett peak is inside the Tararua Crown Purchase deed area as to is an area of significance to iwi, Hapuakorari, also being inside the Tararua Crown Purchase.

Hiatangata is the mother of our aponymous ancestor Muretū. Our deed of settlement and many other reference points acknowledge Arete as Te Hanga/ Tihi/ Taumata o Hiatangata. Hanga translating to group and/ or property, tihi- summit/ apex/ tip, taumata- summit, brow. In review of the application proposing Barnett peak we note the topography showing spot 1513 being higher than Arete and consider spot 1513 may infact be Te Tihi/ Taumata o Hiatangata within the hanga or group of peaks in which Desendants of Muretū occupied and sought refuge in during land wars and a landmark in referencing continued occupation of iwi during this time.

Given the significance of spot 1513, Te Hanga o Hiatangata, oral histories recounting the significance of this area to Ngāti Muretū, Kahungunu and their many descedants and due considerations for Hapuakorari. We respectfully ask the you not approve the application for naming to Barnett Peak and that consideration be given to iwi and descedants of Muretū and Hiatangata for naming.

Nāku iti nei,

Jenishavorne Waipuka
Pou Tikanga