

Summary

At its hui on 22 July 2021 the Board did not agree with the one submission objecting to D'Urville Seavalley being altered to Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley, requiring the Minister for Land Information to make the final decision.

On reviewing the report to the Minister, the Chairperson was not convinced of the robustness of the Board's decision. Therefore, the Chairperson requests that the Board reconsiders its decision.

The Board's *Standard for undersea feature names* states, 'Where appropriate, the specific term should be named after the geographically connected and already named land based geographic feature, with consideration given to the original Māori name.' This provision does not address the scenario of a dual name which includes two names for the feature.

While the sea valley extends north-westwards towards Taranaki, the closest land-based feature is officially dual named Rangitoto ki te Tonga / D'Urville Island. The Board has recently altered undersea feature names for consistency with officially dual named associated land features, eg, Hikurua / de Surville Canyon.

However, for this proposal the relationship between the island and the canyon is unclear. Are the two features geographically connected, such as, say, a river in a valley with the same name? Or should the name of the nearby island be simply adopted by association? Such adoption could be either in full or in part (ie. using one of the dual names).

D'Urville Seavalley includes the specific term 'D'Urville' from one of the two parts of the official dual name for the island. D'Urville Seavalley has been in long term use for the canyon for over 41 years¹.

The Māori part of the official dual name for the island, which means 'red heavens look to the south', may not be appropriate for an undersea feature. Recent discussion on naming in the Southern Ocean has raised the question of the appropriateness of Māori names for features on the bottom of the sea.

The other aspects of this name are:

- whether the first letter should be a capital 'D' or lower case 'd'. Recent Board decisions have recognised use in the language of origin, which would mean using the lower case, and
- whether to apply the internationally standardised generic term 'Valley' or retain the term already in use 'Seavalley'.

Process

If the Board agrees to uphold the one objection it can decide on D'Urville Seavalley instead of the original dual name proposal, so the Minister will not need to make the final decision. In supporting D'Urville Seavalley, the Board's reasons would be different to the reasons given in the objection. It would not

¹ Published on Cook Strait Chart©, Mitchell & Lewis, 1980

be considered necessary to renotify the proposal as the Board has already taken the public's views into account.

Secretariat recommendations

At its hui on 20 October 2021 the Board resolved Option 3, and further agreed:

1. The kōrero of the land already exists and is what the Board is now recognising. The Board believes that the name Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga refers to the kōrero in the land and of the land, which extends outwards – meaning that the mana extends outward and is all connected,
2. To acknowledge, recognise and promote that kōrero and history,
3. That the Board wants to do more and is interested in taking a leadership role in promoting the naming of this undersea feature in a prominent and central part of the country through te reo Māori – something not done before, but aligning with the connection from land pointing directly to the undersea feature,
4. The physical description in te reo Māori relates to lava or volcano.

and

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

Recommendation 1	<p>The Board to make the final altered decision to assign d'Urville Valley as an official undersea feature name, based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Rangitoto ki te Tonga being the original Māori name for the island and not the sea valley,— Rangitoto ki te Tonga not being a suitable name for an undersea feature,— the valley not being geographically connected to the island so applying it by association to the undersea feature is not necessary, notwithstanding recent precedents eg. Hikurua / de Surville Canyon,— the correct orthography for the surname being d'Urville, and— applying the internationally standardised generic term 'Valley'. <p>Noting that renotification of the proposal is not considered necessary as the public's views have already been taken into account.</p> <p>Noting that changing an upper case 'D' to a lower case 'd' is not a spelling correction.</p> <p>Subject to the objecting submitter agreeing to support the notification of d'Urville Valley as the official undersea feature name.</p> <p>Otherwise re-notify d'Urville Valley for submissions for one month.</p>
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Options

Option 2

[replaces
Recommendation 1]

In upholding the objection that seeks to retain d'Urville Seavalley, the Board to make the final decision to **assign d'Urville Seavalley** as an official undersea feature name, based on:

- Rangitoto ki te Tonga being the original Māori name for the island and not the sea valley,
- Rangitoto ki te Tonga not being a suitable name for an undersea feature,
- the valley not being geographically connected to the island so applying it by association to the undersea feature is not necessary, notwithstanding recent precedents eg. Hikurua / de Surville Canyon, and
- long term use (41 years).

Noting that although not applying the standardised generic 'Valley', a proposal for d'Urville Seavalley should be accepted by SCUFN² because of long term use of 'Seavalley'.

Noting that renotification of the proposal is not considered necessary as the public's views have already been taken into account.

Noting that changing an upper case 'D' to a lower case 'd' is not a spelling correction.

Option 3

[replaces
Recommendation 1]

The Board to **confirm** its decision of 22 July 2021, ie an alteration to **Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley**, which rejected the objection and agreed to report to the Minister for a final decision.

Supporting information

1. Board report – Undersea Feature Names Committee recommendations – 2021-04-20
2. Board submission report – Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley – 2021-07-22

² Sub Committee on Undersea Feature Names

