

# Five Fingers Canyon

[making official]

[Considered by the Board on 20 October 2021]

## Summary

At its hui on 22 July 2021 the Board did not agree with the two submissions objecting to Five Fingers Canyon being altered to Taumoana Canyon, requiring the Minister for Land Information to make the final decision.

On reviewing the assessment in the report to the Minister, the Chairperson was not convinced of the robustness of the Board's decision. Therefore, the Chairperson requests<sup>1</sup> that the Board reconsiders its decision because:

- Taumoana is a collected name<sup>2</sup> specific to Five Fingers Peninsula and hasn't been considered by the Board, so applying it by association to the undersea feature cannot be justified,
- the canyon is on the seafloor, with no evidence that Taumoana is its original collected Māori name<sup>3</sup> to be restored, and
- the feature has a name, Five Fingers Canyon, which has been in use for 20 years<sup>4</sup> without any issues.

If the Board agrees to decide on Five Fingers Canyon instead of the original proposal, the Minister will not need to make the final decision. In supporting the retention of Five Fingers Canyon, the Board's reasons are different to the reasons given in the objecting submissions. It is not considered necessary to renotify the proposal as the Board has already taken the public's views into account.

## Secretariat recommendation

At its hui on 20 October 2021 the Board resolved to:

**Confirm** its decision of 22 July 2021 to alter the existing recorded undersea feature name Five Fingers Canyon to the official undersea feature name **Taumoana Canyon**, 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 Taumoana 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 through te reo Māori – something not done before, but aligning with the connection from land pointing directly to the undersea feature,

**and**

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

<sup>1</sup> The Board may obtain any further information necessary to enable it to determine a proposal (s.19(2) of the NZGB Act 2008)

<sup>2</sup> An unofficial original Māori name for a place that usually has another name

<sup>3</sup> [Section 11\(1\)\(d\) of the NZGB Act 2008](#) refers

<sup>4</sup> Published on Dusky Chart©, Mitchell & Garlick, 2001

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In upholding the two objections that seek to retain Five Fingers Canyon, the Board to make the final decision to **assign Five Fingers Canyon** as an official undersea feature name, based on:

- no evidence that Taumoana is its original collected Māori name to be restored,
- Taumoana not being an official name for Five Fingers Peninsula, so it is not appropriate to apply it by association to the undersea feature, and
- the feature already having the name Five Fingers Canyon for 20 years, continuing its association with Five Fingers Peninsula.

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

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## Supporting information

1. Board report – Undersea Feature Names Committee recommendations – 2021-04-20
2. Board submission report – Taumoana Canyon – 2021-07-22

