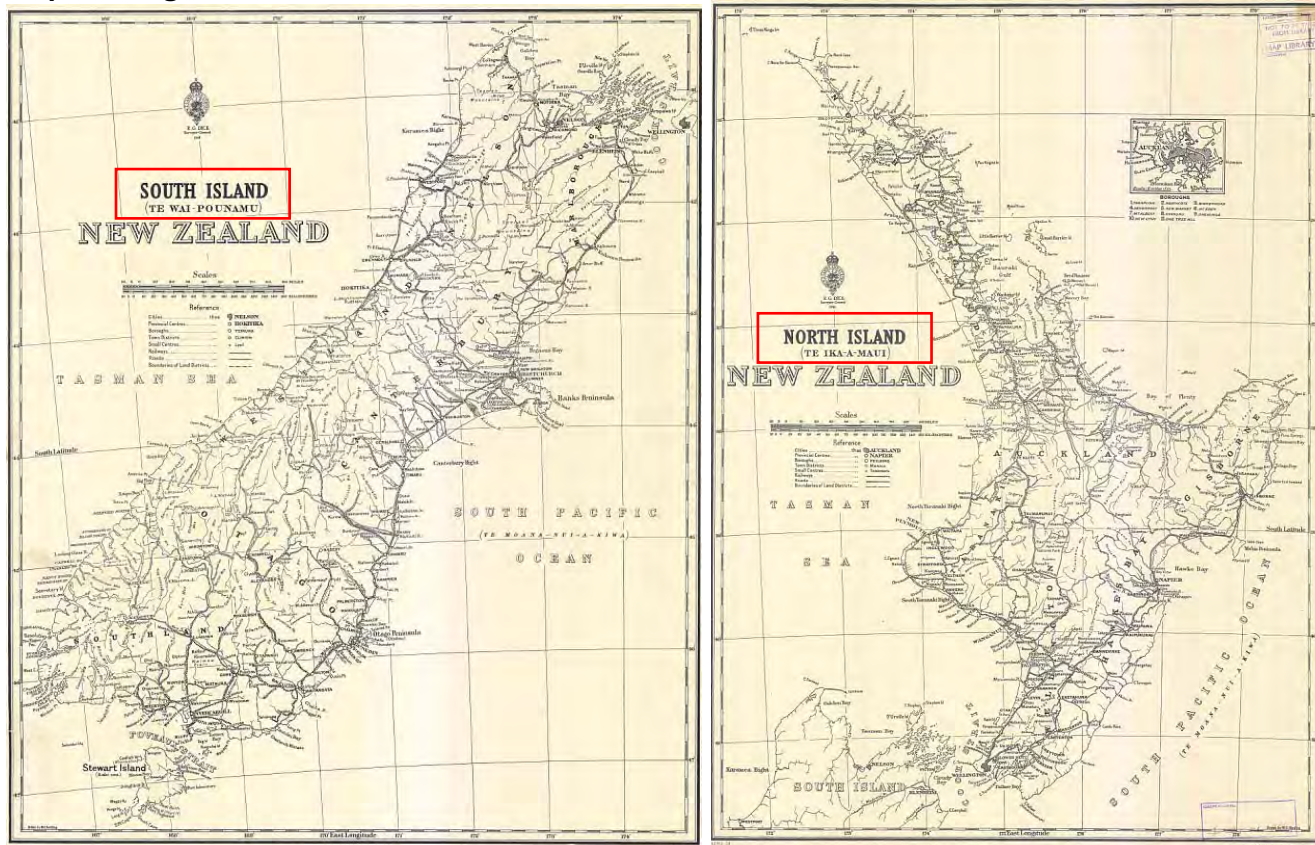


Geographic Names Proposal Report

For NZGB Meeting 28 March 2013

- (1) **Alternative Māori Names for the North and South Islands** *(restoring)*
- (2) **North Island and South Island** *(making official)*

Maps/Images



Summary

- Deferred since 2004 (original proposal by Keith Darroch to alter the South Island to Te Wai Pounamu).
- At its meeting of 9 November 2007, the Board agreed to also include the naming of the North Island, as the two island names are a related pair.
- At its meeting of 27 March 2009, the Board decided that one potential original Māori name for the North Island, Aotearoa, would not be appropriate because of its common usage as the Māori name for New Zealand.
- Last consideration by the Board was on 29 April 2011, but was deferred for the NZGB Act 2008 to be amended in order to provide for alternative names.
- NZGB Act now amended to provide for alternative names (December 2012).
- The Board can now proceed with its earlier decision in principle, made on 9 November 2007 and 15 January 2008, to assign alternative official names for the two main islands of New Zealand.
- South Island iwi responded at a hui held in September 2007, with general agreement to 'Te Waipounamu' for the South Island.
- North Island iwi (143 organisations) were written to in June and November 2009, resulting in 10 groups responding; most supporting Te Ika-ā-Māui.

SECRETARIAT ANALYSIS

General Background

Past Consideration by the Board

Refer to the NZGB Proposal Reports of 3 August 2010 and 29 April 2011, summarising the progress of these proposals. The Board last considered these proposals at its 29 April 2011 meeting – the following excerpt from the minutes refers:

*"The Board discussed that the proposals be **deferred** until such time that legislation to the NZGB Act 2008 is amended to provide for alternative names.*

Action Required

- *Secretariat note that the proposal is deferred until an amendment is made to the NZGB Act 2008 providing for alternative names."*

NZGB Act 2008 – Amended December 2012

A Statutes Amendment Bill was passed on 6 December 2012 and received Royal Assent on 11 December 2012. This Bill included amendments to the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008. One of the amendments provides for alternative official naming – the relevant amendments are listed as follows:

"4 Interpretation

alternative official geographic names means any 2 or more alternative official geographic names for the same geographic feature or Crown protected area

official geographic name—includes—(iv) alternative official geographic names.

32 Official geographic names must be used

(1A) If 2 or more alternative official geographic names exist for the same geographic feature or Crown protected area, the use of any 1 of those names, or all of those names, is sufficient to comply with subsection (1)."

Action for the Board

Now that the NZGB Act 2008 has been amended, the Board can proceed with the full backing of its statutory power to:

- (i) notify the alternative Māori name proposals for North Island and South Island; ie Te Wai Pounamu (or Te Waipounamu) and Te Ika ā Māui (or Te Ika a Maui) – subject to confirmation of orthography Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission);
- (ii) notify North Island and South Island as alternative English names.

This public consultation will provide further opportunity for iwi to provide their views on the two alternative Māori name proposals agreed to by the Board; allowing for any other traditional/ancestral names to be brought to the Board's attention for its further consideration.

Media

A Communications Plan has been updated for consideration at the Board's meeting on 28 March 2013. A draft press release from the Board will be compiled after discussion at the March meeting, and can be confirmed by the Board at the meeting. As previously discussed, the timing of the press release was intended to align with a subsequent mail-out to iwi, which should be immediately after the Board's March meeting.

Since April 2011, a few journalists have enquired as to the progress with these names, the most recent in January 2013 from Campbell Live, seeking a progress report.

After the Board makes its decisions on 28 March 2013, the media spokesperson will be the Chairperson, rather than the Secretary. There may be cause for Māori speaking Board members to respond to Te Reo media requests.

Physical Extent/Definition of the two Main Islands of New Zealand

The Board is encouraged to discuss/confirm what the spatial extent of the two main islands of New Zealand should be.

Reed¹:

North Island: The simple yet still unofficial method of distinguishing the two main islands of New Zealand was to call them the North and South islands, but this was not always the case. At one time the South Island was called Middle Island, with Stewart Island/Rakiura being then Stewart Island. In 2010 the New Zealand Geographic Board began a consultation process on alternative Maori names for the North and South islands. Maori name: Te Ika-a-Maui, lit. te: the; ika: fish; a: of; Maui. Maui was the demigod who raised not only the northern island of New Zealand but many other Pacific islands from the sea depths. The island is shaped like a fish with its head to the south (Port Nicholson and Lake Wairarapa being its eyes, Taranaki and the east coast its fins, with its long tail stretched out in the Northland peninsula). Maui's hook was the sweeping curve of Hawke's Bay. Captain Cook recorded the name on his chart as Eaheinomauwe, which Dumont d'Urville corrected to Ika-na-Mawi. Cook's rendering may have been He-ahi-no-Maui, lit. he: a; ahi: fire; no: of; Maui, perhaps referring to the volcanoes in the centre of the island; or He-hi-no-Maui, lit. a thing of Maui. The northern parts of the North Island are known as Te Hiku-o-Te-Ika-a-Maui and alternatively Muriwhenua, while the southern parts are known as Te Upoko-o-Te-Ika-a-Maui. See also South Island.

South Island:

The South Island was officially known as Middle Island until 1907, when the minister of lands instructed that the three principal islands should be named North, South, and Stewart islands. See also Te Waipounamu, and Te Waka-a-Maui. An ancient classical name for the South Island was Maahunui, which was Maui's canoe, from which he fished up the North Island, the Kaikoura Peninsula being the taumanu (thwart) and Stewart Island/Rakiura the anchor. Named Taonui by Kupe, lit. tao: spear; nui: large. See also Murihiku, New Ulster, North Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura.

Supporting Information Provided Electronically

- NZGB Proposal Report 29 April 2011.
- NZGB Proposal Report 3 August 2010.
- Media release of 21 April 2009.
- Communications Plan compiled by LINZ Strategic Communications.
- Draft Media Release for immediately after the March Board meeting, to be tabled/considered/confirmed at the March meeting.

¹ Reed, A W. (2010). *Place Names of New Zealand*. North Shore: Penguin Group (NZ).