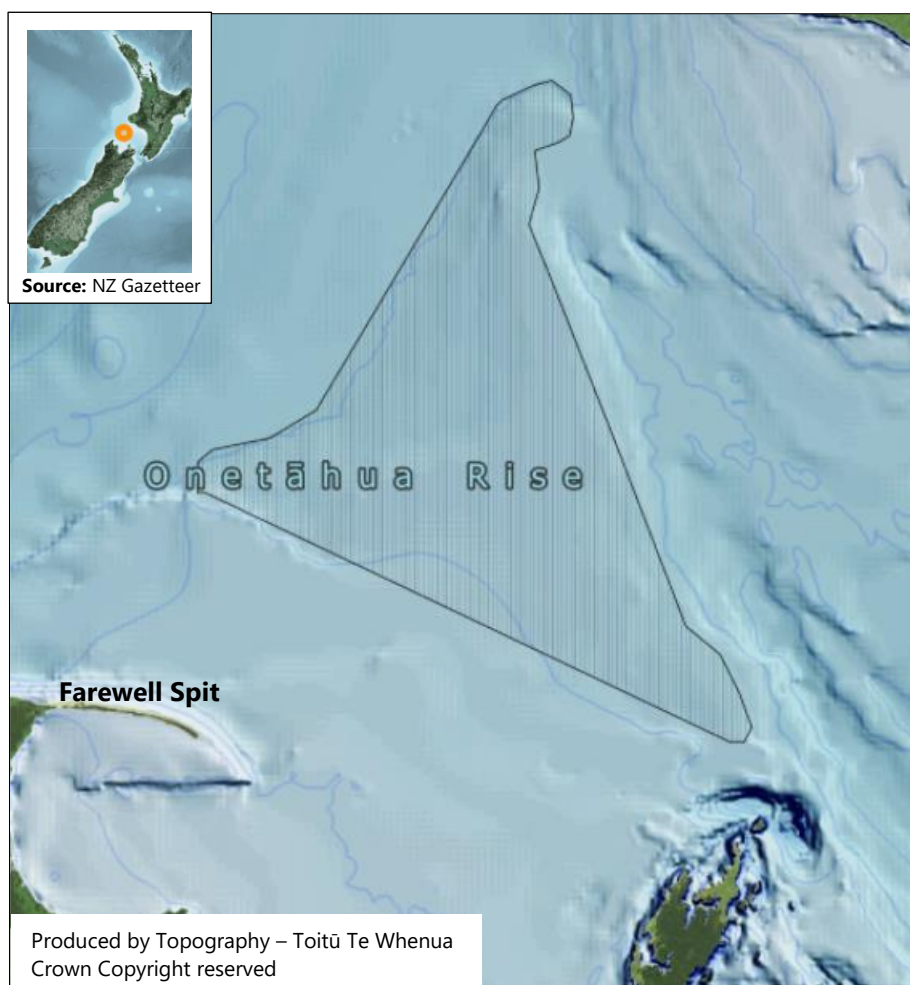


[Considered by the Board on 22 July 2021]



Summary

At its hui on 20 April 2021 the Board accepted a proposal to alter the recorded¹ undersea feature name Farewell Rise to the official undersea feature name Onetāhua Rise.

During the notification period from 27 May 2021 to 28 June 2021 the Board received three submissions supporting and one submission objecting to the proposal.

Ngāti Koata, who are mana whenua, support the proposal. The two other submitters support the official recognition of Māori place names as a way to acknowledge Māori culture and history of a place and honour Treaty obligations.

The objecting submitter supports retaining Farewell Rise and is concerned that well-known English place names are being altered to Māori, which has no logical purpose, is unnecessarily confusing and a form of tokenism.

This reason is not considered to outweigh the reason that the Board accepted the proposal. In keeping with its [Standard for undersea feature names](#), the Board agreed that it was appropriate that the rise be given the original Māori name for Farewell

¹ A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative maps, charts or databases, which the Board has resolved to be: NZMS map, LINZ Archived Place Names Database, [Kā Huru Manu](#) and all hydrographic and bathymetric maps and charts published under a New Zealand hydrographic authority at the time of publication. A recorded name is not official.

Spit, Onetāhua, because of the strong geographical association between the rise and the spit.

Secretariat recommendation

At its hui on 22 July 2021 the Board resolved this recommendation

Consider all submissions on the proposal to alter the recorded undersea feature name Farewell Rise to the official undersea feature name **Onetāhua Rise** and their reasons,

and

Reject the one objecting submission based on the reason provided not outweighing the reason that the Board previously accepted for the proposal, being that the feature is geographically associated with Farewell Spit, which has the original Māori name, Onetāhua,

and

Confirm the Board's earlier decision to alter the recorded undersea feature name Farewell Rise to the official undersea feature name **Onetāhua Rise**,

and

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

Background

Draft Board minutes 20 April 2021
[abridged]

The undersea rise is geographically associated with Farewell Spit, which has the original Māori name, Onetāhua. Because the rise is partly within 12NM of territorial New Zealand the proposal is required to be publicly notified for submissions.

The observer from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori confirmed the orthography of Onetāhua with the Secretariat.

Notification

Advice to mana whenua of public notification

On 29 April 2021, the Secretariat advised Te Tau Ihu iwi that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal for submissions between 27 May 2021 and 28 June 2021. On 13 May 2021 Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira advised 'Our understanding is the local ahikā are happy with the name, and we support their approval of Onetāhua Rise'.

Advice to MPs

On 1 June 2021, the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Te Tai Tonga and Kaikōura, and all adjacent electorates that the proposal was open for submissions until 28 June 2021.

Public notification including on social media

The Board advertised the proposal:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#),
- in the *Sunday Star Times* and *Marlborough Express*,
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ² [Consultation](#) and [Facebook](#)TM pages, and

² Land Information New Zealand

- on the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

An advertisement was submitted to Te Puni Kōkiri's [events calendar Rauika](#) on 27 May 2021 but was not published.

Media The Board released a media advisory in English on 28 May 2021 and te reo Māori on 31 May 2021, which was also [posted on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website](#), [scoop.co.nz](#) and [voxy.co.nz](#) syndicated the English version on 28 May 2021.

Summary of the submissions

Reason given in submission

- Support** Wāhi ingoa Māori (Māori place names) go some way towards honouring Treaty obligations. Supports name change [no reason provided].
Where iwi and hapū have a significant connection to a place, official recognition of the Māori name is an important step to recognise Māori culture and full history of the place.
- Object** Supports retaining Farewell Rise.
Renaming features already well known in English to te reo has no logical purpose and is unnecessarily confusing. No intention to rename Farewell Spit. Unless a place was significant for Māori and a te reo name is in use, reassigning a te reo name is unsettling and a form of tokenism.

Secretariat's assessment

The Board considers the merits of a proposal in terms of its statutory functions and policies, which include honouring its Treaty obligations³.

The Board's [Standard for undersea feature names](#) states that '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 is similarly prescribed in the [international undersea feature naming guidelines](#). The undersea rise has a strong geographical association with Farewell Spit, which has the original Māori name Onetāhua shown on NZMS 346/2.

The Secretariat recommends that the Board does not uphold the objecting submission.

Supporting information

1. Board report – Undersea Feature Names Committee recommendations – 2021-04-20
2. Online submissions spreadsheet (two supporting, one objecting)
3. Submission not received through the online platform (one)

³ [Section 6 of the NZGB Act 2008](#) refers