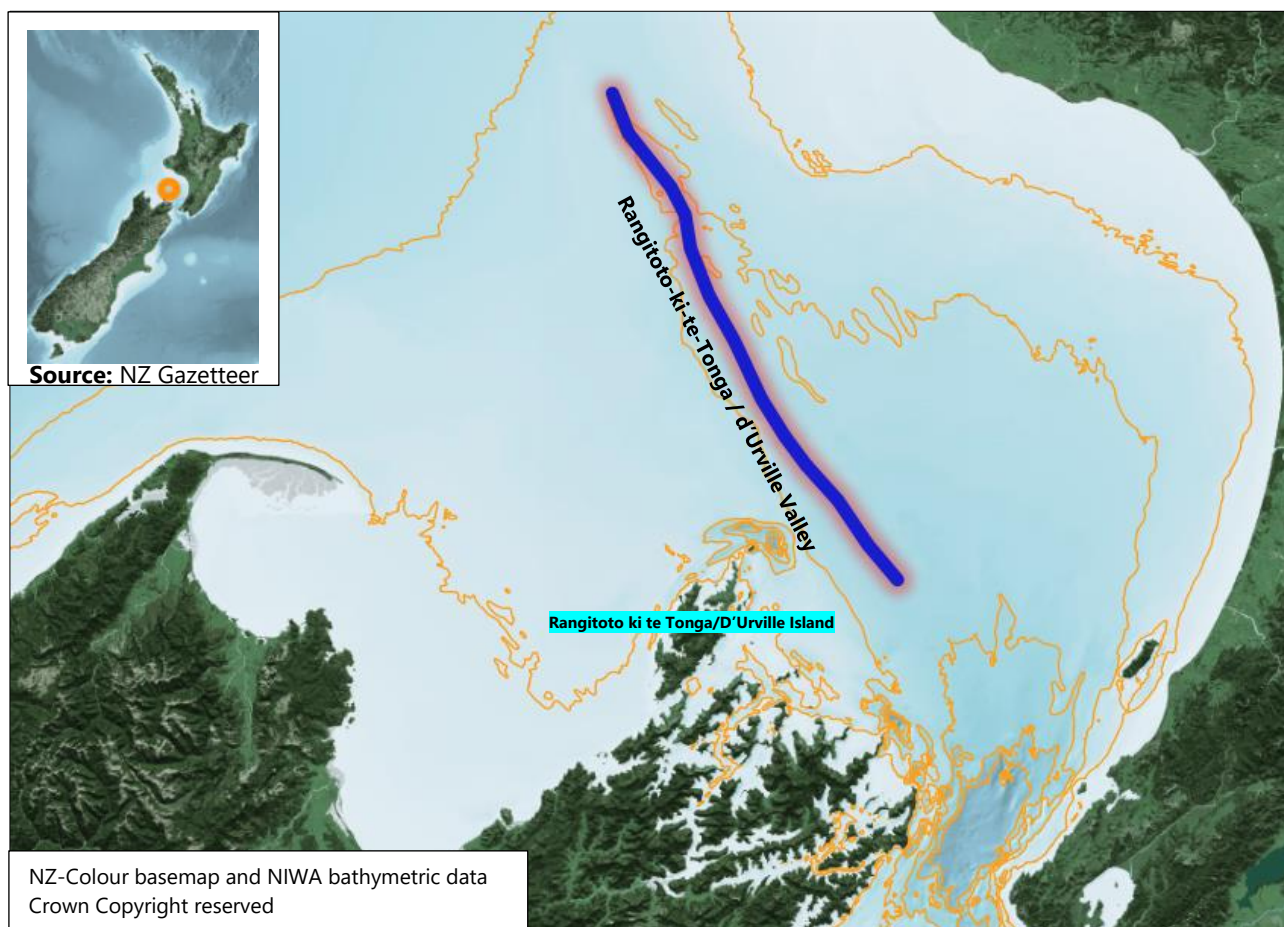


# Submissions for Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley

[altered from D'Urville Seavalley]

[Considered by the Board on 22 July 2021]



## Summary

At its hui on 20 April 2021 the Board accepted a proposal to alter the existing recorded<sup>1</sup> undersea feature name D'Urville Seavalley to the official dual undersea feature name Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley.

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 at Rangitoto ki te Tonga / D'Urville Island, 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 to honour Treaty obligations.

The objecting submitter gave these reasons:

- the name honours Dumont d'Urville who is recorded as discovering French Pass (sic), and trivialises his effort to expand the knowledge of the seafloor in the area,
- the seavalley does not have an original Māori name,

<sup>1</sup> 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.

- d'Urville Seavalley should prevail over Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga as it is the older of the two names,
- d'Urville Seavalley has been in long term use,
- international concern about renaming and inconsistencies in navigation charts between NZ and other jurisdictions.

These reasons are responded to below and are not considered to outweigh the original reasons why the Board accepted the proposal.

---

## Secretariat recommendation

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

**Consider** all submissions on the proposal to alter the existing recorded undersea feature name D'Urville Seavalley to the official dual undersea feature name **Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley** and their reasons,

**and**

**Reject** the one objecting submission based on the reasons provided not outweighing those that the Board previously accepted for the proposal, being that the feature is geographically associated with Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island,

**and**

**Confirm** the Board's earlier decision to alter the existing recorded undersea feature name D'Urville Seavalley to the official dual undersea feature name **Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley**,

**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 feature is associated with nearby Rangitoto ki te Tonga / D'Urville Island. However, Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga is the correct orthography for the Māori name and d'Urville is the correct orthography for Dumont d'Urville's name. SCUFN<sup>2</sup> would be unlikely to accept the generic term 'Seavalley' as it doesn't conform with the IHO<sup>3</sup>'s *B-6 Guidelines* or with the Board's *Standard for undersea feature names*. The generic term 'Valley' effectively describes the feature. Because the valley is partly within 12NM of territorial New Zealand the proposal is required to be publicly notified for submissions. Noted that D'Urville Seavalley was published on an official chart in 1980 so it has been in long term use.

---

## Notification

Advice to mana whenua

On 29 April 2021, the Secretariat advised eight Te Tau Ihu iwi that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal for submissions between 27 May 2021 and 28

---

<sup>2</sup> Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names

<sup>3</sup> International Hydrographic Organization

of public notification June 2021. On 13 May 2021 Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira advised 'Our understanding is the local ahikā<sup>4</sup> are happy with the name, and we support their approval of Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley'.

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 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 LINZ<sup>5</sup> [Consultation](#) and [Facebook](#)<sup>TM</sup> pages, and
- 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.

---

## Request under the Official Information Act 1982 [**Details removed**]

---

### Summary of the supporting submissions

Reason given in submission
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.

### Summary of the objecting submission and the Secretariat's comments

**Owns land on d'Urville Island (sic) that includes riparian rights and foreshore areas, so has a strong connection to land and sea.**

Ownership of riparian rights and foreshore areas is irrelevant to the naming of undersea features.

**Public consultation limited to newspaper notices and no public discussion of the proposal.**

See the 'Notification' block above. The submitter made a submission during the public consultation period for this proposal.

**Current name reflects d'Urville's original exploration of the area. Honours d'Urville who is recorded as discovering French Pass (sic), and under whose command the seabed around the island was originally charted. Trivialises d'Urville's effort to expand the knowledge of the seafloor in the area.**

The [New Zealand Gazetteer](#) records that Te Aumiti (official name [Te Aumiti / French Pass](#)) is a Kupe name (c. 10<sup>th</sup> century), with that name setting up part of the oral map for navigating the waters.

---

<sup>4</sup> [burners of] the home fires - locals

<sup>5</sup> Land Information New Zealand

According to the [1827 chart](#) d'Urville's voyage on the l'Astrolabe did not chart the seabed around the island, only sailing by its southeast and south coast. It is likely that the feature was named D'Urville Seavalley on Mitchell & Lewis' 1980 Cook Strait chart because of its proximity to D'Urville Island, which was the name shown on hydrographic charts in the 1980s<sup>6</sup>. For similar reasons, the Board considered it appropriate to alter the undersea feature name for consistency with the official name of the island. d'Urville's name would be retained in the official dual undersea feature name so the association would be retained.

**Has no knowledge of a record of indigenous people mapping or interacting with the seavalley. Prior to 19<sup>th</sup> century charting the existence of the seavalley was unknown. The seavalley does not have an original Māori name.**

Section 4.1.(i) of the [Standard for undersea feature names](#) states that 'Where appropriate, the specific term should be named after the geographically connected<sup>7</sup> and already named land based geographic feature with consideration given to the original Māori name'. Geographic association is similarly prescribed in the IHO<sup>8</sup>'s [B-6 Guidelines](#). The original Māori name of the adjacent island is Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga (an ancient name from Hawaiki), which is part of the proposed dual name.

**d'Urville will be subsidiary as it follows Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga. d'Urville Seavalley should prevail over Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga as it is the older of the two names (s.3(e) [Standard for undersea feature names](#) refers)**

It is not clear if the submitter wants d'Urville as the first part of a dual name or supports the existing name. Section 3(e) of the Standard records that the use of dual names may also be appropriate. A dual name means that both parts of the name are used together as one name – there is no hierarchy. Applying an official dual name to the feature recognises the equal historical significance of both parts of the name. The convention is to show the Māori name first to acknowledge first occupation.

**Long term use of D'Urville Seavalley (s.3(c) [Standard for undersea feature names](#) refers)**

Section 3(c) of the Standard notes that the Board may adopt or approve recorded undersea names on a case-by-case basis. The Board acknowledged that D'Urville Seavalley has been in use since 1980. However, based on the feature having a strong geographical association with Rangitoto ki te Tonga / D'Urville Island the Board accepted that the proposal to alter the feature's name outweighed the 40 years as a single name. This included correcting the orthography of the specific parts of the dual name and altering the generic term to 'Valley' based on SCUFN<sup>9</sup> being unlikely to accept the 'Seavalley' as the generic term.

**Extends beyond 12NM so may be international concern about renaming and inconsistencies in navigation charts between NZ and other jurisdictions.**

If the Board alters D'Urville Seavalley it will submit a proposal to SCUFN to ensure it is accepted for use on international hydrographic products and in a unified international database of the ocean floor. This will satisfy any international navigation concerns. SCUFN has previously accepted dual name proposals from New Zealand where an undersea feature is named in association with a feature on the adjacent mainland. For example: Hikuraa / de Surville Canyon named in association with Hikuraa / de Surville Cliffs, and Whakaari / White Island Trough named in association with Whakaari / White Island<sup>10</sup>.

---

<sup>6</sup> Chart NZ 46, 1981, refers

<sup>7</sup> Associated by proximity

<sup>8</sup> International Hydrographic Organization

<sup>9</sup> [Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names](#)

<sup>10</sup> [GEBCO Undersea Feature Names Gazetteer](#) refers

## **Supporting information**

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