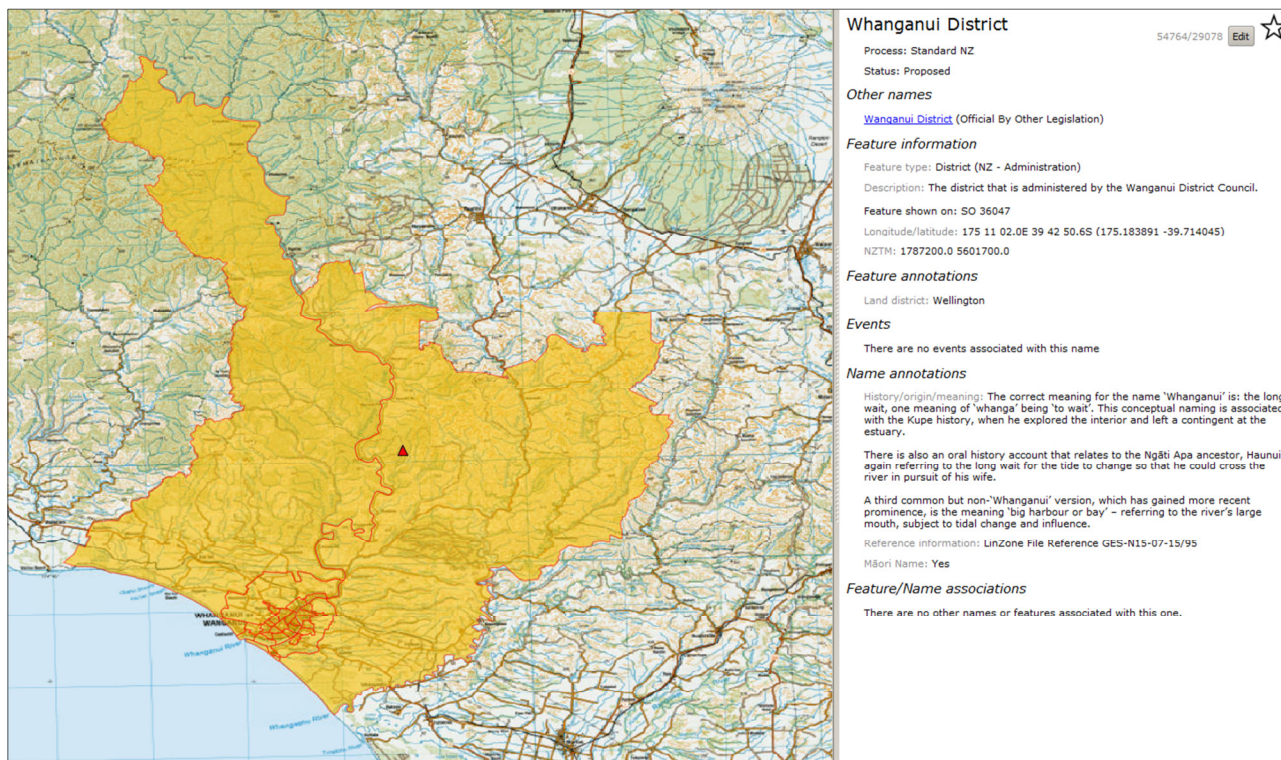


# Report on Submissions for altering Wanganui District to Whanganui District

Local Authority District

## MAP



**Source:** NZGB Q-GIS Gazetteer, 10/09/2015

**Base map:** NZTopo250-9, NZTopo250-14, Crown Copyright Reserved

## SUMMARY

- At its previous meeting on 29 April 2015, the NZGB considered a proposal to alter the territorial authority district area name as defined in Section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002, from Wanganui District to **Whanganui District**.
- The Wanganui District Council made the proposal, with the ultimate goal being to change its operating name for consistency with the spelling of the river and town/city names, and to brand itself positively without confusion.
- During the consultation period between 28 May 2015 and 28 August 2015 the NZGB received 299 objecting and 350 supporting submissions. This relatively even split is consistent with the informal survey conducted by the Council in early 2015 and with the Whanganui town/city submissions received by the NZGB in 2009. The Secretariat however have concerns that the majority of submitters believe they are submitting again on a proposal to alter the name of the city/town.
- The objecting and supporting submissions have been analysed, categorised and commented on, as set out under the 'Submissions' heading of this report. Many of the categories of submissions are the same as those for the proposal to alter Wanganui to Whanganui (for the

town/city) in 2009.

- Whanganui with the 'h' has been accepted as the correct spelling by the NZGB when it considered the earlier river and town/city proposals for in the early 1990s and in 2009.
- Mana whenua were consulted by the Council for this Whanganui District name proposal and strongly supported the spelling correction. The previous proposals for the river and town/city also attracted strong support from iwi.

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## SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1 **Consider** all objecting and supporting submissions in terms of s.18(1)(a) of the NZGB Act 2008;

**and**

Recommendation 2 **Reject** the objecting submissions in terms of s.18(1)(b) of the NZGB Act 2008, based on the following reasons outweighing the objector's reasons:

(1) the NZGB's statutory purpose and functions:

- s.3(e) to provide the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features;
- s.3(f) to enable certain administrative needs of government (including local government) to be met;
- s.11(1)(b) to examine the spelling of place names;
- s.11(1)(d) to collect original Māori place names;
- s.11(1)(e) to encourage the use of original Māori place names;
- s.11(1)(f) to take advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) on Māori place name orthography;
- s.11(2) the request from the Council to alter the name of its district so that it can alter its territorial authority operative name;

(2) the unequivocal and longstanding support from mana whenua and other iwi for the correct spelling;

(3) the natural progression towards consistent, standardised and accurate spelling with the other official names for Whanganui River and Whanganui town/city;

(4) the Council's reasons for making the alteration.

(5) the supporting submissions confirming the reasons above, and identifying a wider theme of cultural recognition;

**and**

Recommendation 3 **Report** to the Minister for Land Information on the NZGB's decision to alter Wanganui District to **Whanganui District**;

**and**

Recommendation 4 **Request** the Minister for Land Information make the **final determination** by confirming, modifying or rejecting the NZGB's decision in terms of s.20(2) of the NZGB Act 2008;

**and**

Recommendation 5 **Request** the Minister for Land Information, in terms of s.22(2) of the NZGB Act 2008, to recommend to the Governor-General to make an Order in Council under s.260 of the Local Government Act 2002 to amend the name of the relevant local authority in Schedule 2 of that Act to give effect to the alteration;

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**and**

Recommendation 6 **Notify** the final determination on the altered district name, **Whanganui District**, in terms of s.23 of the NZGB Act 2008, after the Governor General has made the Order in Council.

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**and**

Recommendation 7 **Note** that if **Whanganui District** becomes the official name, then consideration should be given to recommending an altered entry to the Online Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language.

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## **SECRETARIAT ANALYSIS**

### **NZGB MINUTES 29 APRIL 2015**

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#### **NZGB Discussion**

The NZGB noted the information and report provided (Linzone ID A1929317). The NZGB noted that during its consideration of earlier proposals to alter the name of the town and river, it had gone to considerable lengths to investigate the history, meaning and correct orthography for Whanganui, and that the same principles and arguments apply to the proposal consistently in association with the other official 'Whanganui' names. The NZGB noted that this change would complete the suite of names and be consistent with the NZGB's previous decisions relating to 'Whanganui' town/city and river.

The NZGB noted that the Secretariat and Chairperson had been in discussion about changing the name of the district and subsequently the territorial authority name with the Mayor of Whanganui and her team, and had concluded that the best course of action was through the NZGB Act 2008. The NZGB noted that 'alternative' names, like those made official for the town/city are not an option for the local authority's district name as the definition of 'alternative official geographic name' in the NZGB Act 2008 applies to geographic features, which are defined as including 'a place', and the definition of 'a place' does not include a district of a local authority. The NZGB noted that Sections 22 and 23 of the NZGB Act 2008 would apply if the proposal is finally decided as the official name of the district.

The NZGB agreed to issue a press release 'Public consultation on 'Whanganui District'' and key messages immediately following the meeting. The NZGB agreed that the Chairperson should be the NZGB's media spokesperson in English, and that Mr Rikirangi Gage should be its spokesperson in te Reo Māori. The NZGB noted that its comprehensive report to the Minister for Land Information for Whanganui town/city, and the online Question and Answer document covering pronunciation, long term use etc. would provide context for the NZGB's two spokespeople. The NZGB noted that the Minister for Land Information has been requested not to comment until the final decision had been made so as not to compromise her final decision.

The NZGB agreed that if Whanganui District was assigned as official then the associated 'deaf sign' could be included in the New Zealand Sign Language Dictionary.

## Resolutions

*The NZGB resolved to*

**Accept** the proposal to **alter** the official name of Wanganui District to **Whanganui District** for the territorial authority district area as defined in Section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002, based on the resolution of the Wanganui District Council, the reasons given by the Council and meeting the NZGB statutory duties and functions under Sections 3(e), 3(f), 11(1)(b), 11(1)(d), 11(1)(e) and 11(2) of the NZGB Act 2008.

### **AND**

**Notify** as a proposal to alter for three months in terms of Section 16 of the NZGB Act 2008.

### **AND**

If Whanganui District becomes an official name, recommend that a new entry be added to the online Dictionary for New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL).

### **AND**

**Note** that Sections 22 and 23 of the NZGB Act 2008 will apply if this alteration proposal is finally determined as the official district name.

### **AND**

**Confirm** that a press release be issued immediately following this NZGB's April 2015 meeting, advising of the NZGB's decision; and

**Confirm** the NZGB spokespeople as the Chairperson in English and Mr Rikirangi Gage in te Reo Māori.

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## COUNCIL'S REASONS FOR THE ALTERATION RESTATED

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From the NZGB  
Proposal Report  
29 April 2015

The Council's reasons for making this proposal include:

- the Tupoho Working Party's request to correct the spelling of the Council's name, as endorsed by Tamaūpoko Link,
- upholding the partnership relationships with Whanganui iwi and honouring the Treaty of Waitangi, to ensure social and economic development of the district,
- the realisation of increased acceptance and use of the [h] in Whanganui over the past five years since the Ministerial decision on the town/city name, by businesses, organisations and individuals,
- costs for updating signage, stationery, promotional material, etc, are not of material concern as they would be completed in the course of usual maintenance programmes,
- ensuring the correct spelling of its district is consistent with the official names for the river and town/city to assist with positively raising Whanganui's unique identity, profile, branding and what it has to offer, especially for tourists and attracting businesses
- the former Minister for Land Information's request that Crown agencies (which do not include local authorities) move toward the correct spelling, Whanganui,
- the reality that iwi engagement and support with the Council would be systematically withdrawn if a proposal was not made,
- the impact felt by an iwi partnership breakdown, eg a loss of confidence by central government, inability to fulfil the Council's vision, stalled social and economic development, and damage to the reputation of Whanganui as an attractive business destination, and
- the desire to resolve this continuing debate fully and finally so that the Council can move on with its other business priorities.

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## FURTHER CONSULTATION

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- No further consultation has been undertaken.
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## RECOGNITION OF CULTURAL AND HERITAGE VALUES

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- The NZGB Act 2008 includes a statutory purpose under Section 3(e) 'to provide the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features.'
  - While this purpose includes the interests of tangata whenua it is not limited to them. Section 3(e) is intended to cover all people of New Zealand.
  - For the Whanganui name the NZGB has specifically recognised these cultural and heritage values for mana whenua in respect to their associated history and ancestral connections with the river name from which the city/town and district derive their names. All of the names are interconnected and what is important for one is important for all.
  - To local Māori, the river and its name are of significant importance as the life blood for the many hapū and whanau who lived along its length (and still live there today).
  - The etymology/derivation of the name is traced back to either (i) an early ancestral chief and his famous journey of discovery and naming along the west coast of the lower North Island; or (ii) the Kupe tradition and his exploration of the interior, leaving a waiting contingent at the mouth of the river.
  - These accounts are entrenched in the oral history of local Māori and are recorded in traditional waiata.
  - To any language group, the preservation of correct spelling is intrinsic to the preservation and survival of their language.
  - Acknowledgement of the correct spelling of Whanganui offers recognition as the first people of this place; (i) strengthening their identity and belonging/possession which further serves to recognise them as tangata whenua/mana whenua, (ii) provides for the all important connection to the land/whenua; and (iii) offers a sense of place. While these elements are intangible, they are no less important to the psyche of the local Māori.
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## OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

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Ken Crafar

- An OIA request was received from Mr Crafar in July 2015 for:
  1. correspondence received from the Mayor, Councillors and/or Officers of the Wanganui District Council, in relation to the proposal, and the dates of such communications; and
  2. copies of original submissions received from Māori, including any 'threats' of withdrawal, reference to same, or claims of privilege.
- The second part of his request was not released: No early submissions from Māori were received by the NZGB directly from individual iwi or iwi organisations prior to the public notification on 28 May 2015. All submissions will be made publicly available after the final decision is made.

- Information relating to the first part of Mr Crafar's request was released with some redactions to protect individuals' rights to privacy, and to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs.
- Mr Crafar forwarded the information to the press who wrote disparagingly about the Mayor not having shared the results of the Council's informal survey undertaken in January and February 2015. The Mayor had to defend her actions. The fallout was an unfortunate consequence of releasing the information.
- The NZGB notes that the Council's survey and the basic statistics were mentioned in the NZGB's proposal report for the 29 April 2015 meeting, and made publicly available on 28 May 2015, but the issue was not focussed on at the time.
- It is understood that Mr Crafar has since asked for more information from the Council about the survey.

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## SUBMISSIONS

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### Overview

- Under Section 17(a) of the NZGB Act 2008 all (unique) submissions, received within a publicly notified consultation period, with reasons, are processed as valid submissions.
  - Two submissions were received prior the public consultation period beginning 28 May 2015:
    - One submitter resubmitted within the time period.
    - The other submitter provided no return address or other means of contact, and did not resubmit within the time period.
    - The NZGB may choose to acknowledge this submission from Mr Smith (Linzone ID A1984734).
  - In the public notification period between 28 May 2015 to 28 August 2015 a total of **649** unique submissions were received, with **299 (46%)** objecting and **350 (54%)** supporting. No neutral or commentary submissions were received.
  - All 649 unique submissions have been counted as either objecting to or supporting the proposal to **alter** Wanganui District to **Whanganui District**, despite many focussing on the town/city name and not specifically the district name.
  - No further submissions were received after 28 August 2015.
  - A small number of objecting submissions suggested alternatives under Section 17(b) of the NZGB Act 2008 including:
    - 'Wanganui or Whanganui District' as alternative names, to be consistent with the decision on the town/city,
    - the use of a dual name with Wanganui/Whanganui District as 'pākehā and Māori versions',
    - reverting to Petre or Petrie [sic],
    - 'Wa-nga-nui'.

Some objecting submitters also suggested adding or removing [h]'s around New Zealand, i.e. Whellington [Fellington], Wangarei respectively.
  - The Secretariat has concerns that the majority of submitters believe they are submitting again on a proposal to alter the name of the city/town. This is discussed further below under the heading 'City or District?'
  - The NZGB carefully considers all valid submissions.
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## Audit

- Submissions were entered and tracked in a spreadsheet in order to: prevent duplication, track numbers, and categorise the submissions.
  - In audit after the close of the public consultation period on 28 August 2015:
    - 3 objecting submissions were identified as duplicates.
    - 18 supporting submissions were identified as duplicates.
    - 1 supporting submission was clearly objecting to the current proposal, and reclassified as an objection.
  - 19 objections were submitted without any specific reasons given for their objection. Under Section 17(a) and 18(a) of the NZGB Act 2008, the NZGB may choose whether to consider these submissions as valid or not.
  - All submissions have been reviewed to improve categorisation.
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## City Council Questionnaire

- Between 7 January and 13 February 2015, the Wanganui District Council invited the public to have their say on their proposal to alter the spelling of Wanganui District's name through a questionnaire. An online submission form was created, and hard copies for mail-ins were made available at public libraries.
  - The NZGB received some basic statistics from the questionnaire as part of the Council's initial proposal indicating an even split for and against the alteration with 954 against, 961 for, and 24 neutral.
  - These results were provided as supporting documentation and evidence of consultation to support the proposal.
  - The responses to the questionnaire are not considered to be 'submissions' in terms of Section 17 of the NZGB Act 2008 as:
    - the questionnaire was conducted prior to the public notification period of 28 May 2015 to 28 August 2015,
    - the responses were not audited for duplication by the Wanganui District Council,
    - the questionnaire did not specify that reasons for any objection must be included.
  - The Council provided the full transcript of all online and mail-in responses to the NZGB on 27 August 2015, one day prior to the end of the public consultation period.
  - The Council did not provide any detailed analysis of these responses.
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## District or City?

- The Secretariat is concerned that the majority of submitters, both objecting and supporting, believe that they are once again submitting on a proposal to alter the name of the city/town.
- To ensure that all information around the proposal was clear and unambiguous, the NZGB:
  - issued media releases on 30 April, 28 May and 28 July 2015,
  - issued an opinion editorial on 31 July 2015,
  - provided clear information on the proposal and submission process on the LINZ Website,
  - clearly specified the **District** as the subject of the proposal on the the online submission form, which was used for the majority of submissions.
- The Secretariat has noted whether or not a submitter clearly identified if they were submitting on:
  - the current proposal to alter the name of Wanganui District to

### Whanganui District,

- the name of the city/town (which the Minister for Land Information made a final decision of 'Wanganui or Whanganui' in 2009, and which was made official in 2012),
  - or whether the submission is unclear.
  - Additional efforts were also undertaken to obtain clarification from submitters including:
    - a request for clarification as a standard response when acknowledging letters received,
    - bulk emails requesting clarification,
- However only a small number of submitters replied to clarify their submissions.

Dear submitter

This email is to clarify that the current proposal under public consultation is to change the spelling of [Wanganui District to Whanganui District](#).

Wanganui or Whanganui (City) was considered by the Board in 2009, and a final decision was made by the Minister for Land Information in 2012. The Minister made a decision making the alternative names [Wanganui or Whanganui official](#). An alternative name means that both names are official, and either name (or both) may be used on official documents.

If you now wish to add to your original submission, then please reply to this email. Any supporting material can be attached, but please note that the file size for attachments is limited to 8MB. Alternatively you can post any other supporting material to:

The Secretary for the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa  
c/- Land Information New Zealand  
Radio NZ House  
155 The Terrace  
Private Box 5501  
Wellington 6145  
New Zealand

If this email does not affect the content of your original submission, as it has already been counted a further response is not necessary.

- Of the 299 objecting submissions:
  - 38 submissions were clearly identified as objecting to altering the name of the **District**,
  - 37 submissions could be clearly identified as objecting to the city/town's name being altered.
  - The remaining 224 submissions were considered unclear as to whether they were submitting on the **District** or the city/town.
- Of the 350 supporting submissions:
  - 90 clearly identified that they supported altering the name of the **District**,
  - 23 submissions were identified as supporting the alteration of the city/town's name,
  - The remaining 237 submissions were considered unclear as to whether they were submitting on the **District** or city/town.
- Designating the majority of submissions as 'unclear' considers the submissions as being 'generally opposed' to or in support of all alterations of Wanganui District to Whanganui District for the reasons provided.
- These submissions and the reasons provided have been addressed below.
- Based on the reasons provided it can be inferred the majority of these were submitting on the city/town, and not the **District**, eg:
  - if all objecting submissions citing the referenda on the city/town name as a reason, without further clarification, were counted as for the city/town, this would increase the total to 109 for the city/town.
- Several objecting submitters identified as submitting on the city/town stated that the District already had an [h] or should have an [h], but not the city/town, indicating they did not understand that the proposal is to alter the name of the District.
- For future proposals the NZGB will investigate additional checks for the online submission form to improve understanding of what is proposed.



## Living within the District

- Of the objecting submitters:
    - 243 identified themselves as living within Wanganui District,
    - 35 identified themselves as living outside of Wanganui District,
    - 21 chose not to identify where they lived.
  - Of the supporting submitters:
    - 262 identified themselves as living within Wanganui District
    - 85 identified themselves as living outside of Wanganui District,
    - 3 chose not to identify where they lived.
  - Together, a total of 78% of submitters identified themselves as living within Wanganui District.
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## Supporting Submissions

- The 350 supporting submissions overwhelmingly cited the need to correct the spelling as the principal reason for their support.
  - Other reasons provided for their support also confirm and add to those provided by the proposer, Wanganui District Council, including:
    - Respecting the wishes and honouring tangata whenua,
    - The 'Wh' having always existed, though the pronunciation was subtle,
    - Cultural recognition or redress,
    - Consistency with the names of the river and city,
    - The meaning of 'Whanga', lack of meaning of 'Wanga',
    - A desire to get the issue resolved,
    - A desire to promote biculturalism.
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## Categorisation of Objecting Submissions

- Under Section 18(1) of the NZGB Act 2008, the NZGB must decide whether to uphold or reject objections submitted on a proposal.
- Due to the number of objecting submissions (**299**), the content of the submissions were categorised under 62 themes.
- This approach was taken with the proposal to alter the name of Wanganui to Whanganui (city/town) in 2009, with 54 themes previously identified at that time.
- The revised categories have been ordered below from most to least by the number of objecting submissions received, that were identified as giving the category as a reason for their objection. There is considerable overlap between many of the categories.
- Objecting submitters generally cited several reasons for their submission.

Reason, starting with the most number of objecting submissions
<b>Support of referendum (democracy)/referenda ignored</b>
<b>Common/Historical long term use (locally/nationally/internationally)</b>
<b>Pronunciation/Dialectical – would be pronounced incorrectly</b>
<b>Cost factor – public documents/personal/business/taxpayers/infrastructure</b>
<b>Against majority wishes</b>
<b>Correct spelling/spelling reflects dialect/historically correct</b>
<b>Pandering to cultural/vocal minority</b>
<b>Long-time residency</b>
<b>Against change (no other reasons provided)</b>

<b>Causes confusion</b>
<b>Waste of ratepayers' money</b>
<b>Documentation – birth/marriage/death certificates</b>
<b>No written language for Te Reo Māori pre-colonisation</b>
<b>Wanganui/born there/local issue</b>
<b>Concentrate on more important social issues</b>
<b>Confusion with Whangarei</b>
<b>Chosen by colonial forefathers</b>
<b>Politically motivated</b>
<b>New Mayor has vested interests / is threatened by local Māori</b>
<b>Treaty was signed by Māori with the spelling 'Wanganui'</b>
<b>Anti-Māori sentiment</b>
<b>Original Māori name preserved in river – no need to change city name</b>
<b>No historical basis/valid reason</b>
<b>Council threatened, held to ransom by iwi</b>
<b>Causes division in the community</b>
<b>Wanganui has meaning</b>
<b>Alternative name</b>
<b>Oppose change by radicals/activists</b>
<b>Not a Te Reo Māori word</b>
<b>Bureaucracy - NZGB has no mandate, outside jurisdiction</b>
<b>Anti-NZGB sentiment</b>
<b>Loss of heritage/Identity threatened/honoured/Proud to be European</b>
<b>Different translations</b>
<b>Sets a precedent for other renaming</b>
<b>Language change</b>
<b>Excessive political correctness</b>
<b>No proof in records</b>
<b>Change is racist</b>
<b>Wanganui built by Pākehā for Pākehā – so Pākehā should decide</b>
<b>Only ratepayers/landowners should be allowed to vote on these issues</b>
<b>Needs to be consistent with other Wanganui names</b>
<b>Māori not 'tangata whenua', citing ancient Celts/Phonicians/Waitaha/Moriori's etc</b>
<b>Not wanting to assimilate into standard te reo Māori</b>
<b>Well established in branding &amp; marketing</b>

<b>The Treaty makes all people British</b>
<b>Too many Māori names</b>
<b>Anglicised version</b>
<b>Endonym transliteration/exonym</b>
<b>Supports view of (former) mayor</b>
<b>Does not need to mean anything</b>
<b>No proof of land ownership by Māori settlers</b>
<b>Brings bad luck and tragedy</b>
<b>People will try to change the name of the City again</b>
<b>Dual name</b>

- No submissions were identified as fitting under the following themes from the proposal to alter Wanganui (city/town), or were merged with other themes:
  - Intimidation of European New Zealanders,
  - City is not a significant geographical feature,
  - Need to change computer software,
  - Duplication - Taupo/Waikato regions,
  - Not convenient,
  - River should be changed back,
  - Name already widely known,
  - Historical oddity.
- Submissions were received citing the following 11 new or more specific themes as reasons:
  - New Mayor has vested interests and/or is threatened by local Māori,
  - Only ratepayers/landowners should be allowed to vote on these issues,
  - Waste of ratepayers' money,
  - Treaty was signed by Māori with the spelling 'Wanganui',
  - Different translations,
  - Council threatened, held to ransom by iwi,
  - Changing the name brings bad luck and tragedy,
  - Needs to be consistent with other Wanganui names (all should be 'Wanganui'),
  - People will try to change the name of the City again,
  - Dual names,
  - Māori not 'tangata whenua', citing ancient Celts/Phoenicians/Waitaha people/Moriori's.
- Where categories have significant overlap, they have been addressed together below.
- Refer to the submission summary spreadsheet compiled by the Secretariat, and all 649 individual submissions attached as supporting information.

Objectors' reasons summarised	Secretariat Comments
<p><b>Support for the referendum, referenda ignored</b></p> <p><b>Against majority wishes, not democratic</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many submissions referred to the results of the 2006 and 2009 referenda, and stated that a decision on naming should only be valid if supported by binding referendum.</li> <li>• The referendum was relevant as an indication of public usage and support for the use of Wanganui or Whanganui in relation to the city/town name, but does not relate to the new proposal to alter the name of the district.</li> <li>• For the purposes of this proposal, submitters citing the referenda without further clarification are considered to be 'generally opposed' to the alteration of any 'Wanganui' name. Otherwise, the submissions would not be relevant to the current proposal to alter the name of the District.</li> <li>• While not subject to any auditing practices, the recent questionnaire/survey conducted by the Wanganui District Council showed an even split between those in favour of or against the proposal to alter the name of the District, assuming that those who responded understood that the questionnaire was for the District, not the city/town. The questionnaire reflects a similar split in the submissions on Wanganui (city/town), and for the submissions on this proposal to alter the name of the District.</li> <li>• While many submitters cited majority wishes, subsequently it is not clear that this is in fact the case.</li> <li>• The NZGB is the Statutory Authority responsible for the alteration of Geographic Place Names. The NZGB's decisions are made in accordance with its statutory functions, policies, and standards. Where the NZGB's decision to change a name is opposed, the final decision is made by the Minister for Land Information of the democratically elected government.</li> <li>• Votes in a referendum, or a separately organised questionnaire/survey do not count as submissions to the NZGB. The NZGB Act 2008 requires submissions to be in the format specified, either writing to the NZGB by letter or email, or filling in an online submission form, accompanied by reasons. This does not happen with votes in a referendum. An unknown number of the votes may have been cast for reasons that are not relevant to the NZGB's decision.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Common, Historical long term use (locally, nationally, internationally)</b></p> <p><b>Long-time residency</b></p> <p><b>Wanganui/born there/local issue</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a relevant factor which the NZGB carefully considers in assessing the alteration of long used and well known place names. Changes to long-established and common usage names are not made lightly.</li> <li>• The importance of the issue for local residents is illustrated by the high volume of formal submissions, with 78% of all submitters coming from Wanganui District.</li> <li>• Names that have been in long term local use can in some instances take precedence over any proposal to alter the spelling. Changes are however made in some circumstances, the most notable example being the change from Mount Egmont to the alternative names of Mount Taranaki or Mount Egmont. This was strongly opposed by many at the time, but the name Mount Taranaki is now widely accepted.</li> <li>• The usage of 'Whanganui' is also part of the historic record although less common than 'Wanganui'. The spelling with an 'h' is slowly increasing following the change to the name of the river which was confirmed by the Minister in 1991, and the change of Wanganui to Wanganui or Whanganui (city/town) in 2009/2012 which has kept the debate concerning the [h] in the public eye.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pronunciation/Dialectical - would be pronounced incorrectly</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NZGB acknowledges a strong theme among objecting submissions concerned with the pronunciation of Whanganui as 'Fonganui' by newsreaders and by people outside of the district. While the [wh] 'f' sound is more typical elsewhere in New Zealand, and for other Whanganui names, the more subtle aspirated [wh] is correct in terms of the local Māori dialect, and subsequently the name of the city/town.</li> <li>• The minutes of the NZGB 27 March 2009 refer: <i>'The most obvious dialectical variation in Te Reo Māori is in the pronunciation of consonants and the presence of those variations is a common cause of discussion, much of which is not well informed. The</i></li> </ul>

Objectors' reasons summarised	Secretariat Comments
	<p><i>now standard orthographic representation of [wh] to represent the soft /f/ sound is long established in written Māori. The pronunciation of [wh] ranges from a 'pure' [h] through to 'soft' [f] to an aspirated [h] (as in Eng. 'wheel'/'where') and a 'pre-aspirated' [h]. The range of dialectical variation in pronunciation of Te Reo Māori is substantially less than in standard English. The Whanganui River tribes tend to use the soft /f/ variant of [wh], whereas their neighbours of Southern Taranaki tend to the 'pre-aspirated' [h]. It is not correct to say that the latter "drop their Hs" as English speakers do with 'honest'. Whatever the dialectical pronunciation, however, the correct orthography to represent the name of the river from which the present town takes its name, is 'Whanganui'. A further consideration is that the usage of 'Wanganui' has no meaning.'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pronunciation is relevant to the NZGB only in that it explains how the current spelling came about in the 19th century. The NZGB has a function under Section 11(1)(b) of the NZGB Act 2008 to examine cases of doubtful spelling. The NZGB also has a function [s 11(1)(f)] to seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) on the orthography of Māori names.</li> <li>• The NZGB has no jurisdiction for education or enforcement of pronunciation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cost factor - public documents, personal, business, taxpayers, infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>Waste of ratepayers' money</b></p> <p><b>Well established in branding &amp; marketing</b></p> <p><b>Documentation - birth/marriage/death certificates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strong theme citing the 'cost factor' has been noted by the NZGB, with a more specific 'cost to ratepayers' identified.</li> <li>• No submissions provided any estimates or details of such costs. Nevertheless, this is a relevant factor which is carefully considered by the NZGB.</li> <li>• Official documentation is expected to comply with the use of official names under Section 32 of the NZGB Act 2008, but only in the course of regular updates and replacement.</li> <li>• There is no requirement for retrospective amendments for existing legal documents, and these records remain valid without change. Suggestions to the contrary are disingenuous or misinformed.</li> <li>• There is no requirement for businesses to alter their branding or promotional material.</li> <li>• Tourist directions and published maps are expected to reflect official place naming for consideration of safety and identification for emergency services, and this is specifically identified under the definition of 'official document' under Section 4 of the Act. There would be no requirement however to alter any tourism business' branding.</li> <li>• The category of a 'cost' to ratepayers may more specifically be associated with the time spent by the Wanganui District Council considering the [h] debate, and the perception that ratepayers specifically pay their salaries.</li> <li>• The NZGB has no control over the issues that local Council's chose to consider, nor the content of proposals submitted. Elections for Local Councils are conducted every three years as set out under the Local Election Act 2001.</li> <li>• The NZGB does have an obligation to consider any proposal received that meets the minimum requirements, and to fulfil a statutory requirement when a local authority requests the alteration of a region or district name.</li> <li>• The NZGB also has statutory functions to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names, and to determine correct spelling, which outweigh concerns about cost.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Correct spelling/spelling reflects dialect/historically correct</b></p> <p><b>Needs to be consistent with other Wanganui names</b></p> <p><b>Anglicised version</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under Sections 10(c)(ii) and 11(1)(b) of the NZGB Act 2008 a principal function of the NZGB is to examine cases of doubtful spelling and correct the spelling through the alteration of existing place names.</li> <li>• While every effort is made to conform to standardised and consistent te Reo Māori, it is acknowledged that regional dialectical differences in pronunciation occur. In some instances exceptions may be acceptable.</li> <li>• The difference between 'Whanganui' and 'Wanganui' could be considered a transliteration due to the dialect, another example being Whataitai to Hataitai. In this case, local Māori are emphatic that the correct spelling is Whanganui, no matter what the pronunciation, and</li> </ul>

Objectors' reasons summarised	Secretariat Comments
<p><b>Not a Te Reo Māori word</b></p> <p><b>Different translations</b></p> <p><b>Not wanting to assimilate into standard te reo Māori</b></p>	<p>that the [h] has always been there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 11(1)(f) of the NZGB Act 2008 provides for the NZGB to seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) on the correct orthography of any Māori name.</li> <li>Their advice in March 2009 was: <i>'The word Whanganui is a compound word made of the words 'whanga' and 'nui'. There is no such word as 'wanga' in the Māori lexicon. The convention is that however a word is said, its standard form is written to convey meaning and it is widely accepted that 'whanga' is written with an 'h'. How people choose to represent it orally is a separate issue.'</i></li> <li>Te Taura Whiri's <i>Guidelines for Spelling and Writing Māori</i> are available from <a href="http://www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz">http://www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz</a></li> <li>Standardisation of spelling and consistent good naming practices also form part of New Zealand's international obligations through UNGEGN<sup>1</sup>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Against change (no other reasons provided)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of submissions provided no reasons for their objection to proposal to alter the name of Wanganui District to Whanganui District.</li> <li>Under Section 17(a) and 18(a) of the NZGB Act 2008, the NZGB may choose whether to consider these submissions. An objecting submitter must provide reasons for their objection.</li> <li>These submissions highlighted for the NZGB under Category 16.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Causes confusion</b></p> <p><b>Confusion with Whangarei</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB acknowledges that when a place name is altered there may be confusion as to what spelling is correct or what is 'official'. Consideration for identification of geographic places by emergency services is given for every name proposal received due to the potential confusion when a name is assigned or altered.</li> <li>There are other 'Wanganui' related names but none are significant towns or cities. There are other towns with names starting 'Whanga...' but confusion amongst these does not seem to be a significant problem.</li> <li>New Zealand Post is currently delivering mail where the address states 'Whanganui' or 'Wanganui' as both spellings were made official in 2009/2012, as alternative names. Misdirected mail amongst the towns and cities with names starting 'Whanga...' may occur from time to time. The increasing use of postcodes should reduce this likelihood in the future.</li> <li>In official documentation however the spelling Whanganui is used for the city/town, recognising the correct orthography.</li> <li>The NZGB Act 2008 requires that official names be used for official documents under Section 32, and can prevent unofficial names being used if an official name exists under Section 33 in order to reduce confusion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>No written language for Te Reo Māori pre-colonisation</b></p> <p><b>Treaty was signed by Māori with the spelling 'Wanganui'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Te Reo Māori was captured and standardised as a written language with the arrival of Europeans. For the 'Whanganui' spelling there has been extensive academic debate around the dialectical difference applied by local Māori in this region with their aspirated 'h'. Some original European transcribers did not clearly hear the 'f' for 'Wh', however, tangata whenua and mana whenua are emphatic that the correct spelling is Whanganui, no matter what the pronunciation (as is the case for many English words which are spelled quite differently to how they are pronounced, eg Michael has a silent 'h', knight has a silent 'k', enough applies an 'f' sound for 'gh', etc).</li> <li>It is assumed that the infancy of written te Reo Māori in 1840 had yet to recognise the dialectical pronunciation differences between iwi groups and so the phonetic transcription with the transcribers own home country influences/accent, was likely applied for the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.</li> <li>No matter which translation, whether the 'long wait' or the 'big harbour', both are correctly spelled Whanganui.</li> <li>More recently, te reo Māori was made an official language through the Māori Language Act 1986, administered by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission), who advise that the correct orthography is 'Whanganui'.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> UNGEGN – United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names

Objectors' reasons summarised	Secretariat Comments
<p><b>Concentrate on more important social issues</b></p> <p><b>Excessive political correctness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB has a statutory obligation to consider a request made to alter the name of a district by the relevant local authority.</li> <li>Issues of political correctness are immaterial as the NZGB is expected to consider the merits of any proposals put before it in terms of its statutory functions, policies, and standards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chosen by colonial forefathers</b></p> <p><b>Wanganui has meaning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was a very relevant factor carefully considered by the NZGB when considering the proposal to alter the name of the city/town in 2009.</li> <li>The early settlers petitioned for a change from the English name of 'Petre' to the Māori name of the river in 1844. At that time there were two forms of spelling in use – 'Wanganui' and 'Whanganui'.</li> <li>It is less clear whether submissions citing these reasons are submitting on the city/town or the current proposal to alter the name of the district. The district also takes its name from the river, however unlike the city/town; the district was never 'Petre District' and was already Wanganui or Whanganui District.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Politically motivated</b></p> <p><b>Oppose change by radicals/activists</b></p> <p><b>Pandering to cultural/vocal minority</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There may be an element of political motivation in light of the stated expectation of the former Minister for Land Information in 2009 that government agencies move towards the Whanganui spelling for the town name. There is a clear government administrative motivation by the Council to align the spelling of its district name with the correctly spelled river and town names – so as to avoid confusion and so as to strengthen its branding and promotion of both the town and wider district. These reasons are viewed as positive elements that support the correct spelling.</li> <li>The final decision is ultimately political, but not before people have had the opportunity to express their views and to provide reasons of substance to sway the NZGB or the Minister from proceeding with the spelling correction. In this matter the full statutory process has been followed and democracy has been employed.</li> <li>The NZGB does not judge any proposer, supporter, objector, commentator, or any other person engaging in the process, on the basis of their beliefs, practices or motivations. The process of place naming is managed on the basis of sound naming practice developed over many years with the purpose, functions and duties set out in the NZGB Act 2008 being appropriately exercised by the NZGB or the Minister. All decisions weigh up naming criteria (which include community consultation) as well as the rationale and need for new or altered names.</li> <li>The NZGB does not consider whether a proposal for a place name has been made by a cultural minority or majority, nor does the NZGB apply cultural preference without good reason. The process is not a vote. All naming criteria are important and relevant to the NZGB's consideration. Included in the considerations is the response of the community, and valid reasons expressed may be given more weight over other criteria considerations. For this proposal the NZGB is strongly guided by its statutory purpose 'to provide the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features.'</li> </ul>
<p><b>Anti-Māori sentiment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not relevant to the NZGB's consideration. The NZGB is expected to consider the merits of any proposals put before it in terms of its statutory functions, policies, and standards. The NZGB has functions relating to Māori place names.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Original Māori name preserved in river - no need to change city name</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a valid reason, but does not outweigh the reasons to (i) correct the spelling, (ii) be consistent, standardised and accurate, (iii) provide for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values to mana whenua, (i) collect and encourage the use of original Māori place names, and (v) support the Council's desire to correct its operating territorial authority name. Whenever the NZGB has an opportunity to exercise good naming practice for consistent naming of associated places/features, it generally does so in order to avoid confusion/ambiguity.</li> </ul>
<p><b>No historical basis/valid reason</b></p> <p><b>No proof in records</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB has extensive documentary proof of both forms of spelling, from the original proposal and additional material provided in correspondence with the NZGB or through research.</li> <li>The NZGB acknowledges that due to the dialectical differences,</li> </ul>

Objectors' reasons summarised	Secretariat Comments
	<p>'Wanganui' has been the form predominantly recorded in official documentation.</p>
<p><b>Council threatened, held to ransom by iwi</b></p> <p><b>New Mayor has vested interests / is threatened by local Māori</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB noted at its 29 April 2015 meeting (i) that the Council has expressed its desire to uphold the partnership relationships with Whanganui iwi and honour the Treaty of Waitangi, to ensure social and economic development of the district; (ii) the reality that iwi engagement and support with the Council would be systematically withdrawn if a proposal was not made; and (iii) the impact felt by an iwi partnership breakdown, eg a loss of confidence by central government, inability to fulfil the Council's vision, stalled social and economic development, and damage to the reputation of Whanganui as an attractive business destination.</li> <li>These considerations are viewed by some as the Council having been threatened and being held to ransom by iwi. The NZGB itself has no view on this and has not received any direct communication from iwi to suggest the same. The NZGB's role is to consider its statutory purpose, functions and duties and to apply best practice naming criteria independent of threat and ransom.</li> <li>The NZGB recognises that the current Mayor is managing many aspects of the Council's objectives, one being the relationship management with local Māori and that some of Council's decisions/directions may not align with all community views and some may compete internally with other priorities. In this case an informal survey undertaken by the Council before it made its proposal to the NZGB, revealed a relatively even split for and against the name change for the district – presumably some of those people who responded were local Māori.</li> <li>It is expected that the Mayor will have a vested interest in local Māori, because iwi interests are part of every Council's statutory and Treaty obligations. However, those interests are not the focus of the NZGB's attention in respect to best practice place naming principles being applied.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Causes division in the community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not relevant to the NZGB's consideration. These divisions are of long standing and would not likely be resolved by retaining the status quo either.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Alternative names (for and against)</b></p> <p><b>Dual names</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dual and Alternative names can overcome some of the issues that wholesale replacement can incur, such as loss of identity or confusion, especially in emergencies.</li> <li>For the [h] debate for Whanganui (city/town), all possible options including dual and alternative naming were carefully weighed by the NZGB, and a summary is available on the LINZ Place Names website.</li> <li>Alternative names however cannot be used for the name of a district: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the alteration of a district or region name is a specific statutory function of the NZGB Act 2008, where a district or region is processed by the NZGB under Sections 16-20 of the Act as though it were a geographic name.</li> <li>While a district or region is processed 'as though it were a geographic feature', districts are not 'geographical features' as defined under Section 4 of the Act.</li> <li>an <i>alternative official geographic name</i> is defined under Section 4 of the Act as '2 or more alternative official geographic names for the same geographic feature.'</li> </ul> </li> <li>One submitter has suggested that a dual name of Wanganui/Whanganui would be appropriate as a dual 'Pakeha/Māori name'. Dual naming is generally intended for names that have different meanings but equal significance in two different languages, not for a variation of spelling.</li> <li>Where the NZGB does not make a determination under Section 19(1) of the NZGB Act 2008, under Section 20, it must request that the Minister for Land Information make a final determination confirming, modifying, or rejecting the NZGB's decisions.</li> <li>The Minister has the authority to modify the NZGB's recommendation to a dual name, or any other single alternative names, however cannot assign <i>alternative official geographic names</i> for a district.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bureaucracy – NZGB has no mandate, outside jurisdiction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 8 of the NZGB Act 2008 defines the NZGB's jurisdiction as including any geographic features within the territorial limits of New</li> </ul>



Objectors' reasons summarised	Secretariat Comments
<p><b>Anti-NZGB sentiment</b></p>	<p>Zealand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB must consider any proposed alteration of a district if requested by the relevant local authority under Section 11(2)(b). The affected district is treated as a geographic feature under Section 11(3).</li> <li>Altering the name of a District is specific function under the jurisdiction of the NZGB.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Loss of heritage/Identity threatened/honoured/Proud to be European</b></p> <p><b>Wanganui built by Pākehā for Pākehā – so Pākehā should decide</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB recognises that people have strong connections with place names, particularly the cities/towns, localities and districts they grew up in and which gave them their associated memories. People have understandable pride and identity so change causes concern about losing the past and what it stands for.</li> <li>The spelling correction proposed for the district name in this instance is unlikely to cause any long term disassociation with the stories and history associated with 'Wanganui' (be it for the district or the city/town name). The word itself is not being changed, it is just being spelled correctly with the 'h'.</li> <li>There is little phonological difference between the two spellings and people will continue to choose to pronounce the words as they choose, no matter how they are spelled. So while the reasons are valid, they are unlikely to result from the spelling correction and therefore are not considered to outweigh the reasons for proceeding with the 'h'.</li> <li>The reason that 'Wanganui was built by Pākehā etc' refers to the name for the city/town and not the district. Accordingly the response focusses on the city/town name: like many New Zealand cities/towns, Whanganui was built largely to support colonial settlement and its associated industry/development. Māori and Pākehā New Zealanders were integrated from the outset, with many Māori contributing to the economy, helping to build towns, and living and working in them. So the city/town was not built solely by Pākehā for Pākehā.</li> <li>The city/town was originally named Petre and changed after 10 years by petition in 1854 to that of the river. The misspelling was consistently debated during its first 50 years with both spellings commonly used. Eventually in the early 1900s the Council agreed to retain the 'Wanganui' spelling, which prevailed as a recorded name up until 2012 when the two alternative spellings became official.</li> <li>The ultimate decision on the district name will result from a democratic process, not from one ethnic sector of the population.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sets a precedent for other renaming</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a relevant factor which is carefully considered by the NZGB. The extent to which a decision may act as a precedent in future decisions depends on whether the circumstances relating to that decision are the same or similar.</li> <li>If a proposal to rename any geographic feature meets the minimum requirements set by the NZGB, then the NZGB will consider that proposal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Language change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB accepts that dialectical differences caused some early transcriptions to spell 'Wanganui' without an 'h' but many early documents recorded the correct spelling 'Whanganui'. The NZGB does not accept that te reo Māori has changed, but that it's orthography has been standardised through the work of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission). This reason is not considered valid.</li> <li>A corresponding example would be the introduction of macrons to represent long vowel sounds. These were not used by the early settlers, but form part of the standardisation of the Māori language and provide a cue for standard pronunciation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Change is racist</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB notes that this view is common but does not accept that the proposed change is racist or that the NZGB itself falls into the category of being racist, where the definition is when a person thinks that their own racial group is superior or that a particular racial group is inferior to another. This is not a view held by the NZGB.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Only ratepayers/landowners should be allowed to vote on these issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB Act 2008 provides for any person to make a submission on a proposal.</li> </ul>

Objectors' reasons summarised	Secretariat Comments
<b>Māori not 'tangata whenua'. Citing ancient Celts, Phoenicians, Waitaha, Moriōri's, etc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB will consider the unique and specific reasons provided in all objecting submissions.</li> </ul>
<b>The Treaty makes all people British</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB accepts well documented academic analysis of the Treaty document in respect to the agreement being about partnership and that there were misunderstandings created by the Māori and English versions; namely sovereignty vs governance. The NZGB does not accept that the Treaty made all people British, but what weight this view gives to objecting to the district name change is unclear.</li> </ul>
<b>Too many Māori names</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significance of Māori place names has been recognised in legislation including the NZGB Act 2008. Under Sections 11(e) and (f), the NZGB has a function to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names.</li> <li>In March 2009, from a sample of 10,500 official geographic names around 43 % were Māori names, however many are incorrectly spelled or assigned to the wrong feature. The majority of these names are not official, and only classified as 'recorded names', meaning names that appear on maps and charts.</li> <li>Whether spelled with or without the [h], Whanganui remains a Māori name. Citing this reason for objecting to the alteration of the name of the District does not hold weight.</li> </ul>
<b>Endonym transliteration/exonym</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exonym's are acceptable as a transcription of the originally spelled endonym taken from another place (usually another country with a different language, eg Roma, Rome). In this case, the word is from the same place and the language is the same language, so the application is not applicable.</li> </ul>
<b>Supports view of the (former) mayor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The views of the former Mayor related specifically to the naming of the city/town and not the district, therefore they may not be applicable to this proposal. However he did talk about the Whanganui spelling being used for the wider region.</li> <li>Michael Laws made his personal views known through the media and his Council submitted an objecting submission citing these summarised reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upholding democracy</li> <li>Common usage</li> <li>The community's choice</li> <li>Pronunciation</li> </ol> </li> <li>These quotes from Michael Laws refer: <p><i>"Given that there are two variants out there now, and that these two have existed, or co-existed beside each other peacefully for probably the last 160 years, then why would the New Zealand Geographic Board be required to choose one over the other? We're not asking it to."</i></p> <p><i>"I want to make it clear that the council's position is that Wanganui continues to be spelt without an H. That is the gist of our submission to the New Zealand Geographic Board."</i></p> <p><i>"I do observe that as a result of both the river and the region being spelt with an H a dual usage of both Wanganui and Whanganui has grown over the years. This dual usage has generally been accepted by the community."</i></p> <p><i>"It is not the council's intention to seek any compromise but rather to place before the New Zealand Geographic Board the reality of the present situation – an acceptance that both spellings have a currency and that one relates to the city and another to the river and region. It is certainly an option for the New Zealand Geographic Board to formally gazette dual spelling and then allow individuals and organisations to adopt the spelling that best suits them."</i></p> <p><i>"However the council's and the community's preferred option is to preserve the status quo."</i></p> </li> <li>These views are valid for the name of the city/town but are not specific to the district name proposal. Therefore the reason for this objection submission cannot be supported.</li> </ul>

Objectors' reasons summarised	Secretariat Comments
<b>Does not need to mean anything</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB has accepted the more traditional meaning of Whanganui being 'the long wait'. The view that place names need not mean anything is not shared by the NZGB. In fact the meaning provides certainty of the correct spelling.</li> </ul>
<b>No proof of land ownership by Māori settlers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Treaty of Waitangi ceded all of New Zealand to its indigenous inhabitants, after which Crown acquisition was documented through written Purchase Deeds and land that remained in Māori ownership was processed and documented by the later established Māori Land Court. Therefore proof of land ownership by Māori settlers is available through land records to the same degree that non- Māori land ownership was documented.</li> <li>This reason has no relevance and bearing on the spelling proposal for Whanganui District.</li> </ul>
<b>Brings bad luck and tragedy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NZGB recognises that many people and cultures hold superstitions around certain things such as name changes. This is certainly true for some Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory of Australia where when a person dies their name is not to be uttered again out of respect and as a cultural and ancestral tradition.</li> <li>While this is a valid reason for people who believe in such things, it is not a consideration of the NZGB and does not outweigh the NZGB's original reasons for agreeing to the change.</li> </ul>
<b>People will try to change the name of the City again</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a right that any person has.</li> <li>As the Minister for Land Information made the final decision to assign alternative names for the city/town, both 'Wanganui' and 'Whanganui' will continue to be official names and therefore either or both can be used now. There would be no reason for people to try to change the name of the city/town again.</li> <li>The use of alternative names does not specifically anticipate a transition from the use of one name to another, as both names are official.</li> </ul>

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## MEDIA

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- A Media Statement was released on 30 April 2015 advising that views would be sought.
- The Chairperson gave radio interviews with Newstalk ZB and Radio Waatea following that Media Statement.
- Another Media Statement was released on 28 May 2015 informing that public consultation was open for three months.
- Public notices of the proposal to alter Wanganui District to **Whanganui District** were published in the *Sunday Star Times* and *Wanganui Chronicle* after the public consultation period opened 28 May 2015.
- A significant number of newspapers featured articles on the proposal, which generated an immediate influx of submissions.
- A third Media Advisory was sent to all journalists on 29 July 2015 to advise that one month remained for public consultation.
- Following that Advisory, local papers again picked up the story, which again resulted in a considerable number of submissions received during the final month of consultation.
- Lastly, an opinion editorial was compiled on 31 July 2015, written by the Chairperson, and this was also picked up by journalists serving to widen the coverage and attract more submitters.
- Finally, a newspaper article that followed the release of the OIA (mentioned above) to the media, generated a final flush of submissions on the final deadline date for submissions, 28 August 2015.
- Media interest has remained very high throughout the three month notification period.
- It is likely that further media attention will follow should the NZGB reject

the submissions and request the Minister for Land Information to make the final determination as well as request the Minister to make a recommendation to the Governor General.

- A Media Release will be compiled with LINZ's Communications and tabled on the day of the NZGB meeting on 23 September 2015, for confirmation, depending on the decision by the NZGB.

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## NZSL<sup>2</sup>

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[New Zealand Sign Language Dictionary](#)



**Wanganui**  
*Whanganui*  
noun

- Both the 'official language' status of NZSL and New Zealand's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) provide a basis for the NZGB to recognise the existence and importance of geographic names as they are expressed in NZSL.
- Section 8 of the Frameworks document (v.7) refers.
- The NZGB may consider recommending that if the name becomes official that it is added to the dictionary.

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Proposal report – 29 April 2015
- 2a. Media Release – 30 April 2015
- 2b. Media Release – 28 May 2015  
Media Advisory – 28 July 2015
4. Opinion Editorial – 31 July 2015
5. Objecting submissions
6. Supporting submission
7. Objecting Submissions before notification period
8. Spreadsheet summarising all submission and categorising the objecting submissions – 28 May 2015 to 28 August 2015
9. Media Articles

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<sup>2</sup> NZSL – New Zealand Sign Language