



**Ngā Pou
Taunaha o
Aotearoa**

New Zealand
Geographic Board

Standard for Antarctic place names in New Zealand's area of interest

NZGBS60003

Publication date: 2 November 2020

Revised: August 2023

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Introduction

Te whenua e tūtū ai te hīnawanawa i te hōkiwai.

The land where gooseflesh prevails due to the extreme cold.

Under the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 (NZGBA) the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) assigns, alters, validates and discontinues official and recorded place names in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica¹. For names beyond this jurisdiction section 8(2) of the NZGBA may be applied.

This standard provides guidelines for making a place name proposal to ensure that naming features in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica is undertaken in a way that meets the provisions of the NZGBA and contributes to the NZGB's and international strategic goals.

It aims to provide proposers with a concise reference to guide them in meeting the minimum requirements for place name proposals, and to help the NZGB achieve quality and consistency in its decision making. The criteria are closely aligned to international best practice for standardised, consistent and accurate place naming.

Antarctic place names are important for identification, orientation, positioning and navigation, providing an essential reference system for logistical operations (including search and rescue), for management, and for international scientific research and tourism. They facilitate the exchange of information in the field, in scientific publications, and in administration of the Antarctic Treaty System. Place names also reflect the history of exploration of the continent.

The Antarctic Treaty of 1959 governs activities across the Antarctic continent and Southern Ocean. This unique agreement among claimant states and other countries commits them to using Antarctica for peaceful purposes only, sets aside the potential for disputes over territorial claims and focuses on scientific research and sharing findings with the rest of the world². To assist in managing the Antarctic Treaty System, New Zealand contributes to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA).

¹ The Ross Dependency is the area from 60° South between 160° East and 150° West, which was claimed by Britain and in 1923 a responsibility was ceded to New Zealand. It includes all islands and ice shelves within the Dependency, and the continental shelf of the Dependency.

² Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website accessed 31/08/2019: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/environment/antarctica/>

Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this standard these terms and definitions apply:

Term/Abbreviation	Definition
altered name	The name of a feature or place that has been changed and made official.
alternative name	One of two or more official names for the same feature or place. Alternative names may be used separately or together.
assigned name	The official name of a feature or place that did not previously have an official name. It may have had a recorded name or not had a name.
associated name	A feature or place with the same specific term as another feature or place, based their physical connection or proximity.
diacritic mark	A small mark placed above, below or across a letter, which changes the sound and/or meaning of a word.
dual name	Two names for a feature or place from different languages, usually Māori and English, used together as one name.
duplicated name	Features or places with either the same specific term or the same specific and generic term, which may be associated or in completely different locations.
generic term	The part of the name that describes the type of geographic feature or place.
geographic feature	As defined in section 4 of the NZGBA .
macron	A horizontal line over vowels in Māori words, for meaning and pronunciation.
NZGB	New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa ³ .
NZGBA	New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008.
official geographic name	As defined in section 4 of the NZGBA .
orthography	The conventions and rules of how to write a language.
place	As defined in section 4 of the NZGBA .
recorded name	As defined in section 4 of the NZGBA .
specific term	The part of the name that doesn't usually describe the type of geographic feature, unless it is part of a composite name.
validated name	As defined in section 4 of the NZGBA .

³ Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa means the memorial markers of the landscape

Further information

See the following for further information on place naming in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica:

- New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008:
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2008/0030/latest/DLM1065412.html>
- Frameworks of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa:
<https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/guide/frameworks-new-zealand-geographic-board-nga-pou-taunaha-o-aotearoa>
- NZGB Generic Terms policy:
<https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/guide/nzgb-generic-terms-policy>
- NZGB's 2018 statement on the use of macrons to standardise Māori place names:
See page 70 of the Frameworks document under the heading 'Recorded place names with updated orthography'
- Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information's *International Principles and Procedures for Antarctic Place Names*
- Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Feature Catalogue
- International Principles and Procedures for Antarctic Place Names

1. Criteria for place names

The NZGB will take into account these criteria when considering proposals to assign, alter, validate or discontinue official and recorded place names in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica.

1.1 Acceptable names

- (a) Surnames or ancestral names of past explorers, scientists, and other people, commemorating their discovery, exploration or achievement.
- (b) Surnames of living people commemorating their exceptional and significant contributions to Antarctic research or notable service in or to Antarctica.
- (c) Names relating to identity, culture, inclusive society, diversity, exploration, events, tradition, heritage or indigenous languages from the country of origin, where there is a significant connection.
- (d) Names that commemorate events.
- (e) Names relating to science and scientific work.
- (f) Names of ships, aircraft or vehicles operating in Antarctica that support collaborative science.
- (g) Names of flora and fauna associated with the feature.
- (h) Descriptive names that characterise shape, colour, composition, or other distinguishing features, provided that they are not too general and need to be explained.
- (i) Names that contribute to a theme in an area with an Antarctic connection.

1.2 Unacceptable names

- (a) Names that are derogatory, discriminatory, frivolous, offensive, or in poor taste.
- (b) Names of institutions, organisations, commercial entities, commercial products, contributors of funds, equipment and supplies or similar.
- (c) Names combining the first name **with** the surname or ancestral name may be considered on a case by case basis to avoid duplication. A first name only is not acceptable.
- (d) Names of people without a connection to Antarctica, or to a feature or place in Antarctica, unless they contribute to a pre-existing theme.
- (e) Names of pets.
- (f) Numbers, roman numerals, abbreviations, acronyms, or similar. The exception is the honorific 'Saint' which is abbreviated to 'St'.

- (g) Naming more than one feature for one person. Personal names must not be duplicated in other parts of Antarctica.
- (h) Names that use different words with the same meaning.
- (i) Where a feature has an existing official name or is named in the SCAR CGA, no additional name should be given.

1.3 Other considerations

- (a) Field parties' names.
- (b) Contemporary Māori names.
- (c) Gender balance.
- (d) Early recordings of newly emerged features.
- (e) Publication of a previous name for a feature.
- (f) Significance of the importance (event, science, discovery) of the feature.
- (g) Suitability of the generic term.
- (h) New names should be distinctive, preferably unique and unambiguous. Qualifying words, such as Upper, West and Right, or generic terms, may be used to distinguish between associated features with the same specific name.
- (i) Names in common use or long-term existing names should normally take precedence, if they conform to this standard.
- (j) Names may recognise the priority of discovery of the feature or place being named.
- (k) New names should be limited to those needed for science, logistics, management, navigation, and safety so as to preserve the pristine characteristics of the special Antarctic environment.
- (l) Long names are undesirable but may be acceptable when they impact emergency services, or the name is culturally, historically or linguistically important.
- (m) Minor features or places of low importance or physical significance should not be named.
- (n) A name that already exists in a neighbouring area or is already in use throughout Antarctica should be avoided except where the story/kōrero explains the unique heritage and meaning(s) of the name. This avoids confusion and makes it easier to identify the correct place in an emergency. However, a group of related/connected/associated features can have the same specific name because the generic term provides unique identification.

1.4 Generic terms

Refer to the NZGB's Generic Terms Policy which can be downloaded from:

<https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/guide/nzgb-generic-terms-policy>.

- (a) A generic term should accurately describe the type of feature being named.
- (b) A generic term can be English or Māori, but not both unless they have been in long term use together.
- (c) A Māori generic term should generally be commonly known. Some Māori place names include the generic term as part of the name, which is acceptable.
- (d) Generic terms should generally be selected from the SCAR Feature Catalogue.
- (e) A name may include a generic term from the language of the country that gave it. However, the generic term may be translated for practical purposes, and added to a name for identification and safety purposes.
- (f) Generic terms should distinguish different features that have the same specific name, especially when they are nearby.
- (g) Natural features should usually have a generic term included in their name.
- (h) Names for the exact same feature type should use the same generic term for consistency.
- (i) Generic terms must not be abbreviated for official names.

1.5 Orthographic standards

- (a) Names should conform to the conventions and rules of standard NZ English or te reo Māori. The NZGB may take into account historical spelling or long term local use.
- (b) The correct use of macrons, hyphens, etc on Māori place names is dependent on expert advice from a licensed translator. The orthographic conventions of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) should be followed. However, advice from relevant hapū or iwi associated with the name will be taken into account.
- (c) The addition of a macron alters the meaning of a Māori place name and standardises its written form.
- (d) The English possessive form should not be used. However, existing names with the possessive [s] that do not have the possessive apostrophe, have been in long term use and have low public value will not be altered.
- (e) Foreign language names must be Romanised and should be in the form of the country of origin, including diacritic marks, except where English equivalents are already established by common use.
- (f) Pronunciation is not a consideration, only the written form of place names.

1.6 Altered names

A name may be altered when:

- it is culturally inappropriate,
- the location of a feature or place is unclear,
- there are compelling reasons for safety,
- it corrects a significant error,
- it is confusing or ambiguous,
- it does not follow established long term local or common use,
- it standardises the orthography.

Any alteration should balance the cultural and historical significance of the name against long term use and the practical need for location identification.

1.7 Dual names

Dual names will not apply in Antarctica.

1.8 Alternative names

There should be one name for one place. Alternative names will not apply in Antarctica.

1.9 Consultation

- (a) National naming authorities are encouraged to consult with each other on proposals in areas of mutual interest before making decisions. The NZGB will consult with relevant international naming authorities who operate in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica. If no response is received within an agreed timeframe, it may be assumed there are no concerns and the proposal may proceed.
- (b) The consultation set out in the *Relationship Protocol* agreed between the NZGB and the United States Board on Geographic Names will be observed.

2. The process for naming places

To find out how to make a place name proposal in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica and the process the NZGB follows, see:

<https://www.linz.govt.nz/antarctic-names>

A flowchart of the process is attached in **Appendix A**.

Appendix A: The process for naming places in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica

