



**NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD NGĀ POU TAUNAHA O AOTEAROA  
Kaupapa for Māori Place Names**

The purpose of this Kaupapa is to provide for consultation with appropriate Māori groups by the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (the Board) on place name proposals.

**1) Background**

- i) The Board is a statutory body governed by the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 (the NZGB Act 2008). Its role is to make provision for the naming of places in New Zealand.
- ii) The Board has functions to collect and encourage the use of original Māori place names for recording on official maps and charts. To assist it and encourage Māori participation, the Board has developed this Kaupapa, which provides for a process of engaging with appropriate Māori. This process is consistent with the functions, duties and obligations of the Board under the NZGB Act 2008.
- iii) The Kaupapa does not change statutory rights of the public when the Board considers a place name. It provides an opportunity for Māori to be advised in advance, in recognition of their tangata whenua status over the land, and to have more time to gather information, consult and prepare a response to place name proposals.
- iv) Cabinet's intention, resulting from the review of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946, was for the Board to consult directly with Māori. In June 2005, Cabinet agreed that:
  - 'a) primary responsibility for iwi consultation on geographic names under Board jurisdiction be with the Board rather than as now with officials from Te Puni Kōkiri; and
  - b) the Board's existing *Protocol for Māori Place Names* be revised to take into account direct Board/iwi consultation and that an exchange of letters with Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāti Tama (providing they agree) record the change from direct Te Puni Kōkiri involvement with geographic names as intended in their Deeds of Settlement.'

**2) Minister's Accords**

The Minister for Land Information signed several Accords negotiated under Treaty of Waitangi Settlement Acts. The Accords provide for specific commitments to educate about the Board's processes, Board membership, and the Minister's final determination on place names in the Accord areas. The Board recognises these commitments in addition to the requirements of this Kaupapa, noting that they do not replace its consultation obligations with all appropriate Māori groups.

**3) Roles and Responsibilities**

- i) This Kaupapa shall apply to all place name proposals within the Board's jurisdiction (including beyond the 12NM territorial limit and Antarctica).
- ii) This Kaupapa includes all place name proposals the Board considers, but excludes Treaty settlement place name proposals.
- iii) The Board may seek advice from its Māori Names Committee when considering place name proposals under this Kaupapa.
- iv) Proposers are required to undertake their own consultation with mana whenua as set out in the Board's [Minimum Requirements](#) policy.

#### **4) Principles and Values**

- i) Original Māori place names to be given preference:
  - a) An original Māori place name<sup>1</sup>, where suitable, should be given preference.
  - b) Where the original Māori place name has been changed by publication or by local use, the original Māori place name should be restored in the correct form.
  - c) Where the choice lies between two or more traditional Māori place names each sanctioned by local use, the Board will consider all evidence and advice from mana whenua and decide on the place name that is most appropriate.
- ii) Retention of incorrect Māori place names:
  - a) Where an incorrect Māori place name has become established by local use over a long period of time, the Board may, at its discretion, retain the incorrect Māori place name.
  - b) When an incorrect Māori place name is accepted, the correct version and composite parts of the name, if known (to assist in pronunciation), are to be noted in the New Zealand Gazetteer of place names.
- iii) Depicting Māori place names:
  - a) As a general rule, Māori place names should use standard orthography as established by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission). This includes macrons, hyphens, formats, possessives, capitals, etc. The Board may consider shortened forms for publication where this is thought advisable.
- iv) Dual Māori place names:
  - a) The Board discourages dual Māori place names.
  - b) The convention is for just one of the place names to be a Māori name.
- v) Alternative Māori place names:
  - a) It is not uncommon for groups of Māori to have different place names for the same place or feature.
  - b) It is not the role of the Board to decide on behalf of one or other Māori group.
  - c) Where two place names are put forward, assigning both as alternative Māori place names may be considered.
- vi) Using official Māori place names:
  - a) Full and correct spelling of official place names must be used in accordance with section 32 of the NZGB Act 2008, unless provision is made for a shortened alternative form in the *Gazette Notice* or relevant statute, or where the proviso under section 32(2) of the NZGB Act 2008 is applied.
- vii) Other conventions:
  - a) Macrons, where applicable, are to be used for the publication of official Māori place names.
  - b) Double vowels are acceptable, when used in composite words, eg. Rāngaiika.
  - c) 'Ngā' should always be joined to the following name, except in the case of proper nouns.
  - d) 'Te' should be written wherever possible without the capital<sup>2</sup>.
  - e) Tribal prefixes, 'Ngā', 'Ngāi', and 'Ngāti' should be followed by capitalised proper names.
  - f) Some dialectical differences may affect spelling, for example, [ng] frequently appears as [k], Kāi instead of Ngāi, Waitaki instead of Waitangi in the Ngāi Tahu dialect.
  - g) Hyphens should not generally be used, unless conforming with the orthographic conventions of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission).
  - h) the possessive apostrophe is to be avoided.

<sup>1</sup> A traditional Māori place name that existed prior to European settlement

<sup>2</sup> Sometimes 'Te' introduces a name, for example, Te Paepae o Aotea, or it could be used in a name such as Kā Tiritiri o te Moana

## **5) Consultation by the Board with assistance from Te Puni Kōkiri**

The Board acknowledges that the regional network of Te Puni Kōkiri is the best means to identify appropriate Māori groups to consult with. Therefore the Board will continue to engage with appropriate Māori groups with assistance from Te Puni Kōkiri, but the Board may also, if necessary, follow up with direct consultation through its members or the Secretariat. To that end, the Board has established its own guidelines for '[Consulting with Māori when making a place name proposal](#)'. The Board also signed a 'Relationship Protocol' with Te Puni Kōkiri on 30 April 2010, updated on 8 April 2015.

The Board shall undertake this consultation procedure:

- i) On receipt of a place name proposal (not within the rohe of Ngāi Tahu<sup>3</sup>), the Secretariat will invite Te Puni Kōkiri to consult with appropriate Māori groups. By providing the details of the proposal to the appropriate Māori groups in advance of the Board's consideration, sufficient time (at least one month) is given for the necessary internal consultation to occur within those groups.
- ii) The Board will consider feedback from any Māori group(s).
- iii) Where, after consideration of a place name proposal, the Board decides that the proposal should be declined, accepted, or deferred, the Secretariat will convey the decision in writing to the proposer and to those Māori groups whose comments Te Puni Kōkiri, the Board or the Secretariat sought. If deferred, the Board may consult directly, either in writing or face to face with Māori groups.
- iv) If the proposal is accepted, Māori groups will be advised at least one month prior to public notification seeking submissions.
- v) The public notification period will have particular regard for the ability of the Māori groups to consider and respond to the proposal within the consultation period.

## **6) Commitments**

- i) The Kaupapa is consistent with the principles of the Board's commitment to engage with Māori as a Treaty partner.
- ii) The Kaupapa is consistent with and subject to the powers, duties and obligations of the Board within its current legislative and policy framework, and represents the Board's firm commitment to encourage original Māori place names and dialogue with appropriate Māori groups.
- iii) The Kaupapa does not detract from any existing rights of a Treaty claimant group, or conflict with the Board's duties to other Māori groups or representatives of tangata whenua, or the general public of New Zealand.
- iv) The Board can vary or cancel the Kaupapa. The Board shall advise appropriate Māori groups, including Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāti Tama as a requirement of their respective Deeds of Settlement.

## **7) Authorisation**

Authorised by the Chairperson of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa:

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Mark Dyer

12 / 04 / 2018

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<sup>3</sup> Ngāi Tahu has a member on the Board to ensure consultation occurs with appropriate Ngāi Tahu Rūnaka.