

NOTE | KIA MAHARA:

All information recorded in these minutes relating to Treaty of Waitangi settlement place name proposals is confidential and not available to the public. Some of the information may become available after Deeds of Settlement are signed.

6.2 Kororāreka

The Board noted the information and report provided (Objective ID A5295017). There are a significant number of submissions, with a similar number for and against the proposal. Most submissions had been made at the beginning of the public notification period and via the online form. Like other controversial proposals, the categories of the submissions are very similar. For this proposal there had been a few very abusive submissions, which was difficult for the Secretariat to read and process. The Chairperson had made a decision to remove two objecting submissions with abusive content from consideration.

The Secretariat is working through a process to filter out submissions that contain abusive and/or offensive content, so that the Secretariat and Board don't have to deal with them in future, but there is always the danger that genuine submissions would inadvertently be rejected. The Board wondered if it should send the names of abusive submitters to a watchlist and noted that is something that Toitū Te Whenua LINZ Legal Team is discussing with other government agencies. One of the ways of dealing with the issue from a legal perspective is to have terms and conditions of acceptance on the Board's submissions' webpages. The Board agreed that it has zero tolerance of abusive and/or offensive submissions and they shouldn't be counted in submission numbers or be considered even if they have other legitimate points to make. The Board agreed that it should take advantage of any broader government solution rather than suggest its own solution and requested that the Secretary report back on any across-government initiatives for dealing with offensive submissions.

Both Russell and Kororāreka have a unique place in New Zealand's history and both names are well known to many New Zealanders. Although a substantial number of submitters object to an outright change, quite a number support alternative or dual names. This indicates that they don't want Russell dropped but also support Kororāreka being restored and demonstrates fairly strong support for Kororāreka to be recognised somehow. The option of having Kororāreka and Russell as alternative official names would allow both names to be used in much the same way that the Board had done for the North Island and South Island – Te Ika-a-Māui and Te Waipounamu. This may also provide for a natural transition to the original Māori name over time, although this could not be guaranteed. It would also address Whangarei District Council's concerns about the cost of transitioning.

[s 9(2)(g)(i)]

[s 9(2)(g)(i)]

The Minister for Land Information will be required to make the final determination, but there is no set timeframe for that decision. [s 9(2)(g)(i)]

[s 9(2)(g)(i)]

Resolution

[s 9(2)(g)(i)]

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

Moved Shane Te Ruki

Seconded Jenni Vernon

All in favour

Carried

Actions required

- Secretary to report back to the Board on any across-government initiatives that deal with offensive submissions.
- Secretariat to report the Board's decision/recommendation to the Minister for Land Information.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982