

BRF 24-424 Decision on naming Meyer Pass and Meyer Creek

Ki / To: Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information

Rā / Date: 17 June 2024

Ngā mahi matua kia mahia/key actions required

Minita/Minister	Key actions required:	Deadline when this action should be completed by
Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information	Confirm the decision of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa to assign Meyer Pass and alter Meyers Creek to Meyer Creek, near Kurow, south Canterbury	There is no deadline for your decision

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand Whakapā/contacts

Ingoa/Name	Tūnga/Position	Nama waea/ Contact number	Whakapā tuatahi/first contact
Anselm Haanen	Board Chairperson	04 4600376 or 027 249 5901	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wendy Shaw	Board Secretary	04 4600581 or 027 4807082	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ngā kōrero a te Minita/Minister's comments

THANKS.

Pūtake/Purpose

To seek your final determinations on assigning Meyer Pass as an official place name, and for consistency to alter the associated Meyers Creek to Meyer Creek.

Pānui whāinga/Key messages

- 1 The original proposal from a member of the public sought to assign just Meyers Pass because it is locally used and signposted but not shown on maps.
- 2 Instead, the Board agreed to assign Meyer Pass to avoid the possessive [s], making it clear that the family name is Meyer and not Meyers. The Board also included making the other associated place names official for consistency: Meyer (hill) and altering Meyers Creek to Meyer Creek.
- 3 Meyers Pass is signposted at both ends of Meyers Pass Road¹ and has been in long term local use. It was named for Herbert Meyer (1830-1903) who established Station Peak station in 1855, running it with his brother Charles Meyer (1833-1878) until 1869.
- 4 During public notification the Board received four submissions objecting to Meyer Pass and one objecting to Meyer Creek. The submitters were all in favour of 'Meyers' with the possessive [s] based on long term use. They considered changing the names to be a waste of time and money. One submitter considered 'Meyers' to be for the Meyer brothers, plural.
- 5 The Board rejected these objecting submissions as it did not consider the reasons provided to outweigh its reasons for accepting the proposals.
- 6 As the Board did not receive any submissions for Meyer (hill) it is able to make the final determination on that name. However, it will not do so until it receives your final determinations on the names for the pass and creek.

¹ The Board does not have naming jurisdiction over streets and roads

Tohutohu/Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **whakamana/confirm** the decisions of the Board to assign Meyer Pass and alter Meyers Creek to Meyer Creek, as official place names.
- 2 **manatu/note** that if you reject the Board's decisions your determinations on the proposals are final. Meyers Pass will remain an unofficial name in local use and Meyers Creek will remain as an unofficial place name.
- 3 **manatu/note** that a third associated name, Meyer (hill) did not receive any objecting submissions. The Board will make its final decision on it after you have made your final determinations on the above proposals, based on consistency.
- 4 **whakamana/confirm** whether you or the Board will issue a media release on your final decisions. LINZ will work with your office on the content of the media release.

Yes / No /
Different decision

Noted

Noted

Board/
Minister



Anselm Haanen

**Chairperson, New Zealand Geographic
Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa**

Rā/date: 14 June 2024



Hon Chris Penk

**Te Minita mō Toitū te Whenua/
Minister for Land Information**

Rā/Date: 27.6.2024

Tāpiritanga/Attachments

Provided at the end of this report:

Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

Electronically available via Objective Connect:

- 1 Proposal for Meyers Pass from **s.9(2)(a)** received on 1 January 2023
- 2 *Proposal Report* that the Board considered at its 22 June 2023 hui
- 3 *Submissions Report* summarising the submissions that the Board considered at its 30 April 2024 hui
- 4 Spreadsheet of submissions received online for Meyer Pass
- 5 Spreadsheet of submissions received online for Meyer Creek
- 6 The Board's media advisory in te reo Māori and English distributed on 26 September 2023
- 7 Facebook post 25 September 2023
- 8 Facebook post 24 October 2023

Te Horopaki/Background

- 1 In January 2023 the Board received a proposal from **s.9(2)(a)** to officially name Meyers Pass. In his efforts to photograph and cross every named pass in New Zealand, he noted what he considered to be inconsistencies when features are named on the ground but not recognised in the New Zealand Gazetteer or named on official maps. See **Attachment 1** for the proposal.
- 2 Many names in local use have never been made official nor meet statutory criteria to be added to the Gazetteer as unofficial place names. Local use names may be well known, in long term use, be for relatively prominent geographic features, and even named on signage on the ground.
- 3 Meyers Pass is one such local use name. The pass is at the northeast corner of the original Station Peak station managed by the Meyer brothers in the mid-19th century. There is evidence of long term use of Meyers Pass in local histories, newspapers, and in the name, Meyers Pass Road. The pass is itself signposted from both ends of the road.

The Board's decision on the proposal

- 4 See **Attachment 2** for the *Proposal Report* the Board considered at its 22 June 2023 hui.
- 5 At that hui the Board declined the original proposal for Meyers Pass because using the possessive [s] did not meet the good practice criteria in the Standard for New Zealand place names.
- 6 Noting that Meyer is the correct family name, the Board instead decided to proceed with a proposal to assign Meyer Pass as official, based on
 - Evidence of local use, particularly Meyers Pass Road and Meyers Pass being already signposted at either end of the road, and being named in newspapers, local history books, online, etc notwithstanding the use of the possessive [s] (whether Meyers or Meyer's).
 - Recognising the association of Herbert Meyer and his family with the area.
 - Dropping the possessive [s] making it clear that the feature is named for Meyer, not Meyers, noting different families with both spellings lived in the area.
 - Officially naming the pass being useful for identification to emergency services.
- 7 For consistency, the Board proposed altering the associated Meyers Creek to Meyer Creek, for the stream flowing east from the pass to Waihao River South Branch. The Board also proposed approving the unofficial recorded name Meyer (hill) as official. This hill near the Station Peak homestead is already spelled without the possessive [s].
- 8 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) advised that it did not know of an original Māori name for the pass, and on 15 September 2023 advised further that Te Rūnanga o Waihao had no issue with the proposals proceeding.

Mātanga kōrero/Consultation

- 9 The Board publicly notified the proposals between 26 September 2023 and 31 October 2023.
- 10 The proposals received four submissions objecting to Meyer Pass and one objecting to Meyer Creek. The submitters were from Timaru, Waimate and Geraldine – relatively local.
- 11 At its hui on 30 April 2024 the Board considered all submissions on the proposals. See **Attachment 3** for the *Submissions Report* that the Board considered at its 30 April 2024 hui. The five submissions across the two proposals are in **Attachments 4-5**.
- 12 All five objections supported using 'Meyers' with the [s] based on its long term use. They considered changing the names to be a waste of time and money. One submitter noted their personal connections to the existing names and considered Meyers to be for the Meyer brothers, plural, rather than reflecting the possessive 'Meyer's'.
- 13 The Board did not receive any submissions for Meyer (hill).

Ngā tatūnga o te poari/The Board's decision

- 14 At its hui on 30 April 2024 the Board rejected the objecting submissions as it did not consider the reasons in the submissions outweighed its original reasons for making the proposals.
- 15 Because the Board did not uphold the objections you must now make the final determinations for Meyer Pass and Meyer Creek as required by section 20(1) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.
- 16 Because the Board received no submissions Meyer (hill) it will make the final determination for this name as required by section 19(1)(a) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008. However, the Board's decision depends on your final determinations for the other two associated names.

Hunga pāpāho/Media

- 17 See **Attachments 6-8** for the Board's media advisory and social media posts.
- 18 There does not appear to have been any media coverage of the proposals.

Ngā Tāwhaitanga/Next Steps

- 19 Once you make your final determinations on the proposals, they will be notified as required by the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.

Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

