

## BRF 24-425 Decision on altering Manawatu District to Manawatū District

**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	<b>Confirm</b> the decision of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa to alter a local authority district name from Manawatu District to Manawatū District.  <b>and</b> <b>Agree to recommend</b> to the Governor-General to make an Order in Council to amend the name of the relevant local authority to give effect to the alteration.	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

## Pūtake/Purpose

To seek your final determination on altering Manawatu District to Manawātū District as the official name for the local authority district.

To request that you then recommend to the Governor-General to make an Order in Council under section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002 to amend the name of the relevant local authority in Schedule 2 of that Act, thereby giving effect to the alteration.

## Pānui whāinga/Key messages

- 1 Manawatu District Council resolved to change its district name by adding a macron (Manawātū). If changed, the name of the council will consequentially change.
- 2 The process to alter the name of a local authority district or region is prescribed in the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008 and the Local Government Act 2002.
- 3 The council's proposal is widely supported by iwi/hapū/marae organisations, all adjoining councils, other councils within the region and Manawātū-Whanganui Regional Council.
- 4 Altering to Manawātū District will make it consistent with Manawātū-Whanganui Region, which was altered in 2019, and its namesake Manawātū River which was standardised with the macron in 2020.
- 5 During public notification the Board received 72 submissions supporting the proposal and 14 objecting submissions.
- 6 The Board rejected the 14 objecting submissions as it did not consider the reasons provided to outweigh its reasons for proposing the change.
- 7 Before any final determination can be notified as official, the Governor-General must make an Order in Council to change the name of the local council in Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 2002. The Order in Council requires a delayed effective date, to provide time for the Board to also notify the district name.

## Tohutohu/Recommendations

### It is recommended that you:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | <b>whakamana/confirm</b> the Board's decision to accept the proposal to alter Manawatu District to Manawatū District.   | Yes / No   |
| 2 | <b>whaikupu/recommend</b> to the Governor-General to make an <b>Order in Council</b> under section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002 to amend the name of Manawatu District Council in Schedule 2 of that Act to give effect to the alteration.                    | <i>Recommend to the Governor-General to make an Order in Council</i> |
| 3 | <b>manatu/note</b> if you reject the Board's decision your determination on the proposal is final. Manawatu District will continue to be the official name of the district and the local authority will not legally be able to call itself Manawatū District Council. | <i>Noted</i>   |



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Anselm Haanen

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

Rā/date: 17 June 2024

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Hon Chris Penk

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

Rā/Date:

## Tāpiritanga/Attachments

### Provided at the end of this report:

Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

### Electronically available via Objective Connect:

- 1 Proposal from Manawatu District Council received on 24 July 2023
- 2 *Proposal Report* that the Board considered at its 3 October 2023 hui
- 3 *Submissions Report* summarising the submissions that the Board considered at its 30 April 2024 hui
- 4 Spreadsheet summarising all submissions received online or by email for the Manawatū District proposal
- 5 Spreadsheet of submissions received online
- 6 Supporting submissions received by email
- 7 Objecting submission received by email
- 8 Facebook post [8 November 2023](#)
- 9 Facebook post [6 December 2023](#)

## Te Horopaki/Background

- 1 Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that a district council be described by the name of the district it administers.
- 2 In July 2023 the Board received a proposal from Manawatu District Council to alter the name of its local authority district from Manawatu District to Manawatū District. See **Attachment 1** for the proposal.
- 3 This proposal follows Manawatu-Wanganui Region being altered to Manawatū-Whanganui Region in 2020 [BRF 19-387]. Manawatu District Council supported this earlier proposal, noting that it would need to eventually follow suit for consistency.
- 4 s.9(2)(h)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

### The Board's decision on the proposal

- 5 At its 3 October 2023 hui, the Board accepted the proposal and agreed to publicly notify it for one month (See **Attachment 2** for the *Proposal Report*) based on
  - The resolution of Manawatu District Council to alter its district name.
  - The Board meeting its statutory duty and function to '*enable certain administrative needs of government to be met*'.
  - Manawatū being the correct standardised orthography as previously advised by an expert licensed translator.
  - Consistency with Manawatū-Whanganui Region and the district's namesake Manawatū River.
  - Evidence of support from several marae and several iwi and hapū groups.
  - Evidence of support from six territorial authorities and the relevant regional council.

## Mātanga kōrero/Consultation

- 6 The Board publicly notified the proposal between 7 November 2023 and 12 December 2023.
- 7 The proposal received 72 supporting submissions and 14 objecting submissions. ~72% of all submissions were from residents of Manawatu District and/or Manawatū-Whanganui Region.
- 8 At its hui on 30 April 2024 the Board considered the submissions. See **Attachment 3** for the *Submissions Report* that the Board considered. See **Attachment 4** for a collation of the submissions and **Attachments 5-7** for the original submissions.
- 9 The reasons provided in the supporting submissions generally aligned with the reasons why the Board had initially accepted the proposal. They agreed with the correction and considered that the macron would aid pronunciation, show respect and be consistent with the other Manawatū place names.

- 10 The reasons provided in the objecting submissions to the proposal were summarised by grouping them into themes
- Waste of money, citing the cost of signage, higher priorities.
  - Pointless change, macrons aren't necessary, nothing is actually changing, nobody understand macrons.
  - Māori make things up as we go along (eg spelling/orthography). Proposal is catering to minorities. It's woke.
  - People should be able to use the name with and without the macrons, as alternative names. Making the exonym and endonym argument (Manawatu in English, Manawatū in Māori)<sup>1</sup>.
  - Long term use of the existing name.
  - Adding diacritic marks to Māori names is cultural appropriation.

## Ngā tatūnga o te poari/The Board's decision

- 11 At its 30 April 2024 hui the Board rejected the 14 objecting submissions as it did not consider their reasons for objecting to outweigh its original reasons for accepting the proposal. The Board agreed that the reasons in the supporting submissions confirmed its initial decision.
- 12 Because the Board did not uphold the objections you must now make the final determination as required by section 20(1) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.

## Hunga pāpāho/Media

- 13 In April 2023 there was media coverage of Manawatu District Council's resolution in favour of standardising its name. However, there does not appear to have been any media coverage of the proposal during the consultation period.
- 14 See **Attachments 8-9** for the Board's Facebook posts during consultation.

## Ngā Tāwhaitanga/Next Steps

- 15 If your final determination is to **confirm** the Board's decision, to give effect to the alteration the Board requests that you **agree** to **recommend** to the Governor-General to make an Order in Council under section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002 to amend the name of Manawatu District Council in Schedule 2 of that Act.
- 16 The Board will then request LINZ to provide Parliamentary Council Office with drafting instructions for the Order in Council.
- 17 Once the Order in Council is drafted, LINZ will prepare a LEG paper and a briefing request your approval. The LEG paper will provide a draft Ministerial press release and messaging.

<sup>1</sup> Another example: Rome is the exonym in English and Roma is the Italian endonym.



## Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

