

BRF 25-141 Decision on altering Rangitikei District to Rangitikei District

Ki / To:	Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information	Rā / Date:	27 November 2024
Priority Level	Priority: Low	Action required by	No deadline

Purpose

To seek your final determination on altering a local authority district name from Rangitikei District to Rangitikei District and your agreement to recommend this change through an Order in Council.

New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa Whakapā/contacts

Ingoa/Name	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 027 480 7082	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ngā kōrero a te Minita/Minister's comments

No.

Key messages

- Rangitikei District Council resolved to change its district name by adding a macron (Rangitikei). If changed, the name of the council will consequentially change.
- Even though this is a minor change, it must go through the process prescribed in the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008 and the Local Government Act 2002.
- The council's proposal is supported by mana whenua, Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council and two adjoining councils (Manawatū District and Hastings District).
- The Board accepted the council proposal which was publicly notified between 6 June 2024 and 11 July 2024.
- The Board received 95 submissions supporting the proposal and 37 objecting submissions.
- At its 15 October 2024 hui, the Board rejected the 37 objecting submissions as it did not consider the reasons provided to outweigh its reasons for accepting the proposed change.
- Because the Board did not uphold the objections you must now make the final determination¹.

¹ As required by section 20(1) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008

Tohutohu/Recommendations

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa recommends that you:			Deadline
1. Me whakakoia/Confirm	the Board's decision to accept the proposal to alter Rangitikei District to Rangitikei District.	Agree / <u>Disagree</u>	No deadline
2. Me whaikupu/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 Rangitikei District Council in Schedule 2 of that Act to give effect to the alteration.	Agree / <u>Disagree</u>	No deadline
3. Me mātai/Note	if you reject the Board's decision your determination on the proposal is final. Rangitikei District will continue to be the official name of the district and the local authority will not legally be able to call itself Rangitikei District Council.	<u>Noted</u>	No deadline



Anselm Haanen

Chairperson, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Rā/Date: 27 November 2024



Hon Chris Penk

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

Rā/Date: 3.12.2024.

Te Horopaki/Background

1. In March 2024 the Board received a proposal from Rangitikei District Council to alter the name of its local authority district from Rangitikei District to Rangitikei District. See **Attachment 1** for the proposal. Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that a district council be described by the name of the district it administers.
2. s.9(2)(h)
[REDACTED]

The Board's decision on the proposal

3. At its 30 April 2024 hui, the Board accepted the proposal (see **Attachment 2**) based on:
 - the resolution of Rangitikei 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'
 - Rangitikei being the correct standardised orthography
 - consistency with the district's official namesake Rangitikei River
 - support from iwi/hapū/marae
 - support from Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council, Hastings District Council and Manawatu District Council (see **Attachment 3**).

Mātanga kōrero/Consultation

4. The Board publicly notified the proposal between 6 June 2024 and 11 July 2024.
5. The proposal received 95 supporting submissions and 37 objecting submissions.
6. At its hui on 15 October 2024 the Board considered the submissions. See **Attachments 4-9**.
7. The reasons provided in the supporting submissions generally aligned with the reasons the Board had initially accepted the proposal. Submitters felt that adding the macron would aid pronunciation.
8. The main reasons provided in the objecting submissions were:
 - waste of time and money
 - anti-Māori sentiments (divisive, racist, pandering to a minority)
 - long term use of Rangitikei District. Change is unnecessary. The Board is trying to rewrite history
 - that the consultation process is ineffective, insufficient, or biased. Appeals to a silent majority that oppose the proposal
 - confusion (location identification, safety, practical, tourism).

Ngā tatūnga o te poari/The Board's decision

9. The Board rejected the 37 objecting submissions as it did not consider their reasons outweighed its original reasons for accepting the proposal. The Board agreed with the reasons in the supporting submissions and confirmed its initial decision.
10. 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

11. There was some media coverage of the proposal at the start of the public consultation period in June 2024. See **Attachment 10**.
12. See **Attachments 11-13** for Board's bilingual media advisory on the proposal and Facebook posts during consultation.

Ngā Tāwhaitanga/Next Steps and angawā/timeframes

13. 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 Rangitikei District Council in Schedule 2 of that Act.
14. The Board will then request Toitū Te Whenua LINZ to provide Parliamentary Council Office with drafting instructions for the Order in Council.
15. Once the Order in Council is drafted, Toitū Te Whenua LINZ will prepare a LEG paper and a briefing requesting your approval. The LEG paper will suggest Ministerial media communication messaging.

Tāpiritanga/Attachments

Document number	Name of attachment
1.	Proposal from Rangitikei District Council received on 4 March 2024
2.	Proposal Report that the Board considered at its 30 April 2024 hui
3.	Letters of support from Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council, Hastings District Council, and Manawatu District Council tabled at 30 April 2024 hui
4.	Submissions Report summarising the submissions that the Board considered at its 15 October 2024 hui
5.	Spreadsheet summarising all submissions received online or by email
6.	Spreadsheet of submissions received online
7.	Supporting submissions received by email

8.	Objecting submission received by email
9.	Submissions received during notification period which did not specify which proposal they related to
10.	Media articles
11.	<u>The Board's bilingual media advisory issued on 6 June 2024</u>
12.	<u>Facebook post 5 June 2024</u>
13.	<u>Facebook post 2 July 2024</u>

Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

