

BRF 25-136 Decision on altering Abbots Creek to Abbots Creek

Ki / To:	Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information	Rā / Date:	3 December 2024
Priority Level	Priority: Low	Action required by	No deadline

Purpose

To seek your final determination on altering the official place name Abbots Creek to Abbots Creek.

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 4807082	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ngā kōrero a te Minita/Minister's comments

Key messages

- The proposal, from a member of the public, sought to correct the spelling of Abbots Creek to Abbotts Creek. The creek is named for William Abbott (1784-1877) who settled in the Featherston area around 1863.
- The Board accepted the proposal which was publicly notified between 6 June and 11 July 2024. The Board received 15 submissions supporting the proposal and 16 objecting submissions.
- At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board rejected the 16 objecting submissions as it did not consider the reasons provided to outweigh its reasons for accepting the proposed change.
- Because the Board didn't uphold the objections you must now make the final determination on the proposal¹.

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 alter Abbots Creek to Abbots Creek.	Yes / No	No deadline
2.	Me mātai/Note	that if you don't agree with the Board's decision the creek's official name will continue to be Abbots Creek.	Noted	No deadline
3.	Me whakakoia/Confirm	whether you or the Board will publicly announce your final decision. LINZ will work with your office on the content.	Board / Minister	No deadline



Anselm Haanen
Chairperson, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Rā/Date: 29 Nov 2024

Hon Chris Penk
Te Minita mō Toitū Te Whenua Minister for Land Information

Rā/Date:

Te Horopaki/Background

1. In July 2022, the Board received a proposal from s.9(2)(a) to alter the spelling of the official place name Abbots Creek to Abbotts Creek. See **Attachment 1** for the proposal.
2. This feature is named for William Abbott (1784-1877), a Featherston hotel proprietor who settled in the area around 1863. A number of Abbott descendants submitted in support of the proposal, noting the importance of correcting the spelling of their family name.

The Board's decision on the proposal

3. At its 30 April 2024 hui, the Board accepted the proposal (see **Attachment 2** for the *Proposal Report*) based on these key reasons:
 - a principal function of the Board being to correct the spelling of geographic names
 - evidence that the feature is named for William Abbott, noting his association with the area
 - the feature being relatively large and following a well-used portion of SH2, and so warrants being correctly spelled.

Mātanga kōrero/Consultation

4. The Board publicly notified the proposal between 6 June and 11 July 2024.
5. The proposal received 15 supporting submissions and 16 objecting submissions.
6. At its hui on 15 October 2024 the Board considered the 31 submissions. See *Submission Report* in **Attachment 3**.
7. The supporting submissions note the importance of correcting the spelling of the Abbott family name. Eleven of the supporting submissions are from members of the Abbott family.
8. There was an even spread of submitters for and against the proposal, both locally in the Wairarapa and across New Zealand.
9. The main reasons provided in the 16 objecting submissions were:
 - waste of time and money
 - consultation process (ineffective, insufficient, biased) – insufficient consultation with mana whenua
 - alternative proposals for: Torohunga Creek, Torohunga Creek / Abbotts Creek, Torohunga Creek and Otairua Stream.

10. Subsequently the Board made enquiries with mana whenua. Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust advised they'd been unable to confirm the original Māori name of this creek and queried the validity of 'Torohonga'. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-a-Rua Settlement Trust have not responded. Through its own research the Board was unable to confirm if either of the alternative Māori names applied to this creek.

Ngā tatūnga o te poari/The Board's decision

11. At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board rejected the 16 objecting submissions as it did not consider the reasons in the submissions outweighed its original reasons for accepting the proposal, and there was insufficient information to support the suggested alternative names.
12. The Board agreed that the reasons in the supporting submissions confirmed its initial decision.
13. Because the Board didn't uphold the objections you must now make the final determination for Abbots Creek as required by section 20(1) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.

Hunga pāpāho/Media

14. There does not appear to have been any media coverage of the proposal.

Ngā Tāwhaitanga/Next Steps

15. If you agree with the Board's decision to alter Abbots Creek to Abbots Creek, it will be notified as required by the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008.
16. If you don't agree with the Board's decision, then Abbots Creek will remain the official place name.

Tāpiritanga/Attachments

Document number	Name of attachment	Objective Connect Link (if applicable)
1.	Proposal for Abbots Creek from s.9(2)(a) received on 22 July 2022	
2.	<i>Proposal Report</i> that the Board considered at its 30 April 2024 hui	
3.	<i>Submissions Report</i> summarising the submissions that the Board considered at its 15 October 2024 hui	

Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

