

# New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

## The memorial markers of the landscape

The New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB) is New Zealand’s national place naming authority, responsible for official place names.

We run a public process to decide what places should be called—recognising the relationship we have with the land and its connection with our identity.

### The New Zealand Geographic Board:

- has a responsibility to safeguard the geographic naming traditions, culture and heritage brought to New Zealand by its various communities;
- ensures its geographic naming work contributes to a geographic information system that provides economic, cultural, and social value to all New Zealanders;
- is steward (kaitiaki) and custodian of New Zealand’s official geographic names;
- is principal adviser to the New Zealand government on geographic names (official and unofficial)—especially to Land Information New Zealand, the Office of Treaty Settlements and the Department of Conservation;
- consults with New Zealanders to take account of their views in its decision making;
- ensures its decision making and advisory capabilities are deployed where they can most benefit the longer term interests of New Zealand;
- ensures its decision making is independent and based on robust processes



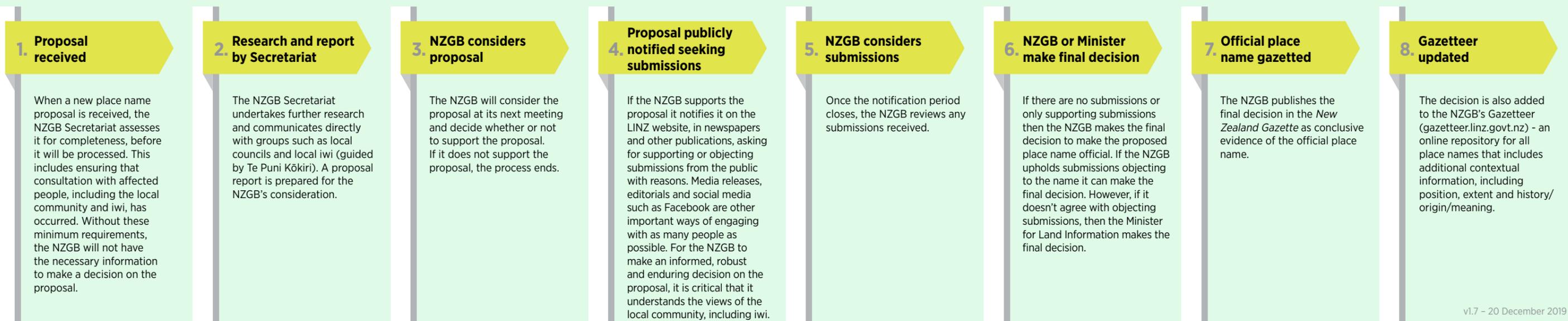
### Why are geographic names important to New Zealanders?

- There are long term benefits to the nation—practical, administrative, social, cultural and historical—including national or cultural identity
- A geographic name is a fundamental part of address, along with road name and property number. Therefore, unique and usable geographic names form a key purpose to locate people and property, contributing to efficient government administration and linking data for a wide range of public and private purposes

### Why have official place names?

- To provide practical, unambiguous, fundamental and unique location identification and navigation for the physical landscape we live in
- To recognise heritage and culture – to give a sense of place
- To provide a reliable and authoritative source for standardised, consistent and accurate names
- To demonstrate New Zealand’s jurisdictional interests
- To provide a fundamental data theme for geospatial data layers
- To ensure consistency in the use of place names
- To identify where we are as we go about our everyday business – they are a component of our infrastructure, and most importantly they matter in emergency responses
- To ensure that important names are preserved and restored

### What is the standard proposal process?

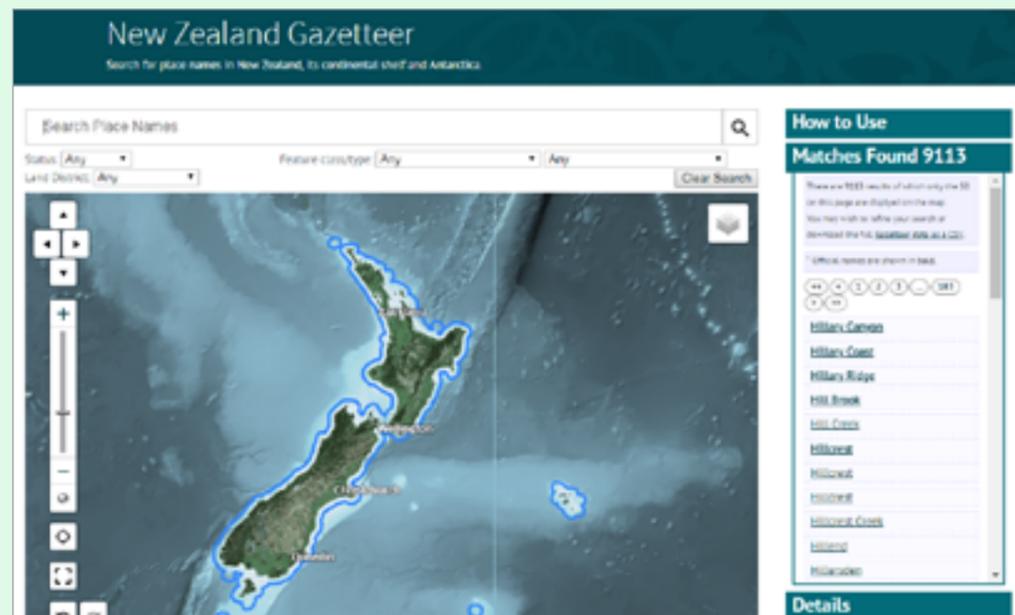


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## What does the NZGB name?

- Places where people live, such as suburbs, town, localities and cities
- Physical geographic features of the landscape, whether natural or man-made
- Historic places where events occurred
- Undersea features on New Zealand's continental shelf
- Antarctic features in the Ross Dependency
- Crown protected areas (Department of Conservation reserves). If the NZGB does not concur then the Minister of Conservation makes the final decision
- Territorial Authority districts and regions



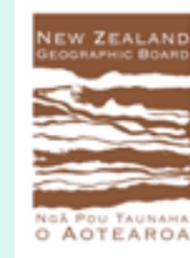
The New Zealand Gazetteer app

## What does the Minister for Land Information need to do?

- Make final decisions on place name proposals when they're referred by the NZGB
- Receive the NZGB's Annual Report for tabling in the House
- Be the media spokesperson for controversial place name decisions
- Get advice from the NZGB on matters to do with official place names
- For local authority District and Region name alterations, recommend to the Governor General to amend the name of the relevant local authority to give effect to the alteration
- Appoint eight of the ten NZGB members:
  - four nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, New Zealand Geographical Society Inc, Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc and Local Government New Zealand
  - two recommended by the Minister for Māori Development

## Other Ministers who decide official place names:

- Minister of Conservation for Crown protected area names
- Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations for Treaty names



## The NZGB

### Anselm Haanen

Chairperson, Surveyor-General, ex-officio

### Adam Greenland

National Hydrographer, Land Information New Zealand, ex-officio

### Paulette Tamati-Elliffe

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu\*

### Mike Roche

Nominated by New Zealand Geographical Society Inc\*

### David Barnes

Nominated by Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc\*

### Adrienne Staples

Nominated by Local Government New Zealand\*

### Matanuku Mahuika

Recommended by Minister for Māori Development\*

### Riki Gage

Recommended by Minister for Māori Development\*

### Merata Kawharu

Appointed by Minister for Land Information\*

### Jenni Vernon

Appointed by Minister for Land Information\*

\* Appointed for three years from September 2016

## The Secretariat

### Wendy Shaw

Secretary, Land Information New Zealand

### Ginny Leggett

Senior Advisor – Treaty Names, Land Information New Zealand

### Jill Remnant

Advisor, Land Information New Zealand

### Christopher Stephens

Advisor, Land Information New Zealand

(the Secretariat researches, liaises, consults and advises)

## NZGB Committees

### Undersea Feature Names Committee

### Antarctic Names Committee

### Māori Names Committee

## What is the Treaty Names process?

### 1. Proposal received

The Office of Treaty Settlements gathers the required information from the claimant group and submits the Treaty name proposal to the NZGB. The story associated with the name is essential to determine correct orthography.

### 2. Review

The Office of Treaty Settlements is advised of any immediate concerns.

### 3. Research

The NZGB Secretariat researches the history of any existing place names.

### 4. NZGB consideration

NZGB recommendations are made to the Office of Treaty Settlements.

### 5. Final decision

The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations makes the final decisions on name changes and restored names included in a list in the Deed Settlement. Settlement legislation is enacted making them official.

### 6. Post settlement

Official Treaty names are published in the *New Zealand Gazette* and newspapers. They are also added to the NZGB's Gazetteer. Treaty names are protected from future changes.