



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 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, Te Arawhiti (the Office for Māori Crown Relations) 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



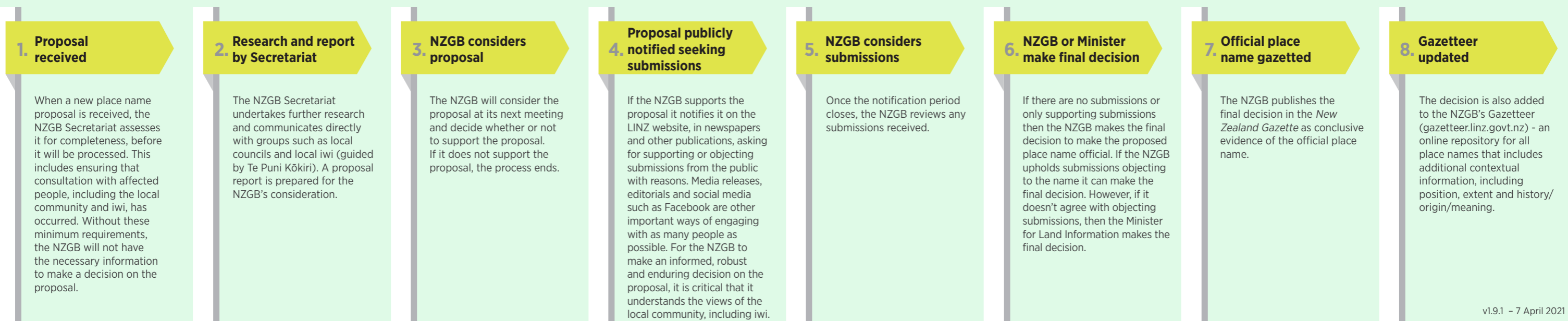
Why are geographic names important to New Zealanders?

- 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?

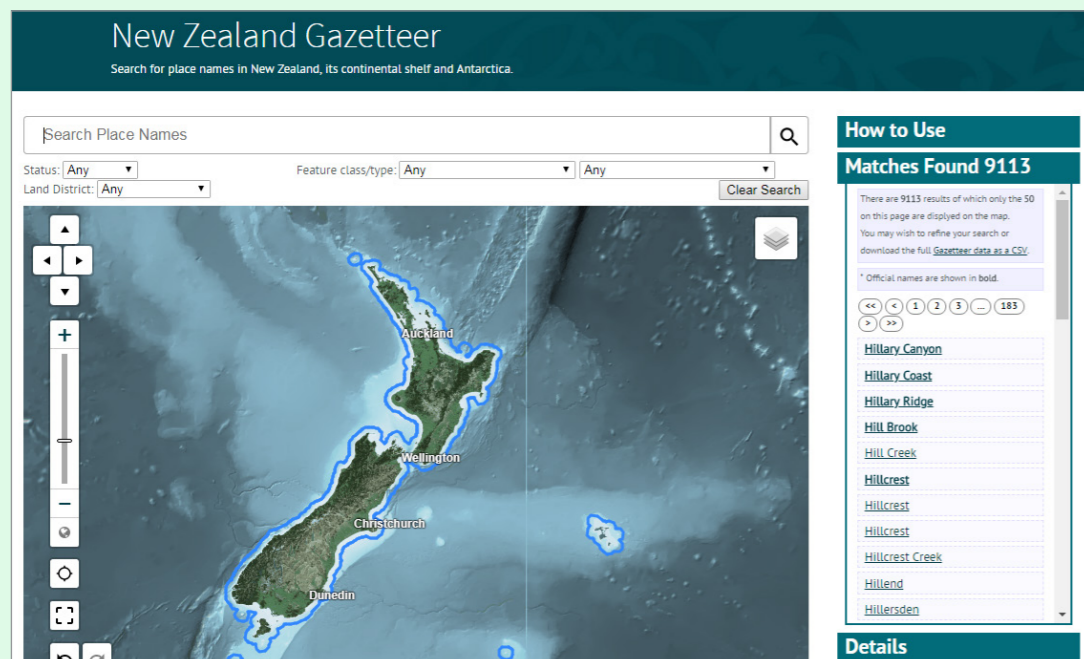


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What does the NZGB name?

- 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
 - two others of the Minister for Land Information's choice

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**
Nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- Robin Kearns**
Nominated by New Zealand Geographical Society Inc
- Shaun Barnett**
Nominated by Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc
- Bonita Bigham**
Nominated by Local Government New Zealand
- Shane Te Ruki**
Recommended by the Minister for Māori Development
- Chanel Clarke**
Recommended by the Minister for Māori Development
- Merata Kawharu**
Appointed by the Minister for Land Information
- Jenni Vernon**
Appointed by the Minister for Land Information

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

Te Arawhiti (the Office for Māori Crown Relations) 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

Te Arawhiti (the Office for Māori Crown Relations) 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 Te Arawhiti (the Office for Māori Crown Relations).

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.