

Submissions for: Waitangitāhuna River and Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River

[considered by the NZGB at its meeting on 27 September 2018]



Summary

At its meeting on 12 April 2018 the NZGB noted one supporting submission and eight submissions objecting to the proposal to alter Waitangitāhuna River to Waitangitāhuna River and Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River. The submission report from that meeting is attached.

Based on one of the objecting submissions, the NZGB deferred making a decision so that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu could consult with its culture and heritage committee, Te Pae Kaihika, about its support for altering the southern river to Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River. The NZGB also noted that most submitters objected to separately naming the two sections of the river as they are connected underground.

The proposer, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, has advised that following discussions with Te Pae Kaihika it wishes to withdraw the proposal for Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River and change its proposal to alter Waitangitāhuna River to Waitangitāhuna River for both sections of the river. The Te Pae Kaihika submitter has also withdrawn his objection and supports the modified proposal.

The remaining seven objecting and one supporting submitters were advised of the modified proposal on 9 and 10 August 2018. Two have responded that they continue to object to the change of name.

The submissions on the original proposal cover the strong opposition from the local community to altering the river's name, so accepting and re-notifying a new proposal is unlikely to attract other views. Therefore the NZGB may decide not to re-notify, and leave the final decision to the Minister for Land Information. However, an option is to accept and re-notify the new proposal.

Secretariat recommendations

The NZGB resolved the first recommendation.

Recommendation 1

Noting that:

- the proposer has withdrawn the proposal for Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River, and changed it to Waitangitāhuna River for both sections of the river, and
- the submitter who objected because Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu had not consulted with its culture and heritage committee has withdrawn his objection.

Agree to withdraw the NZGB's earlier decision to alter Waitangitaona River to Waitangitāhuna River for the northern (lower) river and Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River for the southern (upper) river.

and

Accept a new proposal to alter Waitangitaona River to **Waitangitāhuna River** for the whole river extent from NZTopo50-BW16 823929 (source) to NZTopo50-BW16 754200 (mouth), based on:

- the objections from members of the local community advising that both water courses are connected underground and are considered to be one feature,
- the river continuing to have one recorded name, although it has been shown on official maps as two visibly discrete features since 1977,
- documentary evidence of this original Māori name,
- the historical significance of the river's name to mana whenua, and
- a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator having confirmed the standardised orthography as 'Waitangitāhuna'.

and

Agree not to re-notify this new proposal, as the community's views on altering the river's name have already been provided in the submissions objecting to the original proposal.

and

Report to the Minister for Land Information the NZGB's decision to alter Waitangitaona River to **Waitangitāhuna River** for the whole river extent from NZTopo50-BW16 823929 (source) to NZTopo50-BW16 754200 (mouth).

and

Request the Minister for Land Information to make the **final determination** by confirming, modifying or rejecting the NZGB's decision.

Option

Option 2

Noting that:

- ~~— the proposer has withdrawn the proposal for Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River, and changed it to Waitangitāhuna River for both sections of the river, and~~
- ~~— the submitter who objected because Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu had not consulted with its culture and heritage committee has withdrawn his objection.~~

~~**Agree to withdraw** the NZGB's earlier decision to alter Waitangitaona River to Waitangitāhuna River for the northern (lower) river and Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River for the southern (upper) river.~~

~~**and**~~

~~**Accept** a new proposal to alter Waitangitaona River to **Waitangitāhuna River** for the whole river extent from NZTopo50-BW16 823929 (source) to NZTopo50-BW16 754200 (mouth), based on:~~

- ~~— the proposer withdrawing the proposal for Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River,~~

and changing the proposal to Waitangitāhuna River for both sections of the river,

- the river continuing to have one recorded name, although it has been shown on official maps as two visibly discrete features since 1977,
- documentary evidence of this original Māori name,
- the historical significance of the river's name to mana whenua, and
- a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori licensed translator having confirmed the standardised orthography as 'Waitangitāhuna'.

and

Notify as a proposal to alter for three months in terms of Section 16 of the NZGB Act 2008.

Background

Discussion recorded in the NZGB minutes of 12 April 2018

The NZGB noted that the proposer is proactively seeking to promote the use of the Ngāi Tahu dialect through traditional place names, and that use of the [k] or [ng] in the two names could make it easier to distinguish between the two rivers.

The NZGB noted that the water course was historically one river that has now separated into two distinct rivers as a consequence of the man-made stop-bank designed to protect the road from flooding. The NZGB noted the objecting submissions stating the rivers have an underground connection, the water from the upper river flows into the lower river and there are a number of other tributaries feeding into the river. The NZGB agreed that the northern river is now a distinct and separate geographic feature and the two rivers are unlikely to re-converge. The water courses are shown cartographically on mapping as separate rivers.

The NZGB noted the reasons provided in the eight objecting submissions and the strong opposition from the local community. The NZGB noted that TRoNT did not consult with its culture and heritage committee, Te Pae Kaihika, and that all name proposals are expected to go through that committee.

The NZGB noted that the proposer and submitters would have a reasonable expectation that the NZGB will make a decision now the statutory process has concluded, however in the absence of consultation with Te Pae Kaihika, it was proposed that TRoNT be asked to conclude its internal consultation with Paul Madgwick and Te Pae Kaihika, and for the NZGB to seek clarification from the proposer on the outcome of that consultation.

Resolution

*That the NZGB agree to **defer** its decision on altering Waitangitaona River to **Waitangitāhuna River** for the northern (lower) river that flows into the Tasman Sea, and altering Waitangitaona River to **Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River** for the southern (upper) river that flows into Lake Wahapo, based on Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu not having consulted with its culture and heritage committee Te Pae Kaihika.*

Supporting information

1. Proposal report – 2017-10-16
2. Submission report –2018-04-12
3. Email from Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio – proposal for Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River withdrawn – 2018-05-14
4. Email from P Madgwick – objection withdrawn – 2018-05-14
5. Email to submitters advising of altered proposal – 2018-08-10
6. Email from White Heron Sanctuary Tours – object to change of name – 2018-08-16
7. Email from G Black – confirm submission – 2018-08-24