



28 May 2021

Place naming proposals and recent decisions

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa made 1,454 official decisions at its April hui on place names in the Tasman and Marlborough regions, as well as for undersea feature names around New Zealand.

The Board is also inviting public submissions on 10 proposals for the following place names and undersea feature names across and around New Zealand:

Current Name	Feature Type	Proposed Name
Unnamed	Inner-city area of Wellington	Paekākā
Unnamed	Stream in Wellington	Waipaekākā
Unnamed	Mountain in the Kepler Mountains, Fiordland	Mount Axford
Unnamed	Lake near Wairoa	Lake Te Horonui
Maxwell	Locality near Whanganui	Pākaraka
Papuka Stream	Stream near Cape Turnagain	Pākuku Stream
Te Korowhakaunu / Cunaris Sound	Fiord in Fiordland	Te Korowhakaunu / Kanáris Sound
Farewell Rise	Undersea feature from Cape Farewell towards Cape Egmont	Onetāhua Rise

Current Name	Feature Type	Proposed Name
D'Urville Seavalley	Undersea feature south of Cape Egmont	Rangitoto-ki-te-Tonga / d'Urville Valley
Five Fingers Canyon	Undersea feature south of Tamatea / Dusky Sound	Taumoana Canyon

"The Board invites submissions from anyone who wants to have a say about these name proposals – particularly from those people in the local communities," says Wendy Shaw, Board Secretary.

The Board received the proposals from members of the public except for the three undersea feature names, which the Board's Undersea Feature Names Committee submitted.

The Board will accept submissions for or against the proposed names up to 28 June 2021, except for Pākaraka and Waipaekākā, where submissions will be accepted until 30 August 2021.

Further information, including the extent of each proposal and how to make a submission can be found at <https://www.linz.govt.nz/about-us/what-were-doing/consultation>.

Board decisions made at its April hui include:

- [506 existing place names made official in the Tasman Region](#)
- [948 existing place names made official in the Marlborough Region](#)
- [16 undersea feature names either newly assigned, altered, or discontinued because a feature did not exist](#)
- [2 undersea feature names approved as official](#)

The majority of these place names (1,454) are part of the Board's fast track programme to approve existing place names as official.

Some of the better-known place names now official include Hope, Tasman, Maruia Falls, Shenandoah River, Shenandoah Saddle, Blenheim, Portage, Seddon and Ward.

"It may surprise many to learn that the name of the place they live in has not yet been made official, even if it has been used for a long time," says Wendy Shaw.

Once official, place names must be used in all official documents, road signs, maps, websites and databases.

"It's important to ensure we preserve and protect place names so that they endure, and we have certainty about their location, extent, origin and authenticity," she says.

Some of the Māori place names like Tūi, Mātakitaki, Kaipākirikiri Bay and Mōioio Island now have macrons applied. Adding macrons in written Māori makes the meaning of a name clear and assists with pronunciation.

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa welcomes any feedback on these decisions by emailing NZGBenquiries@linz.govt.nz.

ENDS

For New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa media enquiries, please contact media@linz.govt.nz or call 027 566 5251.

Background and additional information

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa is an independent statutory body that works closely with Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand.

Place names tell us where we are. They are important signposts of modern, historical and cultural influences and values of the people that gave them. Knowing the correct names for places and their locations is important for everyday communications and activities, such as when emergency services need to identify 'where' quickly, clearly and accurately.

Fast track process: A recorded place name is one that appears in at least two publicly available publications or databases that, in the Board's opinion, are authoritative. A recorded place name can be approved as official or it can be discontinued, without public consultation. This is known as the fast-track process and is set out under section 24 of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008. The Board is working its way through recorded place names under a region-by-region programme. If the Board is of the opinion that there may be public objection for a recorded place name within territorial New Zealand, then it must follow the full statutory process which includes public consultation. For more information about the fast track programme see <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/approving-recorded-unofficial-place-names-official>.