



28 May 2021

Call for submissions on Maxwell name change to Pākaraka

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa is inviting public submissions to alter an official locality name from Maxwell to Pākaraka, which is 19km west-northwest of Whanganui.

The Board will accept submissions for or against from 27 May 2021 to 30 August 2021.

“The Board welcomes submissions from all who want to have a say about this name proposal – particularly within the locality,” says Wendy Shaw, Board Secretary.

Ngāti Maika submitted the proposal, advising that the name commemorating Sergeant George Maxwell is offensive, based on his military role in the ‘Handley Woolshed Affair’ in 1868 during Titokowarau’s War. This history was acknowledged in the Treaty settlement, which supported a name change.

Key reasons for agreeing with the proposal include the Board’s function to encourage the use of original Māori names. The Board noted its depiction on early documents, a contemporary translocation, the significance of Pākaraka to Ngāti Maika, its modern day use in the area, and Whanganui District Council’s support for the proposed name change.

The Board was also mindful of its naming guideline to consider names that are offensive (see [the Board’s standard for New Zealand place names](#)).

Further information and how to make a submission can be found at <https://www.linz.govt.nz/regulatory/place-names/place-name-consultation/17097>.

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.

Official New Zealand place names can be found in the [New Zealand Gazetteer](#).