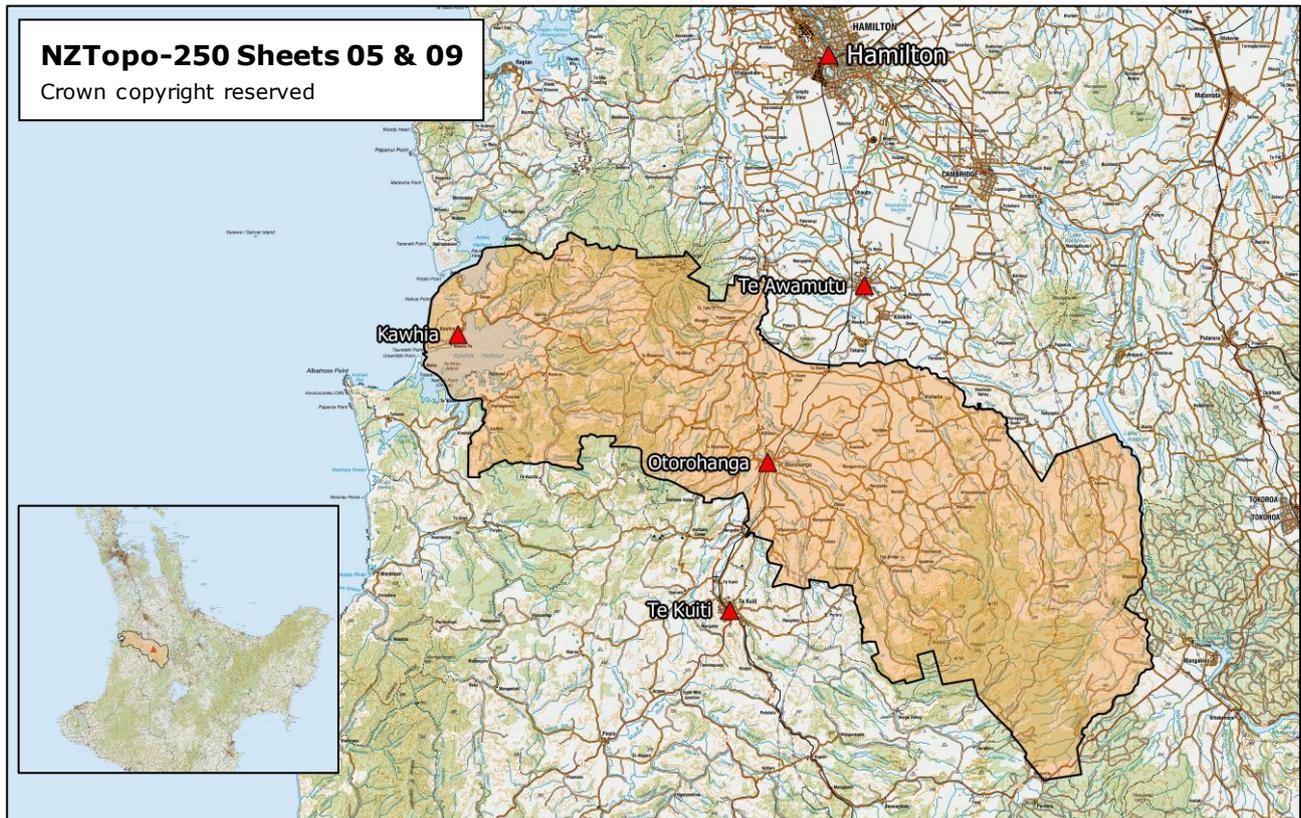


# Submissions for Ōtorohanga District [altered from Otorohanga District] considered by the NZGB on 11 April 2019



## Summary

At its meeting on 27 September 2018 the NZGB agreed to accept a proposal made by the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) on behalf of Ngāti Maniapoto to alter the local authority district from Otorohanga District to **Ōtorohanga District**.

Otorohanga District Council had not provided its resolution consenting to or requesting the proposal. However, the NZGB agreed that as the NZGB Act 2008 required the resolution 'before altering the name', this would not preclude the proposal proceeding to public notification/consultation.

During the notification period from 5 November 2018 to 5 December 2018 the NZGB received **15 supporting** and **two objecting** submissions to the proposal.

The 15 supporting submitters all want the district's name spelled correctly. Some added that the [Ō] would aid pronunciation and that the correct spelling conveys the name's meaning and story.

One objecting submitter supports the spelling of the existing name, but has not provided a reason why. The other objecting submitter questioned the validity of the macron and stated that Otorohanga could not be spelled incorrectly as te reo Māori was not historically a written language. These reasons are not considered to outweigh the reasons the NZGB accepted for the proposal.

**The NZGB has not yet received a resolution from Otorohanga District Council.** The NZGB cannot make its decision without the Council's resolution. If the NZGB rejects one or both objections, the Minister will be asked to make the final decision, but not until the NZGB has received the Council's resolution.

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## Secretariat recommendation

At its meeting on 11 April 2019 the NZGB resolved this recommendation

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**Consider** all submissions on the proposal to alter Otorohanga District to **Ōtorohanga District**, and their reasons,

**and**

**Reject** the objecting submissions based on:

- one objector not giving a reason for supporting the existing name, and
- the addition of a macron being the correct orthography advised by a licenced Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori translator,

**and**

**Confirm** the NZGB's earlier decision to alter Otorohanga District to **Ōtorohanga District**,

**and**

**Subject** to Otorohanga District Council's resolution consenting to or requesting the alteration, **report** the NZGB's decision to the Minister for Land Information,

**and**

**Request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

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## Background

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**Draft NZGB minutes 27 September 2018** [abridged]

### NZGB discussion

The NZGB noted Otorohanga District Council (ODC) had not yet provided a resolution consenting to the proposal as required by section 11(2)(a) of the NZGB Act 2008. The NZGB noted that OTS has spoken to ODC officials and believe that ODC has no real opposition to the proposal, adopting a cautious approach wanting to first know its community's views. The NZGB noted advice about the proposal on the ODC website.

The NZGB noted that the NZGB Act 2008 envisages a council being the proposer, however, the NZGB Act allows for other proposers, provided the alteration is consented to or requested by the council. The NZGB noted that the proposal is to standardise spelling by adding a macron, and that the name and its meaning will not change. The NZGB noted that a minuted resolution from ODC consenting to the alteration may be received following public notification, and if the NZGB does not agree with any objecting submissions it receives, then the Minister for Land Information will make the final decision. The NZGB agreed that it will need to clearly communicate the minor nature of the proposed change to the community.

The NZGB agreed to advise ODC of the NZGB's decision to go to public notification on the proposed change, one month in advance of gazettal, and that the consultation period be one month.

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## Notification

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Advice to mana whenua that the

On 28 September 2018 the Secretariat advised OTS of the NZGB's decision

NZGB would be publicly notifying the proposals	to proceed with the proposal, and requested OTS to advise Ngāti Maniapoto. On 4 October 2018 the Secretariat advised eleven mana whenua groups (through their representative trusts), and Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK), that the NZGB would be publicly notifying the proposal for one month.
Advice to councils	On 4 October 2018 the Secretariat advised Otorohanga District Council of the NZGB's decision to proceed to public notification, and that the proposal would be notified for one month. The Secretariat also advised 'No final decision, whether by the Board or Minister will be made without a formal resolution from Otorohanga District Council.' A reminder was sent on 12 December 2018 requesting the Council's resolution. On 5 November 2018 the Secretariat advised all other local authorities that the proposal was open for submissions until 5 December 2018.
Advice to MPs	On 6 November 2018 the Secretariat advised the MPs for Taranaki-King Country, Te Tai Hauāuru, Hauraki-Waikato, and adjacent electorates that the proposal was open for submissions until 5 December 2018.
Public notification including social media	The NZGB advertised that the proposal was open for submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in the <i>New Zealand Gazette</i>,</li> <li>- in the <i>Sunday Star Times</i>, <i>Waitomo News</i>, and <i>Waikato Times</i>,</li> <li>- on the LINZ <a href="#">Consultation</a> and <a href="#">Facebook</a>™ pages, and the New Zealand Government's <a href="#">Consultation</a> page. TPK's online events calendar <a href="#">Rauika</a> was requested to post the notice, but unfortunately were unable to do so until after submissions closed.</li> </ul>

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## Media

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LINZ Communications circulated a general media advisory on 5 November 2018, which was published on the LINZ website the following day.<sup>1</sup> A number of sites such as Scoop.co.nz and Voxy.co.nz syndicated the media advisory. Waatea News briefly reported on the proposal on 6 November 2018.<sup>2</sup> On 21 November 2018 the *Waikato Times* enquired about the proposal, but does not appear to have published an article.

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## Submissions

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### Overview

During public notification from 5 November 2018 to 5 December 2018 the NZGB received 15 supporting submissions and two objecting to the proposal. Four submitters advised that they live in the district. Two supporting submitters may be submitting on the name of Otorohanga (town) and not the district. A spreadsheet in the supporting information summarises all of the submissions. Any late submissions will be tabled at the NZGB's meeting.

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## Secretariat summary and analysis of the supporting submissions

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The supporting submissions all seek the correct spelling. Some supporting

<sup>1</sup> [NZGB consults on four place name changes](#), 5 November 2018

<sup>2</sup> [Otorohanga for long stretch](#), *Waatea News*, 6 November 2018

submissions provided additional reasons for their support:

The alteration would acknowledge history associated with the name	That any associated cost not relevant
The alteration is multi-cultural, inclusive	That organisations are already using Ōtorohanga
The alteration recognises mana whenua, will build Māori identity	Cited personal or family connection to the name, lives there, etc
Correcting the spelling will support te reo Māori in general	

## Secretariat summary of the objecting submissions

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Submission in full	Date received
'Maori never had a written language so how can it be spelt wrong. I also doubt whether the macron? is even part of English I thought it was European'	21 November 2018
'No. "Otorohanga District" is fine by me!'	22 November 2018

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## Secretariat's assessment of the objecting submissions

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### **Māori was never a written language and the use of the macron**

The Māori language is a written language now.

Macrons are an orthographic convention to represent long vowels and meaning, which exist in te reo Māori. Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) has endorsed the use of macrons since its establishment in 1987. The NZGB takes advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori on the correct orthography of Māori names.

### **Supports existing name, no other reasons**

The other objector who supports the existing name has not provided a reason.

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## Supporting information

1. Proposal report - Ōtorohanga District – 2018-09-27
2. Submissions spreadsheet
3. Copies of all supporting submissions
4. Copies of all objecting submissions