

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT) did not consult with its culture and heritage committee about its support of Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River, which is an invented name
- the upper and lower portions are one river from the mountains to the sea, with the upper river playing a significant part in the flow of the lower river
- local Māori have no memory of it ever being called anything but Waitangi taona River (sic)
- lack of consultation with the local community, DOC, local authorities or interested groups
- potential confusion with Waitaki River in Otago
- long term use of Waitangitaona River, which is a well-known name
- a change of name would impact on a local tourist business
- Waitangitaone, Waitangi awa o runga (upper river), Upper Waitangi taona, Upper Waitangitaona River, Lower Waitangitaona River suggested as alternative proposals.

The Secretariat considers that these reasons are not considered to outweigh the reasons the NZGB accepted the proposal because:

- the proposal clarifies the contemporary effect of the river's separation making it easier to identify the discrete rivers in an emergency
- mana whenua, who have a significant connection to the rivers, made the proposal
- the proposal recognises the historical significance of the names and supports the desire of mana whenua to have the meaning behind the names live on
- the proposal was extensively advertised as being open for public consultation for three months
- Waitaki River in Otago is too far distant for there to be confusion or issues for emergency services because of duplication
- the NZGB is required to encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps
- none of the submitters provided evidence that their alternative proposals are original Māori names.

An option the NZGB may consider if it agrees with some of the objecting submissions under s.19(1) of the NZGB Act 2008 is to:

- decline the proposal based on the local community's strong views against separately naming the upper and lower portions of the river
- report that decision to the Minister for Land Information
- suggest an alternative proposal to alter Waitangitaona River to Waitangitāhuna River for the whole extent of the river, noting that further public notification is likely to attract the same submissions from the local community so should not be re-notified
- request the Minister for Land Information to make the final determination by modifying the NZGB's decline decision and determining to alter Waitangitaona River to Waitangitāhuna River for the whole extent.

Secretariat recommendations

Note: at its meeting on 12 April 2018 the NZGB deferred the proposal for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to consult with its culture and heritage committee, Te Pae Kaihika.

Defer for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to consult with its culture and heritage committee, Te Pae Kaihika.

Recommendation 1

Note the one supporting submission.

Reject the eight objecting submissions in terms of section 18(1)(b) of the NZGB Act 2008, including those providing alternative names, based on:

- the NZGB's function to collect original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps
- documentary evidence of the original Māori name, and no evidence that the alternative proposals are original Māori names
- a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori registered translator having confirmed the standardised orthography and Ngāi Tahu dialectical orthography
- it being of benefit to users to be able to identify the discrete rivers especially in an emergency.

and

Confirm the NZGB's earlier **decision** in terms of section 20(1)(b) of the NZGB Act 2008 to alter Waitangitaona River to **Waitangitāhuna River** for the northern (lower) river that flows into the Tasman Sea, and **Waitakitāhuna ki te Toka River** for the southern (upper) river that flows into Lake Wahapo. **Noting** the objecting submission advising that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu has not consulted with its culture and heritage committee, Te Kaihika.

and

Report to the Minister for Land Information in terms of section 20(1) of the NZGB Act 2008 on the NZGB's 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

Request the Minister for Land Information to make the **final determination** by confirming, modifying or rejecting the NZGB's decision in terms of section 20(2) of the NZGB Act 2008.

Option

Option 2

Decline the proposal to alter Waitangitaona River to **Waitangitāhuna River** for the northern (lower) river, and **Waitakitāhuna ki te Toka River** for the southern (upper) river, based on submitters from the local community seeking to retain Waitangitaona River, or alternative names for the river, as one feature.

and

Report the decision to the Minister for Land Information in terms of section 20(1) of the NZGB Act 2008 as the NZGB cannot agree with all of the objecting submissions because the NZGB is required to encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps, and none of the submitters provided evidence that their alternative proposals are original Māori names.

and

Suggest to the Minister for Land Information an alternative 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
- documentary evidence of this original Māori name, and this addressing the concerns of the former chairman of Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio
- a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori registered translator having confirmed the orthography of Waitangitāhuna
- the NZGB's function to collect original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps.

Noting that further public notification is likely to attract the same submissions from same members of the local community, who have already strongly indicated their views against separately naming the upper and lower portions of the river.

and

Request the Minister for Land Information to make the **final determination** by **modifying** the NZGB's decision in terms of section 20(2) of the NZGB Act 2008.

Background

NZGB minutes of 16 October 2017

NZGB Discussion

The NZGB noted the information and report provided (LinZone ID A3003007). The NZGB noted that the proposed names include 'Wai', a Māori generic term for 'Water'. However, as the rivers are not minor, both have significant recreational use, and for consistency, the NZGB agreed that both should retain the English generic term 'River'. The NZGB noted that the proposal for Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka for the southern river reflects the Ngāi Tahu dialect. The NZGB agreed that the proposals would provide two distinct names for two distinct rivers.

The NZGB discussed what weight should be given to a geographic name recorded in other legislation when considering an alteration. The NZGB noted that the Department of Conservation (DOC) administers the Whitebait Fishing (West Coast) Regulations 1994, which may require updating. The NZGB noted that it is unlikely to affect enforcement of the regulations if the river's name is altered.

Resolutions

That the NZGB agreed to:

Accept the proposal to **alter** Waitangitaona River to **Waitangitāhuna River** for the northern (lower) river that flows into the Tasman Sea, based on:

- the NZGB's function to collect original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps,
- documentary evidence of the original Māori name,
- Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori translator having confirmed the standardised orthography, and
- it being of benefit to users to be able to identify the discrete river especially in an emergency,

and

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

and

Accept the proposal to **alter** Waitangitaona River to **Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River** for the southern (upper) river that flows into Lake Wahapo, with the addition of the generic geographic term 'River' to help identify the

feature, based on:

- consistency with the generic term used for the northern river,
- the NZGB's function to collect original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps,
- documentary evidence of the original Māori name,
- a Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori translator having confirmed the Ngāi Tahu dialectical orthography, and
- it being of benefit to users to be able to identify the discrete river especially in an emergency,

and

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

and

For consistency, **request** the Department of Conservation to consider altering Waitangitaona Scenic Reserve to **Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka Scenic Reserve**, since it is adjacent to the southern (upper) river,

and

Advise the agency administering the [Whitebait Fishing \(West Coast\) Regulations 1994](#), which records that special conditions apply on Waitangitaona River that if the river's name changes then the Regulations should be amended.

Notification

Advice to mana whenua that the NZGB would be publicly notifying the proposals

On 18 October 2017 the NZGB's Secretariat advised the proposers, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio (TRoM), who are mana whenua, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT) that the NZGB would be publicly notifying the proposals between 23 November 2017 and 23 February 2018.

Advice to West Coast councils

On 24 November 2017, as part of its standard advisory process, the NZGB notified Westland District Council and the West Coast Regional Council that the proposals were open for public consultation and invited the councils to participate.

Public notification

The NZGB advertised that the proposals were open for submissions:

- in the *New Zealand Gazette*, *Sunday Star Times*, *West Coast Messenger*, *Hokitika Guardian*, *Greymouth Star*, and
- on the LINZ [Consultation](#) and [Facebook](#)[™] pages, the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page, and Te Puni Kōkiri's [events calendar Rauika](#).

Media advisory

LINZ Comms circulated a general media advisory on 23 November 2018.

Media

On 22 February 2018 the *Greymouth Star* asked to read the submissions the NZGB had received for the proposal to alter Waitangitaona River.

LINZ Comms advised that the NZGB does not typically release submissions. However, after final decisions are made, copies of submissions can be provided on request, although private information will not be released.

Summary of the submissions

	Submitter	Reason given in submission	Date received	Alternative proposal
Support	Don Neale	Supports the change of names to the correct Māori spelling, and the use of different names for the two rivers as they	17 December 2017	

	Submitter	Reason given in submission	Date received	Alternative proposal
		are unlikely to re-converge. Confirmed support for the two dialectal spellings using [k] and [ng] after confirmation that TRoM was seeking them.		
Object	Paul Madgwick	<p>Former chairman of TRoM, and initiated corrected spelling. Supports 'Waitangitāhuna' for both parts of the river. Waitangitaona has no translation.</p> <p>Objects to late addition to alter the upper portion to Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River, which was not part of the original proposal. No historical, cultural, or traditional evidence to support the invented name.</p> <p>The split river created by the flood does not remove that it is still the upper portion of Waitangitāhuna. It has the same mauri since the dawn of creation. This name was applied by tipuna to the entire length of the river from the sea to the mountains.</p> <p>The use of 'ka' as a substitute for 'nga' is not universal within Ngāi Tahu. 'Nga' is used more consistently in the area. It is farcical to try to plant a made up name using one dialect, for one part of the awa, and the standard dialect for the other part.</p> <p>Ngāi Tahu supports the proposal for Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River, but it hasn't consulted with its culture and heritage committee Te Kaihika, which he is a member of. Seeks deferral for Ngāi Tahu to consult with Te Kaihika.</p>	27 January 2018	Waitangitāhuna River [for both parts of the river]
	Whataroa Community Association	<p>The people of Whataroa hold great mana over their valley. Motion made by overwhelming majority of community members to strongly oppose name change.</p> <p>Waitangitaona River has been in use over 100 years. Name change has no historical value to Waitangi taone River catchment.</p> <p>Māori families who have lived in the area for many generations have stated that the river has never been known by any other name but Waitangi taona.</p> <p>There is no real upper and lower river – many springs pop up in the old river bed. The river did change course, but it's always trying to head back to its natural northern direction. Water flows underground between the upper and lower rivers.</p> <p>There would be confusion with the shortened version 'Waitaki' and Waitaki River in Otago.</p> <p>If the suggested alternate proposals were accepted then the name of Waitangi taona Scenic Reserve wouldn't have to change.</p>	20 & 23 February 2018	Upper Waitangi taona Waitangi awa o runga

	Submitter	Reason given in submission	Date received	Alternative proposal
	Waitangitaona Rating District	<p>TRoM hasn't consulted with the local community. Altered spelling is based on probability. Real reasons of spelling or dialect mistake not known, or if interpretation of taona was correct and the meaning lost in time.</p> <p>Taone probably means to establish or lay out a new town, as historically Whataroa was to be built on the coast at the mouth of Whataroa River and Waitangi River.</p> <p>The name change has no historical value to Waitangi taona River catchment.</p> <p>In spite of the bank which directs the upper river's flow into Lake Wahapo, it is always trying to head back to its natural northern direction.</p> <p>The lower river starts at the bank on Richardson Rd and flows into Graham Creek. Water flows underground between the upper and lower rivers.</p> <p>Confusion with the shortened version 'Waitaki' and Waitaki River in Otago.</p> <p>Concern at changing the Scenic Reserve name.</p>	21 February 2018	<p>Waitangitaone</p> <p>Upper Waitangi taona</p> <p>Waitangi awa o runga</p>
	Wayne and Nicolina Nolan	<p>Known for many years as the upper and lower Waitangitaona. The upper river plays a significant part in the flows of the lower river. The underground flow dictates the level of the water heights of the lower river.</p> <p>TRoM has no reason for change. Proposal is confusing and not in keeping with mana whenua of the keepers of the valley of Whataroa.</p> <p>'taona' may have been meant to be 'taone', which means to establish or lay out a new town, as historically Whataroa was to be built on the coast at the mouth of Whataroa River and Waitangi River.</p>	21 February 2018	Waitangitaone
	Phillip, Tracy and Graeme Northcroft	<p>Family has had links to the river for 115 years. People associated with the river aren't aware of any other names for the river.</p> <p>No reference to any other name on plans, field books, maps or other material. Believes Waitangitaona means 'weeping waters'.</p> <p>NZGB should accept existing spelling as phonetically correct and include new translation.</p> <p>Waitangitaona has been in use since 1865, so takes precedence over spelling alteration.</p> <p>TRoM made no effort to correct the spelling when there was a more immediate link to earlier generations.</p> <p>TRoM didn't consult with local communities, DOC, local authorities or</p>	23 February 2018	<p>Waitangi awa o runga (upper river)</p> <p>Upper Waitangitaona River</p> <p>Lower Waitangitaona River</p>

	Submitter	Reason given in submission	Date received	Alternative proposal
		<p>interested groups. NZGB hasn't consulted with anyone except TRoNT and TRoM.</p> <p>It's incorrect that no water from the upper river flows into the lower river. The upper and lower portions are one river. What is happening in the upper river has a direct influence on the lower reaches.</p> <p>Adding 'Upper' and 'Lower' to the existing river name, or perhaps Waitangi awa o runga (upper river), would completely remove any confusion as to which portion of the river is being referred to.</p>		
	Shirley and Ken Arnold	<p>No concrete evidence that this river was known as any other name.</p> <p>Name has been in use for 160 years. A name change would mean a huge upheaval to Whataroa residents. The river is world renown for trout fishing and as the lead river to the white heron colony.</p>	23 February 2018	
	White Heron Sanctuary Tours Ltd	<p>Proposer did not consult. There will be considerable impact on company from a commercial aspect. Waitangitaona is associated with the company and has worldwide recognition.</p> <p>Evidence that the name Waitangitahuna is historical is based on individual assumption and interpretation.</p>	23 February 2018	
	Glenyse Black	<p>Family has links to the river prior to 1946. The river already has a Māori name.</p> <p>The stop bank was built to stop the road from flooding, not to stop the river from going back to its original channel.</p> <p>The new names are not in a Māori place names book printed in 1950.</p>	23 February 2018	

Secretariat's assessment of the objecting submissions

All of the submitters have identified themselves as being local to the area.

TRoNT did not consult with its culture and heritage committee, Te Kaihika, about its support of Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River, which is an invented name

TRoNT's email of 25 August 2017 in support of the proposals did not specify if it had consulted with its culture and heritage committee, Te Kaihika.

The upper and lower portions are one river from the mountains to the sea, with the upper river playing a significant part in the flow of the lower river

Many objectors commented that although the river appears to be in two parts as the result of the man-made stop bank, water flows underground and springs pop up between the upper and lower rivers. What is happening in the upper river has a direct influence on the lower reaches and the river is always trying to head back to its natural northern direction.

Historically Waitangitaona River was one connected river, but as a result of flooding and human invention it has been diverted to become two discrete rivers. Westland District Council's hydrologist has advised the Secretariat,

“The river does not have complete connectivity to its original catchment. It has been diverted and is connected by ground water only. Although the surface component is all diverted, the rivers are hydrologically linked. Therefore they could be identified as either one river or two separate rivers.” No scientific reports or documentation of this are available.

The proposal clarifies the contemporary effect of the river’s separation, making it easier to identify the discrete rivers in an emergency.

Local Māori have no memory of it ever being called anything but Waitangi taona River (sic)

Mana whenua, who have a significant connection to the rivers, made the proposal, which recognises the historical significance of the names and supports their desire to have the meaning behind the names live on.

Lack of consultation with the local community, DOC, local authorities or interested groups

The proposal was advertised as being open for public consultation for three months. The Secretariat also advised Westland District Council and the West Coast Regional Council of the proposal as part of its standard advisory process. The Secretariat has also sought the councils’ view on whether they consider the river to be one feature or two distinct features.

Confusion with Waitaki River in Otago

The southern river, proposed to be named Waitakitāhuna-ki-te-Toka River, is approximately 150km northwest of the source of Waitaki River. The rivers are too far distant for there to be confusion or issues for emergency services because of duplication.

**Long term use, and the name Waitangitaona River is well known
Change of name would impact on a local tourist business**

The NZGB is required to encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps, so long term use of ‘Waitangitaona’ should not necessarily take precedence over this proposal. If both rivers are officially named they are more likely to be named on maps and charts, which would assist communication with emergency services.

The NZGB Act 2008 does not require businesses or organisations to change their names when a feature name is altered. However, it does require that they use official names in geographic and scientific publications, and publications intended for travellers or tourists. Any updates should be made when new editions are published.

Other names suggested: Waitangitaone, Waitangi awa o runga (upper river), Upper Waitangi taona, Upper Waitangitaona River, Lower Waitangitaona River

None of the submitters have provided evidence that these are original Māori names.

Supporting information

1. Proposal report – 16 October 2017
2. Copies of the 12 objecting submissions
3. Copy of the supporting submission