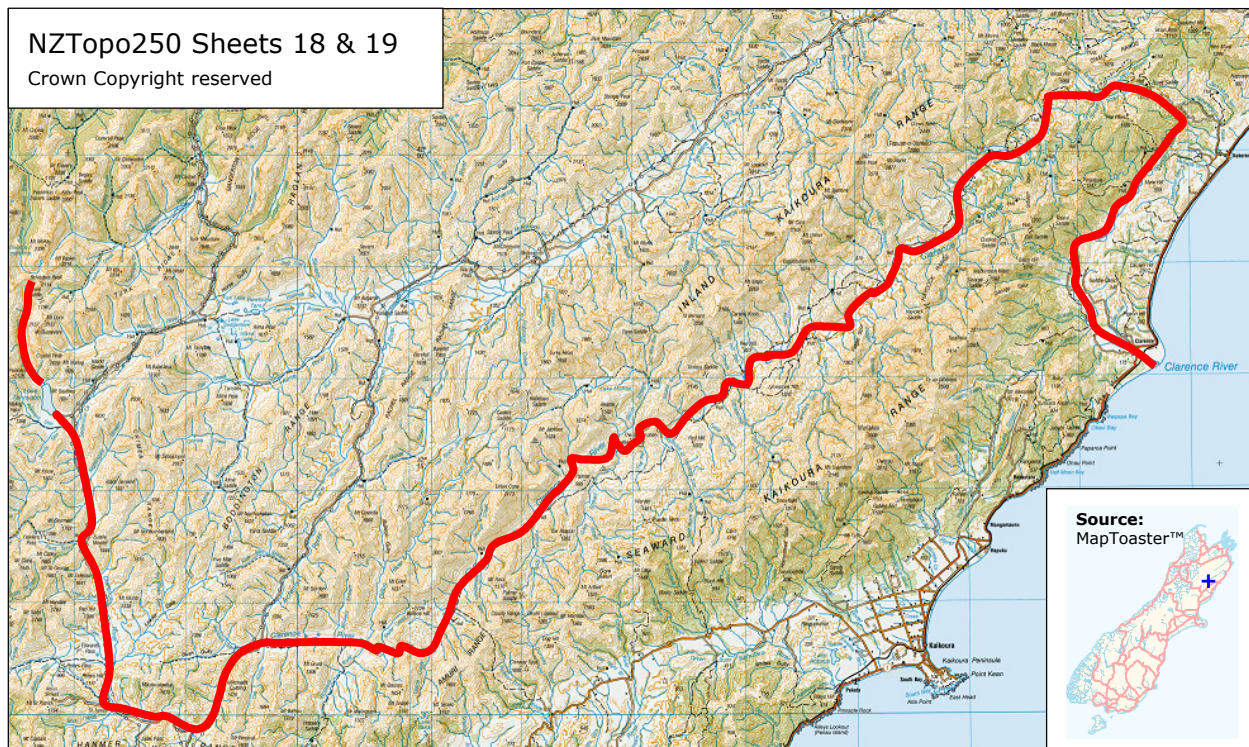


# Report on altering Clarence River to Waiau Toa

Flows from northern St James Range in the Spenser Mountains, from Clarence Pass and through the inland and seaward Kaikoura Ranges to the South Pacific Ocean north of Kaikoura

## MAP<sup>1</sup>



## SUMMARY

- Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura (TRoK) is seeking to alter the recorded name, Clarence River, to Waiau Toa, without the generic term 'River'.
- TRoK's tradition is that: 'Waiau toa is the original Māori name for the Clarence River. Waiau toa is the male river, coupled with Waiau uwha (the female river) – these two drifted away from each other. Waiau uwha laments this separation and her tears swell the waters at the times when warm rains allow melted snow to enter the river'.
- TRoK has also made a proposal to alter Waiau River to Waiau Uwha.
- The river flows for approximately 200 km from its source below Clarence Pass in St James Range, generally southeast, turning northeast, then southeast again, to its mouth at the South Pacific Ocean, approximately 33 km northeast of Kaikoura.
- TRoK has provided evidence of the river being named 'Waiautoa', 'Waiau-toa' and 'Waiau toa'. The Secretariat has asked Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori to advise on the correct orthography.
- The river is a significant recreational area where there has been emergency services' callouts and loss of life over the years. 'Clarence River' has been in common use for over a century.
- Altering Clarence River to a dual name, Clarence River / Waiau Toa, or to Waiau Toa / Clarence River, would:

<sup>1</sup> Land Information New Zealand

- make it easier to identify the river in an emergency,
  - recognise the historical significance of both names,
  - support TRoK's desire to have the meaning and story behind Waiau Toa live on, and
  - meet the NZGB's statutory function to collect and encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps.
- Altering Clarence River to just Waiau Toa without the generic term 'River' is likely to cause identification problems.
  - The proposer has provided evidence that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu supports the proposal; however, the proposer has not provided evidence of consultation with interested groups. If the NZGB accepts this proposal, then affected groups may make a submission during the notification period.
  - The proposal may attract some media attention as the river is well known to the tramping and mountaineering communities, and in the surrounding communities, particularly Hanmer Springs, Clarence (locality) and Kaikoura.
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## SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATION

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- Recommendation 1 **Accept** the proposal to **alter** Clarence River to a dual name, **Clarence River / Waiau Toa**, based on the equal significance of both names, specifically the long term use of Clarence River making it easier to identify the river in an emergency, the NZGB's function to collect original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps, and documentary evidence of the original Māori name, subject to Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori confirming the orthography of Waiau Toa,
- and**
- Notify** as a proposal to **alter** for three months in terms of Section 16 of the NZGB Act 2008.
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## OTHER OPTION

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- Option 2 **Accept** the proposal to **alter** Clarence River to the dual name, **Waiau Toa / Clarence River**, based on the equal significance of both names, specifically the NZGB's function to collect original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps, and the Māori name recognising the right of first discovery, documentary evidence of the original Māori name, and the long term use of Clarence River making it easier to identify the river in an emergency, subject to Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori confirming the orthography of Waiau Toa,
- and**
- Notify** as a proposal to **alter** for three months in terms of Section 16 of the NZGB Act 2008.
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## SECRETARIAT ANALYSIS

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|---|---|
| The proposal and its significance to the proposer   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura (TRoK), which is one of 18 papatipu rūnanga (<i>lit.</i> governance structures) of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT), is seeking to alter Clarence River to Waiau Toa.</li><li>• TRoK has also made a proposal to alter Waiau River to Waiau Uwha.</li><li>• TRoK advises that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the rivers are of cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Ngāi Tahu Whānui, and in particular TRoK, the modern day group of the Ngāti Kuri hapū based at Takahanga Marae,</li><li>- Waiau Toa, which recalls a pūrākau (<i>lit.</i> ancient legend) of the separation of the tupuna rivers, is a tradition held dear to the Ngāti Kuri people, and</li><li>- it wishes to lift the mana of both rivers by restoring their original names.</li></ul></li></ul> |
| The Waiau Toa tradition                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Waiau toa is the original Māori name for the Clarence River. Waiau toa is the male river, coupled with Waiau uwha (the female river) – these two drifted away from each other. Waiau uwha laments this separation and her tears swell the waters at the times when warm rains allow melted snow to enter the river'.</li></ul>   |
| Names for the river shown on maps, plans and charts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The river has been named both 'Waiau toa', in various forms, and 'Clarence' on maps, plans and charts since 1856.</li><li>• Several historical charts name Waiau River as 'R. Waiau-ua (or Lesser)' and Clarence River as 'R. Waiau-toa (or Greater)'. This could allude to</li></ul>   |
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either the size of the rivers' catchment at the time, or the feminine (uwaha) river being of less importance than the male (toa) river.

Map/plan/chart	Date	Name
Stokes Chart	1856	Waiau-toa or Clarence R
Islands of New Zealand (Admiralty & Mantell)	1859	R Waiau toa (or Greater) Clarence R.
Geological Map of the Province of Nelson (Hochstetter & Haast)	1860	Waiautoa or Clarence R.
Wyld's Chart of New Zealand	1862	R Waiau-toa (or Greater) Clarence R.
New-Zealand (Petermann)	1864	Big River (Clarence R.)
Provinces of Nelson and Marlborough	1864	Clarence River (Waiau Toa or Big River)
PROC131	c.1876	River Clarence
SO 708	1879	RIVER CLARENCE
NZMS 13, MB29, 1 <sup>st</sup> ed.	1880	Clarence River (Waiau-toa)
Nelson and Marlborough Provinces	1885	Clarence R. WAIU -TOA
SO 709	1885	RIVER CLARENCE
SO 424	1897	CLARENCE RIVER
SO 645	1900	WAIAUTOA or CLARENCE RIVER
NZMS 13, MB29, 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.	1930	CLARENCE RIVER (WAIU-TOA)
NZMS 1, S42 & S43, 1 <sup>st</sup> ed.	1943	CLARENCE RIVER
NZMS 13, MB29, 3 <sup>rd</sup> ed.	1954	CLARENCE RIVER (WAIU-TOA)
NZMS 177, S42 & S43, 1 <sup>st</sup> ed.	1963	CLARENCE RIVER
NZMS 1, S42 & S43, 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> eds.	1968 - 1984	CLARENCE RIVER
Infomap 346-02	1995	Wai au toa
Chart NZ 62	1998	Clarence River
Topographic Map 260-N31	2000	Clarence River
Chart NZ 25	2012	Clarence River
NZTopo50-BT28, ed. 1.04	2015	Clarence River

Location and extent of the river

- The river flows for approximately 200 km from its source below Clarence Pass in St James Range, generally southeast, turning northeast, then southeast again, to its mouth at the South Pacific Ocean, approximately 33 km northeast of Kaikoura.
- Ka Whata Tu o Rākihōia Conservation Park and Molesworth Recreation Reserve, which are substantial Crown protected areas, adjoin the river.

The generic term of the feature

- 'Wai' is a composite part of the proposed specific name 'Waiau Toa', but it is not distinct. The existing recorded name has the English generic term 'River', which is appropriate and would help emergency services to identify and locate the feature.

New Zealand  
Gazetteer

- Clarence River is a recorded name in the New Zealand Gazetteer.
- There is no entry for Waiau Toa.

Names associated  
with the river

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### Clarence River

- Clarence Pass [official by *NZ Gazette*, 2005, p.4510] connects the head of Clarence River to the upper reaches of the East Branch Sabine River, in the St Arnaud Range.
- Clarence Railway Station [official by *NZ Gazette*, 1948, p.939] and Clarence (locality), which is a recorded name, are located on the north side of Clarence River adjacent to State Highway 1, at the river's outlet into the South Pacific Ocean.
- TRoK is not proposing that these other place names be altered as the tradition is about the two rivers.

### Waiau

- Waiau (locality) and Waiau Pass are recorded names associated with Waiau River.

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'Waiau' duplication

- No other features in New Zealand are named 'Waiau Toa'; however, numerous features are named 'Waiau'.
- Waiau River is duplicated south of Waihi, north of Wairoa, northwest of Invercargill, north of Gisborne, south of Coromandel (locality) and in Urewera National Park.
- [Schedule 69 of the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998](#) acknowledges Ngāi Tahu's cultural, spiritual, historic and traditional association to the Waiau River northwest of Invercargill.
- None of these rivers are in the vicinity of this proposal, so there is unlikely to be issues for emergency services because of duplication.

'Clarence'  
duplication

- Apart from the associated names above, no other features in New Zealand are named 'Clarence'.

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Research, history  
and references to  
the river

- The proposer has provided:
  - an 1859 map from McKay<sup>2</sup> and an excerpt from Andersen<sup>3</sup>, which name the river 'Waiautoa',
  - an 1874 map from MacKay<sup>4</sup> that records 'Waiau Toa' and 'Clarence River',
  - an extract from Elvy<sup>5</sup> that records 'Waiau-toa', and
  - an extract from Taylor<sup>6</sup> that records 'Waiau toa'The proposer has not commented on the different orthographic conventions of 'Waiau Toa'.
- Reed<sup>7</sup> records, 'Clarence River: *Marlborough, Canterbury*. The river was possibly named at an early date after the Duke of Clarence, who later became King William IV. It may have been named by Frederick Weld. Maori name: Waiau-toa, *lit.* The male river, as distinct from Waiau-uha, *lit.* The female river. Male and female spirits of the mountains gave birth to the rivers. As they flowed towards the coast they became separated, and grieved for each other. Waiau-uha's tears melt the snow that swells the waters of both rivers'.

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<sup>2</sup> McKay, J (jnr). (1859) (Map). *Plan in the margin of Deed of Kaikoura Purchase*.

<sup>3</sup> Andersen, J (1942). *Maori Place-Names also Personal Names and Names of Colours, Weapons and Natural Objects*. The Polynesian Society of New Zealand: Wellington.

<sup>4</sup> MacKay, A. (1874). (Map) *Plan of the Original Province of Nelson*.

<sup>5</sup> Elvy, WJ (1950). *Kaikoura Coast: Maori History, Traditions and Place-names*. Whitcomb & Tombs: Christchurch.

<sup>6</sup> Taylor, WA (1950). *Lore and History of the South Island Maori*. Bascands Limited: Christchurch.

<sup>7</sup> Reed, AW & Dowling, P (ed.). (2010). *Place names of New Zealand*. Penguin Group: North Shore.

- In 1870 Haast<sup>8</sup> named the river 'Clarence'.
- Fletcher<sup>9</sup> records:  
WAI AU TOA: Clarence river
- Infomap 346-02 (1995) records, 'Wai au toa: river with a strong current (male)'.
- In a letter dated October 1859, James MacKay, the Assistant Native Secretary, records skirmishes between Ngatitumatakokiri and Ngaitahu (sic) when they met at the sources of the Clarence and Waiau-uwha Rivers, in the pursuits of bird hunting and eel fishing<sup>10</sup>.
- Jolly<sup>11</sup> records, 'For Ngāti Kuri the Waiau-uha (the Waiau River) has a cosmological link with the Waiau-toa (Clarence River)'.
- In 2013 the *Marlborough Express* reported that George Holmes' research had indicated that Clarence River was named after a character in Shakespeare's play 'Richard III', and not the Duke of Clarence who later became King William IV<sup>12</sup>.

Recorded in the NZGB's archives

- In 1939 the Chief Surveyor recorded, 'Clarence: Situated at the mouth of the Clarence River, the Maori name for which is Waiautoa'<sup>13</sup>.
- When considering Clarence Railway Station in 1939, the Honorary Geographic Board commented 'Clarence is the Waiautoa of the Maori; but there are so many Waiaus in the south, in particular the great Waiau of Cheviot, that Clarence. Long known as the Pakeha name, should be adopted for the station' (ibid.).
- A 1953 clipping from the *Christchurch Press* records 'the Waiau-uha (Dillon) was the female river and the Clarence (Waiau-toa) the male. They were two rivers who drifted apart'<sup>14</sup>.
- The NZGB's card index (no date) records, 'The name of Clarence River does not seem to be adequately explained. The most likely source is the Duke of Clarence who became King William IV in 1830. Captain Steine who gave the name, Horne Bay, to what is now Picton Harbour, possibly also named Clarence River as his ship was 'King William the Fourth'.'

Consultation with groups who may be interested in the proposal

- The proposer has provided evidence of support for the proposal from TRoNT.
- The proposer has not provided evidence of consultation with interested groups such as the Department of Conservation, tramping and fishing clubs, local communities, for example, Hanmer Springs, Clarence (locality) and Kaikoura, Environment Canterbury or the Canterbury Regional Council.
- If the NZGB accepts this proposal, then it should communicate directly with affected groups to advise them of the proposal. They may then make a submission during the notification period.

Advice on orthography from Te Taura Whiri i te

- The Secretariat requested advice on orthography from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (TTWh) on 24 March 2016. TTWh has not responded to

<sup>8</sup> Haast, JFJ von (1870). *Notes on Thermal Springs in the Hanmer Plains, Province of Nelson*. Accessed 3 February 2016 from [http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz\\_03/rsnz\\_03\\_00\\_004550.pdf](http://rsnz.natlib.govt.nz/volume/rsnz_03/rsnz_03_00_004550.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Fletcher, HJ (1925). *Index of Māori Names*. <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/library/maori-names-index/W1.shtml> accessed 2 February 2016.

<sup>10</sup> Accessed 29 March 2016 from *The Ancient History of the Maori, His Mythology and Traditions. Nga-Ti-Whātua [Vol. IX]* at <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Whi09MAnci-t1-front-d3.html>

<sup>11</sup> Jolly, D. (2004). *Waiau River Catchment: Tangata Whenua Values Report*. Accessed 4 February 2016 from <http://ecan.govt.nz/publications/Plans/waiiau-river-catchment-tangata-whenua-values-report.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Bell, C. (2013). *Drama behind river's name*. Accessed 29 March 2016 from <http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/8142481/Drama-behind-rivers-name>

<sup>13</sup> NZGB Archives. Volume 15, p.149.

<sup>14</sup> NZGB Archives. Volume 28, p.175.

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Sections from the NZGB Act 2008 relevant to this proposal

- Section 3(e): provide the means for appropriate recognition to be accorded to cultural and heritage values associated with geographic features.
- Under Sections 11(1)(b),(d),(e) and (f) functions of the NZGB are to:
  - examine cases of doubtful spelling of names and determine the spelling to be adopted on official charts or maps
  - collect original Māori names for recording on official charts and maps
  - encourage the use of original Māori names on official charts and maps
  - seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori on the correct orthography of any Māori name

*TRoK, who are mana whenua, has provided evidence to support the meaning of 'Waiau Toa', and as part of its current standard process the NZGB has sought orthographical advice from TTWh. Altering the feature's name to 'Waiau Toa', or including 'Waiau Toa' as part of a dual name, would recognise the historical significance of the name and support the desire of TRoK to have the meaning and story behind the name live on.*

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Sections from the NZGB's Frameworks v.7 relevant to this proposal

- Name alterations: The Board may alter a name, for example by correcting its spelling where the correction is important, such as when it is a form of redress and it may correct a significant wrong and grievance of a community. However, other criteria and legislative considerations may outweigh this policy.

*TRoK settled their Treaty negotiations some years ago, so this proposal is not part of a Treaty redress; however, altering the river's name may correct a grievance of mana whenua, who have a significant connection to the river.*

- Spelling standards: A name that has been in long term local use may take precedence over any proposal to alter spelling. However, subject to safety concerns, the Board may alter the spelling if the correct or original version is discovered.

*Apart from the 1995 Infomap 346-02, since 1954 maps, plans and charts name the feature only as Clarence River, so there may be issues for emergency services if the name was altered. The NZGB must weigh up whether this long term use outweighs TRoK's desire to have the original Māori name restored and the NZGB's own statutory purpose/functions.*

- Spatial extents of geographic features: The Board will consider the spatial extent of a geographic feature on a case-by-case basis, and where possible will determine those extents.

*TRoK has provided a map that defines the extent of the river. The geographic extent is relatively large, and it is a significant recreational area where there has been loss of life over the years.*

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Hydrographic

- Clarence River is depicted on Chart NZ 25 (South Island) and NZ 62 (Cape Palliser to Kaikoura Peninsula) and recorded in the *Admiralty*

concerns or issues	<p><i>Sailing Directions</i><sup>15</sup> to describe hazards on the coastal route between Cape Campbell to Haumuri Bluffs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No useful marks or aids for navigation are shown near to the mouth of the river on the charts, so there should be no maritime safety issues if the name was altered.</li> </ul>
Concerns or issues for emergency services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposer has not provided evidence of consultation with emergency services. The river is a popular recreational area for fishing, hunting, tramping, mountaineering, cycling, rafting, kayaking and horse trekking<sup>16</sup>, and is well known in the surrounding communities.</li> <li>There have been a number of fatalities and emergency services' callouts over the years in the vicinity of the river. The <i>Christchurch Press</i> recently reported that a fisherman drowned at the mouth of Clarence River when he was hit by a wave and washed out to sea<sup>17</sup>.</li> <li>If the river is officially dual named it is more likely to be named on maps and charts, which would assist emergency services.</li> </ul>
Costs implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There should be no concerns because of cost. Updating signs, promotional material, maps, databases etc would be completed over time and in the course of usual maintenance.</li> </ul>
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is likely to be media attention as the river is well known in the surrounding communities and is used recreationally.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Online Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NZSL is an official language of New Zealand. Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) the NZGB is obliged to recognise the existence and importance of geographic names in NZSL.</li> <li>There is no standardised New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) sign for Waiau Toa or Clarence in the online Dictionary. The NZGB may consider recommending that if the dual name Clarence River / Waiau Toa becomes official that it be added to the NZSL Dictionary.</li> </ul>



river  
awa  
stream  
noun

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Proposal – 18 March 2016
2. Email to Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori – 24 March 2016

<sup>15</sup> Mason, S. (Ed.). 2010. *Admiralty Sailing Directions, New Zealand Pilot, 18<sup>th</sup> edition*. United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, Taunton, United Kingdom.

<sup>16</sup> Department of Conservation. *Clarence visitor information, Ka Whata Tū o Rākohouia Conservation Park*. Accessed 29 March 2016 from <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/nelson-marlborough/clarence-reserve-conservation-area.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> *Fisherman swept out to sea from Clarence River mouth near Kaikoura*. Accessed 29 March 2016 from <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/78308011/man-swept-out-to-sea-from-clarence-river-mouth>