

Subject: Place Name Change Process

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Meeting Date: 5 September 2013

Report to COUNCIL for noting

SUMMARY

At the 25 July 2013 Council meeting Kaiti School staff and children outlined the background to a petition they presented to Mayor Foon seeking Council support for changing the name for Poverty Bay to Turanganui a Kiwa.

The New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB) is responsible for official place names on behalf of the Crown. This report briefly outlines the process required to formally change a place name.

The process involves detailed historical research and public consultation by the applicant, followed by validation by the NZGB. In relation to the proposal of a Maori place name, the NZGB will engage Te Puni Kokiri/the Ministry of Maori Development to consult with local Iwi. The proposed name is officiated at the time of gazettal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council

1. receives the report



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1. DISCUSSION and OPTIONS

Proposals to assign new place names, change existing place names, or restore historical/original place names requires a formal application to the New Zealand Geographic Board (NZGB). A copy of the Proposal Form is attached (Appendix 1).

Poverty Bay

The NZGB consider the name Poverty Bay (for the Bay feature type) as a *collected* or *regarded* name, rather than an official name (it has not been officiated through gazettal). Regardless of the status of the name the process, to apply a new name or to change the name, are the same.

The NZGB Guide for applicants is attached (Appendix 2). The Guide encourages applicants to undertake consultation, recognising that more weight is given to applications which have been well consulted, have support, and give recognition to any cultural aspects. While applicants are encouraged to consult with Council on a proposal, they do not need to have Council endorsement to make an application.

The NZGB has specific protocol for Maori place names, which engages Te Puni Kokiri through its regional network, to assist with obtaining the views of local Iwi.

Name Change Process

Proposals are considered following a defined process. A diagram of the full process is attached (Appendix 3). The process endeavours to ensure that the views of affected people and groups are taken into account. The general process of a successful proposal to change the name of a geographic feature or place is:

1. The applicant making the proposal undertakes research and consultation and completes the proposal form.
2. The proposal is received by the NZGB Secretariat.
3. Research, investigation and validation (potentially including public consultation) is carried out by the Secretariat.
4. The NZGB considers the proposal and weighs it against the 'naming rules'.
5. If supported, the NZGB publicly notifies the proposed name and calls for submissions. Members of the public may make submissions to object to or support the proposal.
6. Submissions are collated.
7. The NZGB makes a decision to uphold or reject any objections.
8. If the objections are not upheld, then the Minister for Land Information makes final determination.
9. If the objections are upheld, or if there are no objections, then the NZGB makes the final determination.
10. The official name is published in the NZ Gazette and is publicly notified.

2. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Dual names, Maori/English are preferred by NZGB for coastal features (to provide certainty where a name has been used on coastal maps, international shipping routes, and by Coastguard and emergency services etc).