

13. PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUBURB NAMES

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Corporate Plan Output: Subdivisions	

The purpose of this report is to explain the procedures necessary to change a suburb name, as requested in the attached letter.

Local Authorities are empowered pursuant to S319 (j) Local Government Act 1974, to name and to alter the name of any road within their district. They do not however have any such empowerment with the names of suburbs or localities.

Responsibility for the naming and alterations to names of suburbs is held by The New Zealand Geographic Board, whose powers are contained in the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 and its 1988 Amendment.

“9. BOARD MAY ASSIGN OR ALTER CERTAIN PLACE NAMES

- (1) Notwithstanding anything in any other Act, but subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board may from time to time*
 - (a) Assign a name to any place in New Zealand:*
 - (b) Alter the name of any place in New Zealand, whether by substituting another name thereof or by correcting the spelling thereof, and whether the name to be altered was first applied to the place before or after the passing of this Act.*
- (2) For the purposes of this section, the term “place” means--*
 - (a) Any town, village, village settlement, special settlement, goldfield or mining district, land area, or other district, place or locality whatsoever [(not being the district of a territorial authority or a ward or riding thereof)]:”*
(A suburb is not a District, Ward or Riding, which are legally constituted and defined.)

When considering any application to name or alter the name of any suburb or locality, the Geographic Board will may seek an opinion from the local authority on the proposal

Land Information New Zealand act as agent for the Geographic Board, so that any application to change the name of a suburb should be made through their Christchurch Office.

Land Information New Zealand’s web site includes the following introduction to the Geographic Board, which sets out the functions, rules, and the procedures necessary to make an application to name or change a name.

THE NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Introduction

The process of accepting or rejecting geographical names within New Zealand is the responsibility of the New Zealand Geographic Board Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa. The Board recognises that place names should be the product of careful and informed decisions.

Constituted under the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946, the Board is an independent body responsible to the Minister for Food, Fibre, Biosecurity and Border Control.

The Surveyor-General is Chairman of the Board, which comprises seven members appointed under the Act. They have responsibility for naming in New Zealand including: the Kermadec, Chatham, Auckland and Campbell Islands and the Ross sea region, Antarctica; and within the territorial waters of New Zealand. At the present time, the members of the New Zealand Geographic Board Nga Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa are:

- Mr Tony Bevin, Surveyor-General/Chairman
- Professor Evelyn Stokes
- Ms Sylvia Allan
- Mr Brian McLay
- Sir Tipene O'Regan
- Professor Wharehuia Milroy
- Mr David McQueen
- The seventh member to represent Ngai Tahu has yet to be appointed.

The functions of the Board are:

- to adopt rules of naming
- to examine cases of doubtful spelling
- to investigate and determine the priority of discovery
- to collect original Maori place names for recording on official maps
- to encourage the use of original Maori place names
- to determine what foreign names should be replaced by Maori or British names
- to investigate any proposed alteration of a place name or any proposed new name
- to make any inquiries and recommendations on any matter referred to it by the Minister

The Board undertakes to assign place-names for small urban settlements, localities, mountains, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, harbours and any other natural features.

It has, however, no authority to change the name of local authority districts or regions (unless those districts have first agreed to the change). Streets and roads are named by local authorities. National parks and reserves are named by the Department of Conservation who consults with the Board.

An “original Maori place-name” means any Maori place name that is recognised by the tangata whenua (people of the land) as one historically associated with a place within their tribal boundary

Rules of Nomenclature

The Board has adopted rules of naming which act as guiding principles for any proposals. They are:

1. Names which have historical, geographic or particular local significance are generally acceptable. So too, for example, are names of early explorers and discoverers, early settlers, surveyors and geologists and early notable people or events which have some connection with the proposed area to be named.
2. Names of persons will not be given to features during the person’s lifetime. If the name of a deceased person is used, generally the surname is chosen. For example, the South Island’s Brunner Range, which rises from the south bank of the Buller River, is named after the 19th century explorer Thomas Brunner. Brunner’s surname was not given to the mountain range until several years after his death.
3. Descriptive names can be used provided there is no duplication of the name in a neighbouring area.
4. Name duplication is avoided.
5. The use of the possessive form, for example, Handys Bay, is avoided.
6. Names in local usage normally take precedence, but may be subject to spelling corrections or alteration if previously known original names (either Maori or European) are discovered. Mangemangeroa Creek, which flows into Auckland’s Tamaki Strait, is an example of a correction in spelling. This creek was originally recorded as Maungamaungaroa Creek.
7. Names considered to be in poor taste are avoided.

How to Propose a Name

Anyone can propose a new or altered name but the proposal must be made on the official submission form and must include the following information:

- The location of the feature should be marked on a map with a scale, map grid reference or latitude and longitude (a Land Information New Zealand, or its predecessors, map is preferable).
- The origin, meaning and significance of the name.
- An indication as to whether local Maori authorities have been consulted on the possibility that an original Maori name may already exist for the feature.
- Copies of any research material gathered.
- References to any appearance of the name in publications.
- If possible, a photograph of the feature.

What Happens Next?

When the Board approves a name it is advertised in the New Zealand Gazette and selected national and local newspapers. The name is then open to objection for three months. Advertising allows the general public to have an input into proposed names. If no objections are received, the name is approved. If an objection is received the Board considers the name a second time and then reports to the Minister who will either confirm, modify or reverse the Board's recommendation. The Minister's decision is final and gives the new name official status. All final names are advertised in the New Zealand Gazette and national and local newspapers.

Of the possible names submitted to Councillor Sheriff, for that area bounded by Travis Road, Bassett Street, New Brighton Road and Barkers Road, Avon Vale being immediately adjacent, albeit separated by the river could cause some confusion with Avondale, while Ascot Glen may also create problems with Ascot Avenue and the Ascot Golf Course being outside the proposed locality.

The locality of Cracroft, created in recent years went through this formal process. Mr D Crook of the Cracroft Residents Association (14 Pahau Place Christchurch 8002) may be willing to assist with advice on costs and time taken to approve the application.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received.