# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

## 28 JUNE 2017

## AGENDA ITEM C3

# PROPOSED FORMAL NAMING OF FEATHERSTON

## Purpose of Report

To inform Councillors of the process for the formal naming of Featherston and to decide whether to support such a process.

## Recommendation

Officers recommend that the Council:

1.  *Receive the information.*

2.  *Resolve to support the formal naming of Featherston as proposed by the Featherston Ratepayers and Residents Association; or*

3.  *Decline to support the application.*

## 1.   Summary

Ed Hudson of the Featherston Ratepayers and Residents Association has written to Council seeking support for their proposal to formally name Featherston. The formal naming would apply to the current township which is already known widely as Featherston.

Such a name confirmation request must be submitted to the New Zealand Geographical Board (NZGB) for official adoption. The Board is charged to assess such applications taking into account the history of the place (both Maori and European). Issues such as the correctness of the name are also considered.

## 2.   Process

Applications to name, or change the name, of places in New Zealand can be made to the NZGB which is part of Land Information New Zealand. The Board describes its role as to:

•       give places official names;

•       approve names that already exist unofficially;

•       change names (e.g. if spelling is different);

•       remove names;

- review names for Crown protected areas (e.g. national parks).

The Board sets out an extensive list of pre-consideration requirements which applicants to the Board must meet;

"NZGB Act 2008  S.15(2) - *A proposal must (a) be in the form provided for the purpose by the Board; and (b) meet the requirements specified by the Board; and (c) include the evidence necessary to support the proposal.*

The Board has set out the matters to be covered to satisfy S.15(2) (b) and (c)  which would apply to the Featherston proposals, as follows;

- A map or chart (preferably from Land Information New Zealand) showing the location and if applicable, the marked up extent of the proposed name.
- For historical names, sufficient information/evidence must be provided about the events, stories and people associated with the place (i.e. history/origin/meaning).
- For descriptive names, sufficient information/evidence must be provided to support the way in which the name describes the feature, unless it is obvious from other information provided
- For dual or alternative names, sufficient information/evidence associated with both names must be provided.
- For all proposals, evidence of the orthography must be provided (e.g. macrons for Māori names, correct spelling for personal names).
- For all proposals, the type of feature being named must be specified. An appropriate generic geographic component for the name should be included, though for populated places and historic sites, the generic is not generally used. Generally the English generic element is preferred for natural features.
- Proposers must confirm that they have referred to the Board's Frameworks document and other relevant standards during the compilation of their proposal.

## 3.   Timeline

In terms of a timeline, the Board holds scheduled meetings throughout the year. For a proposal to be considered it must satisfy the above requirements, but also be notified to the Board by set due dates.

In that regard it is up to the applicants, once they are satisfied they have met the Boards requirements for a name to be considered, to apply to the Board in accord with the schedule set by the Board.

## 4.  Decision process

The NZGB considers place name proposals following a set process to make sure that it takes into account the views of affected people and groups. The general process is:

• Once a proposal is received, and all of the supporting information required has been provided, the Secretariat of the Board validates and researches the proposal, and carries out any further consultation that might be needed.

• The Secretariat then provides a comprehensive report with recommendations on the proposal for the NZGB to consider at its next meeting.

• The NZGB considers the proposal and recommendations, weighing them against the NZGB Act 2008 and its naming rules and policies.

• **If** the NZGB supports the proposal, it advertises the proposed name asking for submissions.

• Anyone, including the person who proposed the name, can make a submission objecting to or supporting the name within the timeframe advertised by the NZGB (which is never less than one month and can be up to three months, but may be longer).

• The Secretariat then provides another comprehensive report on any submissions received to the NZGB's next meeting

• If there are no submissions or if the NZGB agrees with all of the objecting submissions, then it makes the final decision.

• If the NZGB does not agree with the submissions objecting to the name, then the Minister for Land Information makes the final decision.

## 5.  Conclusion

Council has been asked to support formally naming Featherston. The decision making body is the NZGB. To name or change a name, the Board follows the provisions of the NZGB Act 2008. This includes public consultation. The Minister is the final decision maker should a name or change of name be opposed.

## 6.  Appendices

Appendix 1 – Establishment and History of Featherston

Appendix 2 – Official Geographic Name Proposal

Appendix 3 - Process for New Zealand Official Geographic Names

Contact Officer:    Murray Buchanan, Group Manager Planning and Environment

# Appendix 1 – Establishment and History of Featherston

# Attachment A

# History of Featherston

## Location

Featherston evolved because of its location. It is located on the western boundary of the Wairarapa plain where the highway (State Highway 2) exits the Rimutaka Ranges onto the plain. In this sense, Featherston is the gateway between the Wairarapa, on one side, and Wellington and overseas, on the other.

The geographical coordinates of Featherston are 41.1168° S, 175.3231° E.

The extent of Featherston is shown in this map:



The position of Featherston in the southern North Island is shown in this map:

## Growth of the town

Settlement of (what is now) Featherston began with Henry Burling. Henry Burling ran cattle near Morisons Bush and cut a track from there to the base of the Rimutakas to drive cattle to/from his run. In 1849 he was granted a licence to establish a 'house of entertainment', Burling's Bush Inn, where the track over the Rimutakas met the Wairarapa plain. This accommodation house was on the site that later became Featherston.

By 1856 the track over the Rimutakas had been developed into a road which could take wheeled traffic – horse and ox carts. In that same year, a town site of 385 acres, subdivided into sections of a quarter to 1 acre, was surveyed for the Provincial Government of Wellington. Settlement of the site began on 31 January 1857, by which time the town had been named Featherston in honour of Dr Isaac Earl Featherston, then Superintendent of the Province of Wellington.

The first school was established in 1863 by a recent settler, James Cox. The school was next to (what became) Clifford Square. The initial roll records 16 children in attendance. The Royal Hotel was opened in 1875. The original building burned down in 1893 and a new hotel built; this building remains to this day, near the east end of the main street, Fitzherbert St.

The population was small until the railway line over the Rimutakas opened in 1878. The Rimutaka Incline (the track on the Wairarapa side of the Rimutakas) was so steep that special locomotives were needed for traction. This was the world famous Fell system (which used horizontal driving wheels against a third, centre track, seen in the following photograph). The Fell engine technology and equipment is on permanent display in the Fell Engine Museum on Fitzherbert St.

Servicing the Fell engines took place at Cross Creek. There was a small settlement for railway workers at Cross Creek and another at the rail summit. The rail business, though, loading and unloading passengers and freight, took place at Featherston.

Featherston railway opened with a seven-room station building, refreshment rooms, a goods shed, a locomotive shed and watering facilities for the locomotives. The Empire Hotel opened in the early 1880s, located on Johnston St, close to the railway station. Featherston initially was the railhead for the Wairarapa but even after the line to Masterton opened in the 1880s, Featherston was an important rail stop as it serviced all rail traffic coming into and leaving from southern Wairarapa.

The steady growth of farming in southern Wairarapa drove the growth of Featherston as a farm servicing centre and the transport hub – Featherston was the access point to both the rail link and the road link to the Hutt Valley, Wellington and the port.

A major development was the establishment of a dairy factory in 1895. This was the Featherston Cooperative Dairy Factory, located in South Featherston. The shareholders all were local settlers running dairy cattle.

The Cyclopedia of New Zealand (Wellington Provincial District), 1897, identifies a wide range of businesses taking place in Featherston including – fruiterer, confectioner, grocers, bakery, watchmaker, jeweler, hairdresser, boarding house, insurance, banks, butchers, draper, clothier, dressmakers, tailor, saddler, sawmiller, builders, plumber, painters, carpenter, bootmakers, wheelwright, blacksmith, livery stables, undertaker. There were also schools, churches, sporting clubs, friendly societies and social clubs.

Featherston changed dramatically with the onset of World War I. Featherston was the site of the principal training camp for soldiers entering the New Zealand Army. The camp was located on both sides of (what is now) State Highway 2, slightly east of Boundary Road. Featherston Military Camp opened in January 1916. It included some 250 buildings and was New Zealand's largest training camp. Some 60,000 soldiers were trained at Featherston on their way to WWI. Infantry, mounted rifles and artillery men trained at the Camp. Part of the Camp is shown in this photo.

When training finished at war's end, the camp was used briefly as an internment camp, hospital and ordinance store. The need for hospital facilities was accentuated by the influenza epidemic of late 1918. Anzac Hall (which opened in 1916) was also used as a hospital. 243 soldiers died during the camp's operation, with over 160 dying in the influenza epidemic.

The camp was dismantled in the 1920s but the site was retained by the defence agencies. A prisoner of war camp was built on the site during World War II, operating from 1942 to 1946. It housed up to 900 inmates, prisoners from the Japanese side captured in the fighting in the Pacific.

The camp's most infamous event occurred on 22 February 1943. Around 275 prisoners staged a sit-in, refusing to work. A Japanese Lieutenant was shot and wounded by the camp adjutant. This led to the prisoners either charging or appearing to charge the guards, who opened fire with rifles. This altercation resulted in the deaths of 64 prisoners. One New Zealand soldier was killed by a ricochet bullet. The prisoners were returned to Japan in early 1946.

After World War II Featherston reverted to servicing the expanding rural economy of the southern Wairarapa. The opening of the railway tunnel through the Rimutakas in 1955 brought Featherston into a new phase of growth. Less expensive freight service assisted local farming, particularly of wool and meat. Regulations (introduced in 1936 and continued until 1983) that required freight to be moved by rail and not road (initially a 30 mile limit on road freight, later increased to 150 kilometres) boosted the role of rail and the Featherston station. The tunnel allowed a 55 minute passenger rail

service between Featherston and Wellington. This stimulated the growth of Featherston as a residential area for people working in the Hutt Valley and Wellington. Low property prices also attracted retired people into Featherston.

## Population

Although the town of Featherston was established in 1857 numbers for the population start only in 1878. The New Zealand Census has been carried out intermittently since then, giving population numbers. The numbers in the following table refer to Featherston Town District; population numbers for the Featherston Riding, Featherston County and areas surrounding the town were greater.

### Population of Featherston

| Year | Population |
|------|------------|
| 1878 | 494 |
| 1891 | 668 |
| 1896 | 711 |
| 1906 | 670 |
| 1911 | 743 |
| 1916 | 1,159 |
| 1937 | 1,050 |
| 1951 | 1,069 |
| 1956 | 1,197 |
| 1966 | 1,857 |
| 1996 | 2,421 |
| 2001 | 2,325 |
| 2006 | 2,340 |
| 2013 | 2,253 |

These numbers show that Featherston has grown in stages – initially the town grew in line with the Wairarapa, the population jumped to a new level with World War I and military activity, the town then was steady until the mid-1950s, grew moderately to the mid-1990s and has since been steady.

## Maori connections

There were Maori settlements in southern Wairarapa before the arrival of European sttlers but there was no recorded Maori settlement in Featherston. After the establishment of Featherston

there was a small settlement at Kaiwaiwai. Kaiwaiwai included a school and hall so apparently provided some services to the surrounding farming people. In any case, Kaiwaiwai was 8 kilometres outside of Featherston along the road to Martinborough.

The focus of Maori activity in southern Wairarapa was Wairarapa Moana (Lake Wairarapa) and Lake Onoke. These were an important source of food such as fish and eels. These waters are to the south of Featherston and some distance away from the town.

## Government history

Featherston was established by Wellington Province in 1856, after the track over the Rimutakas had been expanded to take wagons. For many years Featherston was governed simply as part of the Province. However, there were pressing local needs, in particular for roads. Local associations evolved into the Featherston Highways Board, established in 1872. This Board had the power to levy rates. The Highways Board and its successor, the Featherston Roads Board, were active in building roads and bridges in southern Wairarapa. Featherston Town Board was constituted in 1881 to manage town services in the 700 acres (approximately 283 hectares) of the town. Among the achievements of the Town Board was the construction of a high pressure water supply system (opened in 1906). The Board was replaced in 1917 by the Featherston Borough Council. The old Council building on Fitzherbert Street remains.

The broader area of southern Wairarapa continued to be covered by the Featherston Roads Board which was divided into seven wards. This changed in 1902 to the Featherston County Council which had nine ridings, one of these ridings covered Featherston town and nearby area. The County Council continued until 1989 when it was changed into the South Wairarapa District Council.

## Present day Featherston

Featherston today has many similarities to its past and its establishment 160 years ago. The similarities are that it is a transport hub for people and freight moving to and from the Hutt Valley, Wellington and the port and, also, that Featherston is a servicing centre for farming in southern Wairarapa. But Featherston has taken on an additional feature – it has emerged as a residential area for people attracted into the town by its relatively low property prices. Thus, Featherston has a

considerable number of people travelling to work in the Hutt Valley and, in particular, in Wellington as well as a considerable number of low income and retired people.

Businesses such as RD1, the sawmill, the vets and the fertilizer company service the surrounding land-based activity. Businesses such as the supermarket, automobile repair, petrol station, hardware store, building supplies store, self storage, builders, electricians, liquor stores, real estate offices, lawyers, bank, pubs, eateries, medical centre and library service the residents. Businesses such as the cheese shop, cafes, museums, book shops and thrift shops cater to traffic driving through on State Highway 2. And churches, schools, social and community organisations continue to play and active role in the community.

Featherston remains a distinctive and vibrant town, continuing its traditions since its founding more than 160 years ago while steadily changing with the modern world.

# Appendix 2 – Official Geographic Name Proposal
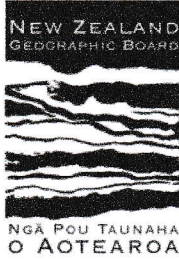
*New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008*

## Official Geographic Name Proposal within

# New Zealand

*Includes Offshore Island names*
*Excludes Antarctic names (Ross Dependency), Undersea Feature names,*
*Treaty Settlement names, District or Region names, and Crown protected area names*

**NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD**

**NGĀ POU TAUNAHA**
**O AOTEAROA**

**Notes:**
(i)   A separate form must be completed for each Official Geographic Name proposal – Section 15(2)(a) of the NZGB Act 2008 refers.
(ii)  Refer to the accompanying 'Guidance Notes' and 'Requirements for Geographic Name Proposals' when filling out this form.
(iii) Complete all sections of the form and attach any other pages or supporting documentary evidence.
(iv)  The information you supply is subject to public scrutiny.  Personal information provided in this form and any attachments, will be held by Land Information New Zealand *Toitū te whenua*, and may be used for the purpose of public consultation on your proposal.  In particular, your personal information may be provided to, and used by, Te Puni Kōkiri (the Ministry of Māori Development) or other government agencies, for enabling consultation on your proposal with appropriate Māori groups.  The provision of information on this form is not mandatory or required by law, but failure to provide the information will mean that your proposal cannot be considered. Pursuant to the Privacy Act 1993, you have the right of access to, and correction of, personal information provided in this form and any attachments.
(v)   Information considered to be culturally, historically or spiritually sensitive will be treated with respect.

**Proposer's name:** Featherston Ratepayers

**Address:** and Residents Association Inc.
38A Waite St
Featherston 5710

**Proposal date:** ......................

**Telephone (home):** (021 116 6312

**Telephone (work):** (.....) ...................

**Facsimile:** (.....) ...................

**Email:** chair@frra.nz

**1  Proposal to:**                                          *tick one*

ASSIGN a **NEW** name........................ ☐
or **ALTER** an **EXISTING** name ............... ☐
or **DISCONTINUE** an **EXISTING** name.... ☐
or **APPROVE** a **RECORDED** name .......... ☑

Featherston
*(Proposed name)*

**2  Current or alternative geographic name:**

*(Existing name, if any)* Featherston

**3  Geographic feature type:**
*(eg mountain, river, lake, suburb, locality, etc.)*

*(Feature type)* Town

**4  Location:**                                     *(attach further details)*

(a)  Description and general vicinity: ...... where SH2 exits the Rimutakas onto the Wairarapa valley

(b)  Map or chart number (eg NZTopo50-AT24 or NZ 443): NZTopo250 map16
NZTopomap BP33

(c)  Full coordinates or grid reference: ...............
*(in terms of NZTM or NZGD2000 or latitude and longitude)* 41.1168°S, 175.3231° E

**5  Māori or European name:**                       *(attach further details)*
*(Complete a or b, and c.  Refer to the accompanying notes for requirements, including guidelines on consultation.)*

(a)  Māori name; translation and its source: ...... There is no Maori name

(b)  European name; Does a Māori name exist? ...... Featherston

(c)  Sources consulted: Historical documents, histories. See Attachment A

**6  Origin:**                                        *(attach further details)*

(a)  Description: Featherston was surveyed and established in 1857 by
(b)  Background: the Wellington Provincial government. It was named after
(c)  Local or common usage: Dr Isaac Featherston, Superintendent of the Province
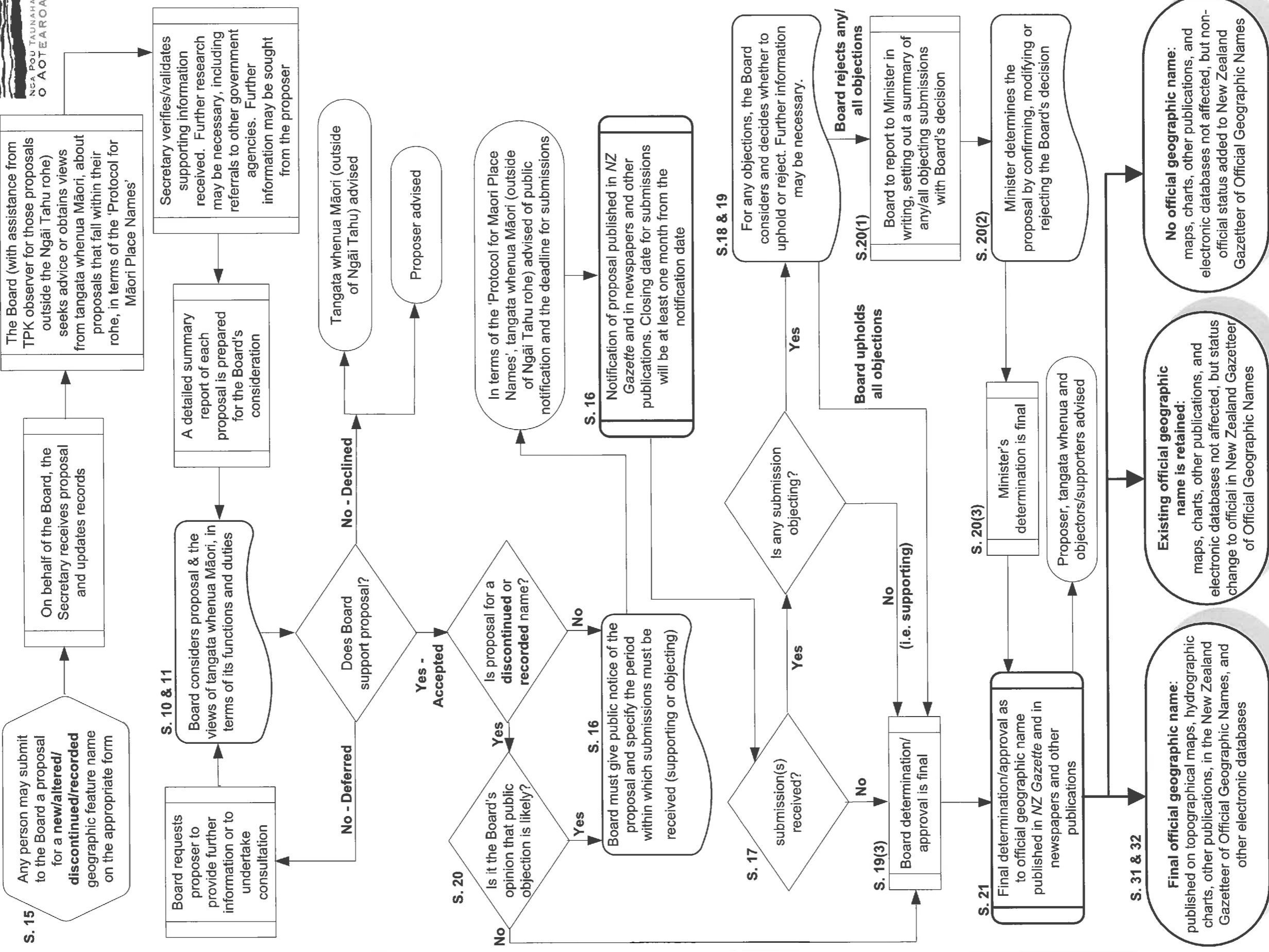
**7  Name duplication:** ......... None

*(attach further details)*

**8  Other supporting information:** ...............     *(attach further details)*

# Appendix 3 – Process for New Zealand Official Geographic Names

# NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD (NGĀ POU TAUNAHA O AOTEAROA) ACT 2008

## PROCESS FOR NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

(excluding local authority districts/regions, Crown protected areas, undersea features outside the NZ 12NM territorial limit and Antarctica)

**S. 15** — Any person may submit to the Board a proposal for a **new/altered/ discontinued/recorded** geographic feature name on the appropriate form

On behalf of the Board, the Secretary receives proposal and updates records

The Board (with assistance from TPK observer for those proposals outside the Ngāi Tahu rohe) seeks advice or obtains views from tangata whenua Māori, about proposals that fall within their rohe, in terms of the 'Protocol for Māori Place Names'

Secretary verifies/validates supporting information received. Further research may be necessary, including referrals to other government agencies. Further information may be sought from the proposer

A detailed summary report of each proposal is prepared for the Board's consideration

**S. 10 & 11** — Board considers proposal & the views of tangata whenua Māori, in terms of its functions and duties

Board requests proposer to provide further information or to undertake consultation

**Does Board support proposal?**

- **No - Declined** → Tangata whenua Māori (outside of Ngāi Tahu) advised / Proposer advised
- **No - Deferred**
- **Yes - Accepted**

**S. 16** — Is proposal for a **discontinued** or **recorded** name?

- **Yes** → **S. 20** — Is it the Board's opinion that public objection is likely?
  - **No** → Board determination/ approval is final
  - **Yes** → **S. 16** — Board must give public notice of the proposal and specify the period within which submissions must be received (supporting or objecting)
- **No** → **S. 16** — Board must give public notice of the proposal and specify the period within which submissions must be received (supporting or objecting)

In terms of the 'Protocol for Maori Place Names', tangata whenua Māori (outside of Ngāi Tahu rohe) advised of public notification and the deadline for submissions

**S. 16** — Notification of proposal published in *NZ Gazette* and in newspapers and other publications. Closing date for submissions will be at least one month from the notification date

**S. 17** — submission(s) received?

- **No** → Board determination/approval is final
- **Yes** → Is any submission objecting?
  - **No (i.e. supporting)** → Board determination/ approval is final
  - **Yes** → **S.18 & 19** — For any objections, the Board considers and decides whether to uphold or reject. Further information may be necessary.
    - **Board rejects any/ all objections** → **S.20(1)** — Board to report to Minister in writing, setting out a summary of any/all objecting submissions with Board's decision → **S. 20(2)** — Minister determines the proposal by confirming, modifying or rejecting the Board's decision → **S. 20(3)** — Minister's determination is final → Proposer, tangata whenua and objectors/supporters advised
    - **Board upholds all objections** → Board determination/approval is final

**S. 21** — Final determination/approval as to official geographic name published in *NZ Gazette* and in newspapers and other publications

**S. 31 & 32**

**Final official geographic name:** published on topographical maps, hydrographic charts, other publications, in the New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names, and other electronic databases

**Existing official geographic name is retained:** maps, charts, other publications, and electronic databases not affected, but status change to official in New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names

**No official geographic name:** maps, charts, other publications, and electronic databases not affected, but non-official status added to New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names

# Information available to any person making a proposal includes:

1. a proposal form with accompanying guidance notes;
2. a fact sheet;
3. New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008;
4. naming guidelines;
5. this flow chart; and
6. Protocol for Māori Place Names.

## Consultation:

*Any persons making proposals are encouraged to undertake their own consultation (e.g. with the local community or interest groups, Department of Conservation, local iwi, Territorial Authorities, etc).*

*Documentary evidence of any such consultation should accompany proposals for new/altered/discontinued/approved geographic feature names.*

*By undertaking consultation, more weight may be added to support the proposal, giving recognition to the appropriate administrative, cultural and heritage aspects, as well as any historical, geographical and/or scientific research undertaken.*

*Although consultation is not mandatory, it is considered by the Board to be an important step towards determining a new, or altering an existing, or discontinuing an existing, or approving a recorded, geographic feature name.*

*When a proposal is received, the Board observes a 'Protocol for Māori Place Names', whereby the Board directly seeks the views of tangata whenua Māori in respect to proposals within their rohe.*