

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 JULY 2015

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## AGENDA ITEM C2

### PROPOSED NAMING - LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To inform Councillors of the proposal to formally name Lake Ferry Settlement.

#### **Recommendation**

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Support the proposal to formally name Lake Ferry Settlement, or;*
3. *Decline to support the proposal to formally name Lake Ferry Settlement.*

#### **1. Summary**

Mr Perry Cameron has written to Council seeking support for his proposal to name the settlement at Lake Ferry as Lake Ferry Settlement. The naming would apply to the approximately 50 residences which currently comprise the built area and an additional 5 hectares of land zoned for urban use.

Such a name 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.

#### **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 S15(2) (b) and (c) which would apply to the Lake Ferry 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 through 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 the next meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place around the third quarter of 2015. To be ready for that meeting Mr Cameron has requested a response from Council by 20 July 2015.

### **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 consider a proposal to formally name Lake Ferry Settlement as such. The decision making body is the NZGB. To name or change a name the Board follows the provisions of the NZGB act 2008, which includes public consultation. The Minister is the final decision maker should a name or change of name be opposed.

## 6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – NZGB Application for Lake Ferry Settlement.

Appendix 2 – Letter from P. Cameron seeking Council support.

Contact Officer: Murray Buchanan, Group Manager Planning and Environment

**Appendix 1 –Application to  
NZGB to Formally Name  
Lake Ferry Settlement**



New Zealand  
 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*

**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.

**Send to:**

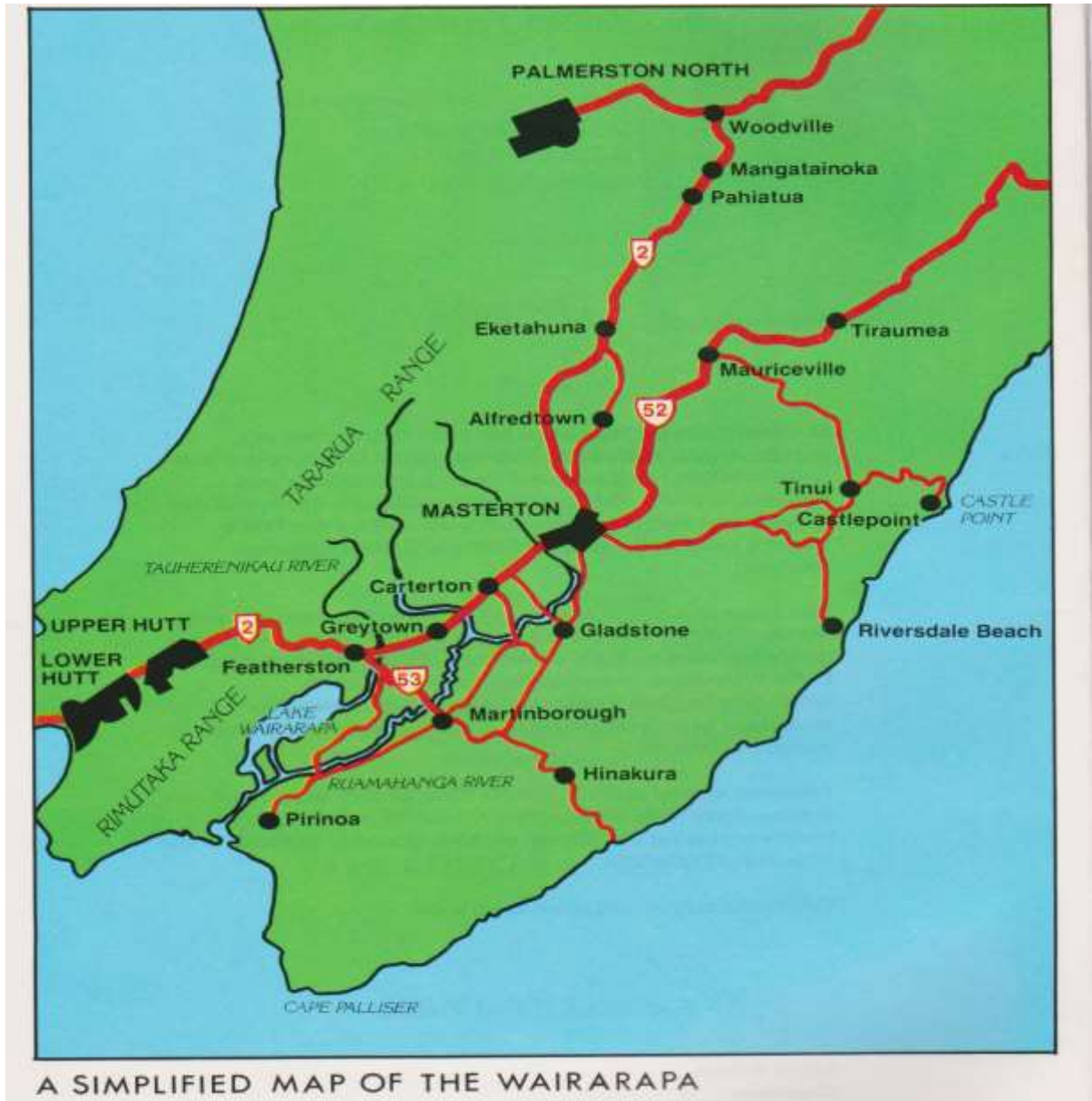
The Secretary  
 New Zealand Geographic Board  
 Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa  
 c/- Land Information New Zealand  
 155 The Terrace  
 PO Box 5501  
 Wellington 6145  
 NEW ZEALAND

Freephone: 0800 Online (665 463)  
 Telephone: 64-4-460 0581  
 Facsimile: 64-4-472 2244  
 Email: info@linz.govt.nz  
 Website: www.linz.govt.nz

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Proposer's name:</b> PERRY CAMERON  |  | <b>Proposal date:</b> 2   |  |
| <b>Address:</b> 11 CHURCHILL CREES<br>FEATHERSTON ST10   |  | <b>Telephone (home):</b> (06) 308 6938                              |  |
|  |  | <b>Telephone (work):</b> (.....)                                    |  |
|  |  | <b>Facsimile:</b> (.....)   |  |
|  |  | <b>Email:</b> pcameron@aactrix.co.nz                                |  |
| <b>1 Proposal to:</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>tick one</i></span>   |  |   |  |
| ASSIGN a NEW name <input type="checkbox"/>   |  | LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT<br><small>(Proposed name)</small>             |  |
| or ALTER an EXISTING name <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |   |  |
| or DISCONTINUE an EXISTING name <input type="checkbox"/>   |  |   |  |
| or APPROVE a RECORDED name <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |  |   |  |
| <b>2 Current or alternative geographic name:</b>   |  | LAKE FERRY (NOT OFFICIAL)<br><small>(Existing name, if any)</small> |  |
| <b>3 Geographic feature type:</b><br><small>(eg mountain, river, lake, suburb, locality, etc.)</small>   |  | URBAN SETTLEMENT<br><small>(Feature type)</small>                   |  |
| <b>4 Location:</b> SOUTH WAIRARAPA COAST <span style="float: right;"><small>(attach further details)</small></span>  |  |   |  |
| (a) Description and general vicinity: HISTORIC SETTLEMENT: LAKE DISTRICT WARDEN  |  |   |  |
| (b) Map or chart number (eg NZTopo50-AT24 or NZ 443): NZMS 260 R27 R28   |  |   |  |
| (c) Full coordinates or grid reference: 41.3895 S 175.139 E P+Q27 Ed 31996<br><small>(in terms of NZTM or NZGD2000 or latitude and longitude)</small> Refer NZ CHARTER |  |   |  |
| <b>5 Māori or European name:</b> <span style="float: right;"><small>(attach further details)</small></span>  |  |   |  |
| <small>(Complete a or b, and c. Refer to the accompanying notes for requirements, including guidelines on consultation.)</small>                                       |  |   |  |
| (a) Māori name; translation and its source: .....  |  |   |  |
| (b) European name; Does a Māori name exist? LAKE FERRY   |  |   |  |
| (c) Sources consulted: HISTORICAL WRITINGS   |  |   |  |
| <b>6 Origin:</b> <span style="float: right;"><small>(attach further details)</small></span>  |  |   |  |
| (a) Description: HISTORIC 19th C. SETTLEMENT ON WAIRARAPA COAST. SEE ATTACHED  |  |   |  |
| (b) Background: Needs official name ID. for future reference.  |  |   |  |
| (c) Local or common usage: Lake Ferry.   |  |   |  |
| <b>7 Name duplication:</b> None <span style="float: right;"><small>(attach further details)</small></span>   |  |   |  |
| <b>8 Other supporting information:</b> Site photos - Appendix. <span style="float: right;"><small>(attach further details)</small></span>                              |  |   |  |

MB.

## LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT – NZGB DETAILS



### THE SOMETIMES MISSING...

The proposal to recognise the historical name of 'Lake Ferry' settlement may be considered in the context of significant contemporary and historical writings. The need for official (NZGB) recognition can be illustrated by changes in perception: the 'Ferry' in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century was a vital point of entry for the entire Wairarapa valley – pioneers drove their stock around the coast from Port Nicholson & Hutt Valley. A settlement followed the establishment of the ferry service and hotel, recounted below. Yet by the 1990's, publications such as 'Wonderful Wairarapa'<sup>1</sup> omitted Lake Ferry and the other south-coast settlements altogether!

<sup>1</sup> 1991 publication – 'Wonderful Wairarapa' (Cosmos Publications) for Tourism Wairarapa. 'A Simplified Map of the Wairarapa' excludes Lake Ferry and Lake Onoke. The above map stops at Pirinoa, while the Lake Ferry Road carries on.

## LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT – NZGB DETAILS



GNS Lloyd Homer

Land Information NZ – Place Name Research: there are anomalies. Neither Lake Ferry nor Lake Onoke is highlighted as an 'official name'.<sup>2</sup> However, both names (for 'Lake' and 'Location') are 'pinned' in the lake (that is, the 'on-land' Lake Ferry Settlement is not recognised). See Gazetteer maps. Recently however, *'The Dominion Post'* 19 May 2015 – front page news: 'MEGAQUAKE' WARNING includes Lake Ferry in the 12 locations depicted for the entire Wellington region – see Appendix.

Lake Ferry Settlement currently comprises about fifty residences. (A further 5 hect. of residential-zoned land is available for development.) There is a motor camp on South Wairarapa Council owned land, children's playground, further reserve land set aside in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and a licensed hotel. An integrated community wastewater system has been in place since 2006. The village is an increasingly popular centre for tourism, fishing and hunting. Today's ratepayers and residents relate to the settlement's historic links and name – see aerial view pg. 7, & signage, etc. in the Appendix, pg. 8.

The following extracts are relevant (and may also relate to official name recognition of 'Lake Onoke' in due course).

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<sup>2</sup> Lake Wairarapa/Wairarapa Moana are not official names.

## LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT – NZGB DETAILS

***Wairarapa Moana The Lake And Its People*** (Fraser Books - 2012) for Wairarapa Archive.

'In 1844 the first stations were established around the shores of the lake (*Onoke*), with sheep and cattle drives around the difficult south coast route towards the lake, and ultimately across it to the pasturage on its eastern shores and on land alongside the Ruamahanga River.' Pg. 66.

'By 1847 there were more Pakeha living on the edge of the lake (*Onoke*).' Pg. 67.

August 1850: '...one of the many drowning fatalities in Wairarapa Moana.' Pg. 68. *During a crossing of a herd of cattle from Wellington to the lake's eastern shore, two Pakeha farmers, a male Maori and child, drowned.*

'...a settler-sponsored ferry service began soon after... Maori initially opposed the (*competing*) service but they gave their blessing eventually and an area was set aside for the ferry operation and its associated hotel, which opened on 1851.' Pg. 69.

'Another area was set aside at the mouth of the lake as a ferry reserve, after the chief Raneira Te Iho agreed to waive his rights to the ferry. The reserve was vested in the Featherston Highway Board in 1872, and in 1903 was made over to the newly-formed Featherston County Council. Over time baches were built on the reserve and eventually the Lake Ferry Motor Camp was established on the shores of the lower lake, by then better known to Pakeha as Lake Ferry than by its proper name, Lake Onoke. It is my hope that the name 'Lake Ferry' should apply to the settlement rather than to the lake itself, commemorating the ferry across the lake rather than the lake itself.

**'Around the Shining Waters A History of Featherston County Council'** - John Dunmore (Heritage Press Ltd - 1990)

'From the earliest times, the Wairarapa Maori had relied on the lake waters as a source of food. The outlet from Lake Onoke was kept open by the natural flow of water until the summer when the rainfall was low and the volume of water insufficient to keep the channel clear. Sand built up quickly, closing the outlet. At that point, the lake waters would back up, flooding the land. The two lakes (*Wairarapa and Onoke*) together with the surrounding swamps covered some 10,000 hectares when the outlet was open, but increased to twice that area when it closed, usually from early January to late March. Not only were grazing lands flooded, but much potentially rich farming land remained waterlogged and



## LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT – NZGB DETAILS

unusable. But the opening and closing of Lake Onoke formed a part of a delicate ecological balance on which the fish and eels depended.' ... 'The situation had not been helped by the 1855 earthquake which raised the land and increased the flood-prone area. From the Maori point of view, this was part of the lake, a part which had not been sold to the Crown; from another point of view, it was mere accretion by natural action of land which had already been ceded.'<sup>3</sup> (pg. 49).

'...Maori wish to ensure that the outlet (to the sea) would not be artificially opened. For years they could not get firm answers from the government; nor indeed could the settlers. In the 1880s, following a particularly bad flood and heavy stock losses, attempts to buy the Maori claim to the land were no more successful in solving the matters than were attempts by angry settlers to shovel the sand away.' (ibid)

*In 1886 the settlers formed a Ruamahanga River Board – it declared the outlet to be a public drain, hence it had to be kept open. This led to a confrontation with Maori in 1888, followed by a Royal Commission in 1891.*

'Years went by before the affair was finally settled. That it led to nothing more serious than comic opera confrontations as a credit to the good relations which existed between Europeans and Maori in the Wairarapa. That the 1896 agreement was finalised at Papawai was due to the importance of that pa in the 1890s.' Pg. 50. See Appendix & also *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Maori '...made it clear the sale did not include the bed of the lakes and that they were selling to the tahakupu, the highwater mark. The failure to properly survey the land, and the disagreement over exactly what had been sold and what had been retained by Maori was to lead to tension between the settlers and their Maori neighbours...' See Footnote 4 – Extract from The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand.

<sup>4</sup> Extract from The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand: In 1896, after Te Maari-o-te-Rangi's death, Hāmuera Tamahau Mahupuku gifted the lakes to the Crown. This ensured the mana (spiritual power) of the lakes remained with Wairarapa Māori. In exchange, the Crown paid £2000 and promised to set aside land for Māori. However, only one reserve was set aside. This was part of the Pouakani Block in faraway southern Waikato, comprising swamp and bush-covered hills, with infertile pumice soils. See Appendix.

## LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT – NZGB DETAILS



\* \* \*

*The Lower Valley Development Scheme opened a diversion of the Ruamahanga River from Lake Wairarapa in 1974. It ‘...kept Lake Wairarapa at a steady level, reduced flooding and with its associated works brought new land into production.’ Pg. 168 (Opening the lake outlet to the sea was required much less frequently because of the river’s diversion, and managed by GWRC with heavy mechanical equipment.)*

*‘Lake Ferry’ now became a misnomer, a puzzling name for later generations. The reserve and the hotel had turned out to be a legal headache for the council. Pg. 169. c1963 (Reconstituted: Featherston County Council.) It was the only local authority in New Zealand to hold a liquor licence, albeit of a public house/hotel operating from a run-down building. The Lake Ferry Hotel was eventually sold to a private owner in October 1968.*

\* \* \*

### **Wairarapa Coastal Strategy**

References: *Wairarapa Coastal Strategy* (March 2004) – an initiative of local government Rangitane o Wairarapa, Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, and Greater Wellington Regional Council.  
*Caring for Our Coast* (March 2004) – by Wairarapa Coastal Strategy Group.

## LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT – NZGB DETAILS

### **Wairarapa Moana’s Future**

At the time this naming application was being prepared, Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project and its governance group developed a Wetlands Project Strategy (March 2015) for Interpretation and Visitor Facilities. A separate 3-year Wairarapa works programme deals with the implementation of the aforementioned strategy.

The project seeks to identify (preserve & enhance) the areas of significant ecological and cultural value: to provide site information that is engaging and effective, and visitor facilities... ‘to enhance the visitor experience.’ Wairarapa should thereby become better known as a public destination for ecological and recreational enjoyment.

The project’s initial focus is on accessible places with good ‘landscape values.’ Sites targeted by the Wairarapa Moana partners are:

- **Lake Onoke**
- **Lake Ferry** (Riparian strip: 2016/17)
- Onoke Spit
- Boggy Pond
- Lake Domain Reserve
- Wairio Wetlands

These coincidental initiatives will give mutual benefits to our historic Wairarapa settlements and the environment.

\* \* \*



# **LAKE FERRY SETTLEMENT – NZGB DETAILS**

**Consultation Feedback  
(To be entered)**

**P.C.  
24/05/15**

## APPENDIX



*There has been a hotel on the shores of Lake Onoke since 1851. By 1897, when Robert & Mary Barton were leasing the rebuilt hotel, a large tariff board on its frontage listed the charges for moving stock across the lake's sea outlet. Wairarapa Archive Ref:03-89/215.*

## APPENDIX



In January 1896, Ngāti Kahungunu gifted Lakes Wairarapa and Ōnoke to the Crown. Here (Papawai) the tribe signs over the title deed. In return the Crown paid them £2,000 and set aside an inadequate land reserve in Waikato. [Alexander Turnbull Library](#)  
Reference: [PAColl-7489-85](#)

The Dominion Post – Front Page clip 19 May 2015:



**Appendix 2 – Letter from P.  
Cameron Seeking Council’s  
Support for the Application  
to Name Lake Ferry  
Settlement**

## *Perry Cameron*

24 June 2015

Mr Paul Crimp, CEO  
South Wairarapa District Council  
Kitchener Street  
MARTINBOROUGH

Ms Liz Patchett  
Secretary, Lake Ferry Ratepayers & Residents Association  
40 Lake Ferry Road  
LAKE FERRY

Dear Paul & Liz

### **Re: Official Geographic Name Proposal**

I believe the 'time has come' for official name recognition of the Lake Ferry Settlement by the NZ Geographic Board ('NZGB').

My draft application based on historical research is enclosed. The NZGB quite properly encourages proposers to consult as appropriate. Accordingly I am providing copies to the following interested parties:

- GWRC and SWDC
- Department of Conservation
- Rangitane o Wairarapa and Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
- Lake Ferry Ratepayers & Residents Association

Proposals and results of consultation are required by the NZGB secretariat well in advance of the next scheduled meeting in September. I would be appreciated if comments by all parties were in my hands by 20 July to meet the deadline.

As is the case with the current proposal to rename the 'Hill' as 'Remutaka Pass', there may well be other aspects to be considered, and consultations, by the NZGB before a final decision is made. My Lake Ferry Settlement proposal is a first step.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



**Perry Cameron**