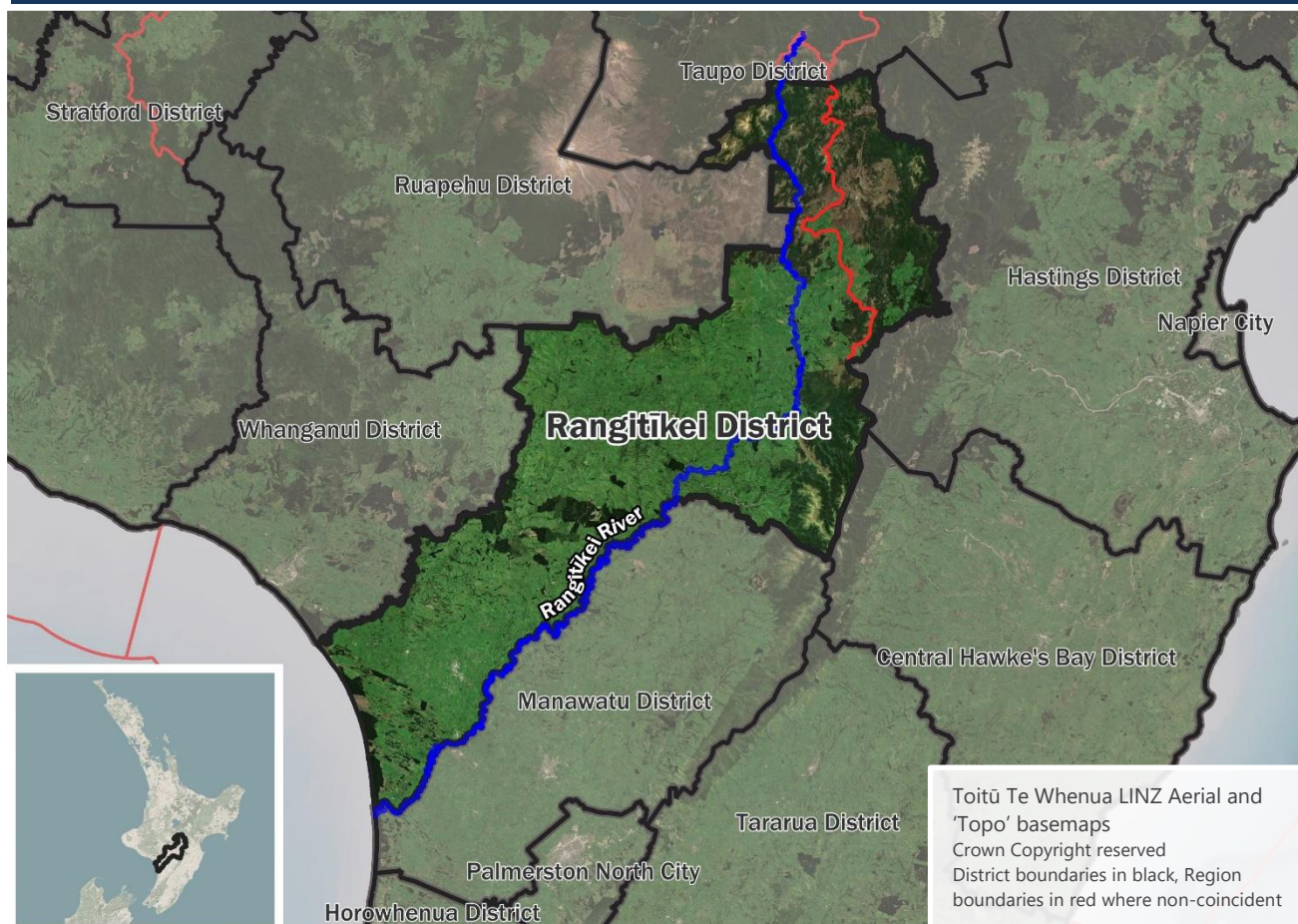


Proposal report considered by the Board on 30 April 2024 for Rangitīkei District with the Board's decision [altered from Rangitikei District]



Summary

On 24 May 2023 Rangitikei District Council (RDC) resolved to alter the name of its local authority district from Rangitikei District to Rangitīkei District, so that it can formally change its local authority name under s.22 of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008.

Rangitīkei is one of several names in tradition applied by Haunui-a-Nanaia who in pursuit of his wife, crossed and named the rivers down the southwest coast of Te Ika-a-Māui. The kōrero in the proposal material is that at this river his 'day [rangī] of striding [tīkei]' came to an end.

The river's name was first applied to local government when Rangitikei County was established in 1876. Over time the extent of the county grew, mostly towards the northeast, and it's had more or less the same extent since the 1920s. Rangitikei District as first established in the 1989¹ reorganisation applies to a similar area.

RDC advised that it consulted directly on marae with iwi/hapū and has provided evidence of support through its Māori liaison committee Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa. There may also be iwi groups on the periphery with interests in the district.

RDC has not provided any evidence of consultation with relevant local authorities including Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council. However, while encouraged, this is not a minimum requirement.

¹ NZ Gazette 1989 (99) p.2351

Board's decision

At its 30 April 2024 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

Accept the proposal to **alter** the official name Rangitikei District to **Rangitikei District** for the district (as defined in Section 5 and listed in Schedule 2 Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2002), based on:

- the resolution of RDC to alter its district name,
- the Board meeting its statutory duty and function to *'enable certain administrative needs of government to be met'*,
- Rangitikei being the correct standardised orthography as advised by an expert licensed translator,
- consistency with the district's namesake Rangitikei River,
- evidence of support from iwi/hapū/marae via Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa, a Māori liaison committee convened by RDC,
- evidence of support from Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council, Hastings District Council, and Manawatu District Council,

and

Notify as a proposal to **alter** for one month.

Secretariat assessment

The proposal

On 24 May 2023 RDC resolved to alter the name of its district from Rangitikei District to Rangitikei District, to add a macron over the second [i].

RDC has provided:

- a copy of the RDC minutes of 24 May 2023 with its resolution,
- the history/origin/meaning of the name Rangitikei,
- discussion on the orthography,
- evidence of its consultation via Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa, its Māori liaison committee, comprised of representatives of iwi and marae in the district. RDC advises it also consulted directly with iwi/hapū on marae.

Following correspondence with the Secretariat RDC advised it would consult with Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council and other districts to seek their support. While consultation with other relevant local authorities is encouraged it is not mandatory in the Board's minimum requirements policy.

RDC does not appear to have conducted its own public consultation, noting this is also not a mandatory requirement of the Board.

Names shown on maps and plans

Rangitikei District was established in 1989 as part of the local body reorganisation. The district boundaries were depicted on SO 36042. The new district replaced Rangitikei County, Marton Borough and Taihape Borough, and the extent included parts of Kiwitea County and Taupo District. Waiouru and its surrounding area was shifted to the new Ruapehu District.

The Local Government Commission manages local authority boundaries. The current RDC boundaries are as depicted on plan [LG-038-2022-W-1](#).² Stats NZ publishes [digital](#) boundaries annually.

These maps and plans show some early documented use of the name Rangitikei:

| Plan/map | Date | Name |
|---|--------|---|
| Chart of Cooks Strait | 1841 | --gatiiki [<i>destroyed by map fold, for the river</i>] |
| Chart of the Islands of New Zealand | 1841 | R. Rangitiki <i>Supposed to take its rise at Tonga-dido Mtn.</i> |
| New Zealand | 1842 | R. Rangitike |
| Plan of the Wairarapa District | 1845 | Rangitiki [river] |
| Map of New Zealand, the island of New Ulster and the several harbours | 1847 | Rangitiki [river] |
| MISC(R)30a - Plan of the Rangitikei Manawatu Block | c.1866 | Rangitikei Manawatu Blk Rangitikei River |

These maps show iterations of the former Rangitikei County:

| Plan/map | Date | Name |
|---|------------|-------------------|
| Sketch map of New Zealand, North Island : shewing the county boundaries in accordance with the Counties Act, 1876 | 1876 | RANGITIKEI |
| NZMS 15 Rangitikei | 1920, 1958 | RANGITIKEI COUNTY |
| NZMS 10A/13, 14, 16 | 1929-1969 | RANGITIKEI |
| NZMS 113A | 1954-1956 | RANGITIKEI |
| NZMS 138A | 1957-1975 | RANGITIKEI |
| NZMS 159A/8, 10, 11 | 1961, 1974 | RANGITIKEI |
| NZMS 310A | 1981-1984 | RANGITIKEI |

Generic term and geographic feature type

The feature is a local authority district as defined in [Section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002](#).

The name of the Council must be altered through an Order-in-Council by the Governor-General updating [Schedule 2 Part 2 Local Government Act 2002](#), before the final alteration of a district name can occur (refer [Section 22\(2\) of the New Zealand Geographic Board \(Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa\) Act 2008](#)).

Location and extent

Rangitikei District extends from the lower west coast to central parts of Te Ika-a-Māui covering ~ 4484km². It is mostly within [Manawatū-Whanganui Region](#). ~612km² at its easternmost part crosses Otupae Range and Tawake Tohunga Range into [Hawke's Bay Region](#). Rangitikei District had a population of 16,300 (provisional estimate) as of 2023³ and the main towns are Marton and Taihape and other larger localities include Bulls, Hunterville, Mangaweka. All are on State

² <https://www.lgc.govt.nz/assets/Boundary-Plans/Manawatu-Whanganui/Rangitikei-District/Rangitikei-District-LG-038-2022-W-1.pdf> - last accessed 22 August 2023

³ <https://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7980> - last accessed 12 March 2024

Highway 1 except Marton. The part in Hawke’s Bay Region is sparsely populated (~34 residents⁴).

The district has five wards: Southern General Ward, Central General Ward, Northern General Ward, Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Māori Ward and Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Māori Ward. Names of wards are not within the Board’s jurisdiction.

[New Zealand Gazetteer](#), associated names, duplication.

[Rangitikei District](#) is an official local authority district name established by The Local Government (Manawatu-Wanganui Region) Reorganisation Order 1989.

[Rangitikei River](#) is an associated name and the namesake for Rangitikei District. The Board approved the name as official in 2020, adding the macron in a bulk approval of significant Māori place names and orthographic standardisation.

There are no duplications of Rangitikei in the Gazetteer.

Research, history, and references to the feature

A commonly cited origin of the name comes from an oriori⁵ composed by Te Rangitakoru for his daughter Wharaurangi, recorded in 1855 by Reverend R. Taylor:

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>'Ka hinga te rākau, ko TURAKINA;</i> | <i>'He felled a tree so he could cross, hence TURAKINA;</i> |
| <i>Tikeitia te waewae, ko "TĪKEI!";</i> | <i>He strode across the land, hence 'Tikei; (RANGITĪKEI)</i> |
| <i>Ka tatū, e hine, ko MANAWATŪ;</i> | <i>Then he stumbled, O maiden, hence MANAWATŪ;</i> |

This version and translation as published in the Board’s 1990 *Māori Oral History Atlas* is from *Ngā Mōteatea*.⁶ The meaning/origin provided in the proposal material is similar. The *Māori Oral History Atlas* noted a second slightly different meaning of ‘River crossed by striding’. This version was published on the Board’s 1995 maps [The Land and its People circa 1840](#) and 2023 [Tangata Whenua Place Names](#) maps.

A.H. Reed’s *Place Names of New Zealand* records a further meaning ‘where Hau had to negotiate a ford on tiptoe’⁷, though does not state the source.

Brief histories of the district and the prior Rangitikei County are available on the Rangitikei District website⁸ and Archives Central website.⁹

Consultation with mana whenua [and councils]

RDC advised it consulted with mana whenua directly on marae and through its liaison committee Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa, a committee formed under Schedule 7 Sections 30-31 Local Government Act 2002. The membership of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa includes a representative of each marae in the district, the two Māori Ward

⁴ Calculated on intersection of Stats NZ [New Zealand 2022 Estimated Resident Population Grid 250 metre, 2023](#) – last accessed 12 March 2024

⁵ A type of lullaby

⁶ *Ngā Mōteatea* (1970), Songs Collected by A.T. Ngata and translated by Pei Te Hurinui Jones, Part III, p.377

⁷ Reed, A.W. & Dowling, P. (ed.) (2010). *Place names of New Zealand*. North Shore: Penguin Group

⁸ <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/about-rangitikei/history> - last accessed 12 March 2024

⁹ <https://archivescentral.org.nz/agents/corporate-body/rangitikei-county-council> - last accessed 12 March 2024

councillors, and two further elected members of RDC¹⁰. Marae representation includes:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Ngāti Parewahawaha/Ngāti Raukawa (one member) | Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa (four members) |
| Rātana Community (one member) | Ngāti Hauiti (one member) |
| Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngāti Paki (one member) | Ngāti Tamakōpiri (one member) |
| Ngāti Whitikaupeka (one member) | Ngāi Te Ohuake (one member) |
| Ngāti Rangituhia (one member) | |

Based on Te Kāhui Māngai, Ngāti Rangi at the north, Ngāti Kahungunu and three of its Taiwhenua at the east, and various Whanganui iwi representative organisations at the west may also have an interest in the proposal. Should the Board accept the proposal these additional groups, along with those listed in the table above, will also be advised in terms of the Board's *Kaupapa for Māori Place Names*.

[Secretariat note: Support from Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council, Hastings District Council, and Manawatu District Council was tabled at the Board's 30 April 2024 hui].

Advice on orthography¹¹

In 2020 an expert licenced translator confirmed that Rangitikei is correct. They advised that '*Tikei means to extend or stretch out 'as the legs' but not limited to the legs*'. The orthography of Rangitikei is applicable to all the various origins for the name and meanings.

Relevant sections from the [NZGB Act 2008](#)

[Section 3\(f\) of the NZGB Act 2008](#): enables certain administrative needs of government (including local government) to be met.

[Section 11\(1\)\(f\) of the NZGB Act 2008](#): seek advice from Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) on the correct orthography of any Māori name.

[Section 11\(2\) of the NZGB Act 2008](#): Without limiting section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Board may alter the name of a district or region if, by resolution, a meeting of the relevant local authority—

- (a) consents to the alteration; or
- (b) requests the alteration.

[Section 22 of the NZGB Act 2008: Alteration of name of local authority](#)

(1) This section applies if the Board carries out the function to alter the name of a district or region provided for under section 11.

(2) Before the Board may give public notice of a determination to alter the name of a district or region, it must request the Minister to recommend to the

¹⁰ [Draft Terms of Reference Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa](#) – last accessed 12 March 2024

¹¹ The conventions and rules of how to write a language.

Governor-General to make an Order in Council under section 260 of the Local Government Act 2002 to amend the name of the relevant local authority in Schedule 2 of that Act to give effect to the alteration.

(3) An Order in Council must specify the date when the amendment takes effect, which must allow the Board sufficient time to give public notice as required by section 23(2)(a).

Other considerations – speeding up the process

For the Manawatū District proposal legal advice was sought on alternative means to standardise the name that would not require public consultation. The advice was that there are no alternative means to fast track standardisation for local authority areas, other than legislation amendment. Legislative amendment would be a lengthier, costlier, process and is not recommended.

Other considerations – official local authority names

There are requirements to use official names in the NZGB Act 2008 ([Section 32](#)) and Local Government Act 2002 ([Section 23](#)). RDC has not pre-emptively rebranded itself with the macron (eg in its logo). Six other local authority district names could be standardised with macrons (possibly seven)¹², but they have yet to be formally proposed to the Board. The Board will consider submissions on the proposal for Manawatū District at this hui (see Agenda item 6.2).

In 2020 the Board, via Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), encouraged the remaining districts to standardise the macrons in their names officially. The proposals for Manawatū District and Rangitikei District may be an outcome of that engagement.

The other five remaining district councils are currently using macrons without officially altering their names, meaning they are not meeting their legal obligations.

[Standard for altering region and district names](#) criteria

1.2 When can a region or district name be altered? A name may be altered...to standardise the orthography of Māori names.

1.7 Orthographic standards (b) The correct use of macrons on Māori place names is dependent on expert advice from a licensed translator.

Secretariat comment: The proposal is to standardise the orthography. The orthography for Rangitikei was confirmed as correct when approving Rangitikei River.

1.3 Acceptable alterations to region and district names. The names of regions and districts...generally use the most common or predominant place or feature name within the region or district.

Secretariat comment: Rangitikei River is a major feature beginning just north of the district in Kaimanawa Mountains. It flows south then southwest through the district for ~96km, then southwest for another ~93km to Tasman Sea, forming most of the district's southern border. The boundaries of the prior Rangitikei County were similar throughout most of the 20th century. The first Rangitikei County only extended as far north as Taihape.

¹² Manawatu District, Kaikoura District, Taupo District, Waipa District, Whakatane District, Whangarei District, and possibly Timaru District.

The name Rangitikei therefore likely has a very strong association with the area encompassed by the district given its long term use. However, should the Board agree to the proposal and notify Rangitikei District it may still receive submissions making alternative proposals.

Concerns or issues for emergency services

There are unlikely to be concerns for emergency management if the local authority district name is altered to include a macron on the second [i].

Media

No media reporting on Rangitikei District's proposal has been found. While the proposal is only to standardise the orthography of the existing name there may still be media attention given the size of the district.

Supporting information

1. Proposal from Rangitikei District Council for Rangitikei District – 2023-03-04