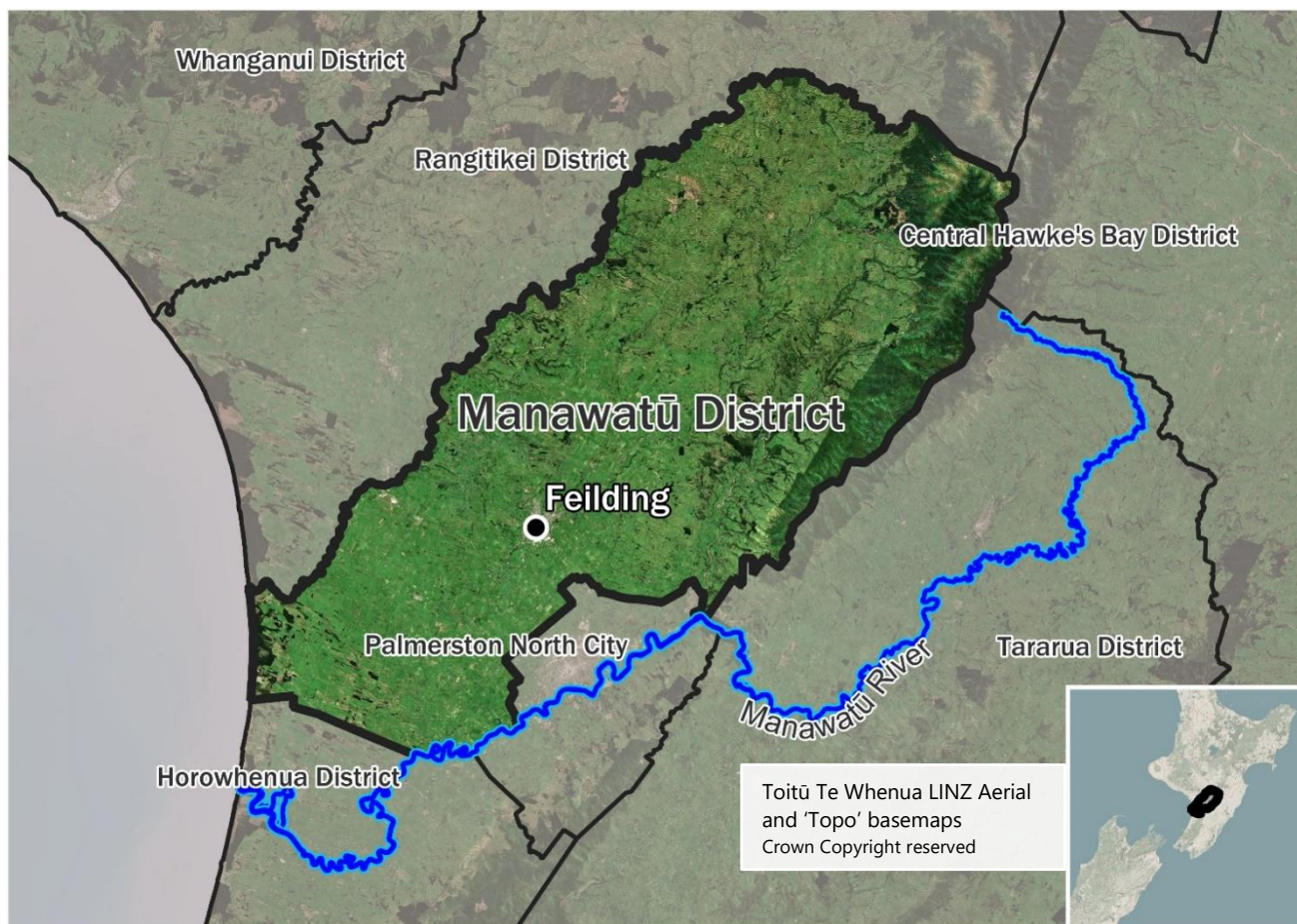


# Submissions considered by the Board on 30 April 2024 for Manawatū District

[altered from Manawatu District]



## Summary

At its 3 October 2023 hui the Board accepted a proposal from Manawatu District Council to alter the name of its local authority district from Manawatu District to Manawatū 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.

During public notification from 7 November 2023 to 12 December 2023 the Board received 72 supporting submissions and 14 submissions objecting to the proposal.

The supporting submissions agreed with correcting the orthography and considered that the macron would aid spoken pronunciation, show respect, and be consistent with other Manawatū names. Some were incredulous the correct orthography was not already official and that a consultation process was required to make it so.

The objecting submissions considered the orthographic correction to be a waste of money and effort, and accordingly pointless, unnecessary, woke, etc. Two submissions considered that the name should be allowable with or without the macron, with 'Manawatu' being the correct name in English.

The reasons in the objecting submissions are responded to below and are not considered to outweigh the original reasons why the Board accepted the proposal.

## Board's decision

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

The Board **considered** the total **86** submissions supporting and objecting to the proposal to alter the official local authority district name from Manawatu District to **Manawatū District**, and their reasons,

**and**

**Noted** the reasons in the **72** supporting submissions generally align with the reasons why the Board originally accepted the proposal,

**and**

**Rejected** the **14** objecting submissions based on the reasons provided not outweighing those reasons that the Board previously accepted for the proposal, being:

- the resolution of Manawatu District Council to alter its district name,
- the Board meeting its statutory duty and function to '*enable certain administrative needs of government to be met*',
- Manawatū being the correct standardised orthography as advised by an expert licensed translator,
- consistency with Manawatū-Whanganui Region and the district's namesake Manawatū River,
- evidence of support from several marae and several iwi and hapū groups,
- evidence of support from six neighbouring territorial authorities and the relevant regional council,

**and** these additional reasons in response to the submissions:

- not considering Manawatu to be an English word, or exonym of Manawatū, just out of date relative to current orthographic standards,
- alternative names for local authorities not being allowable in terms of the *Standard for Altering Region and District names*,

**and**

**Confirmed** the earlier decision of the Board to accept the proposal to alter the official local authority district name from Manawatu District to **Manawatū District**,

**and**

Will **report** the decision of the Board to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal.

**Noting** should the Minister confirm the proposal, the Board must **request** the Minister to recommend to the 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. The Board would gazette the official name on the date of effect specified in the Order in Council.

## Background

Draft Board minutes 3 October 2023 For consistency with the orthography of the region's name, Manawatu District Council had resolved to alter the name of its district from Manawatu District to Manawatū District. The council has consulted widely and provided extensive written support for the change.

The proposal is to standardise the name with a macron, not alter it. The Board questioned whether there are any alternatives to the lengthy process for altering a district's name, noting that a local authority can't change its operating name until the district name is changed. The Board considered whether sections 23-24 of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008 could provide a way forward. However, section 22 sets out the process the Board must follow for altering a local authority's name. The Board agreed to accept the Secretariat's recommendation but subject to the Secretariat obtaining legal advice on whether any alternative means could be used instead to accelerate the proposal.

The Board agreed that for consistency it should update Manawatu Gorge to Manawatū Gorge in the Gazetteer and request Toitū Te Whenua LINZ's Topo team to update Manawatu Gorge to Manawatū Gorge on official topographic maps.

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## Notification

Advice to mana whenua of public notification On 5 October 2023 the Secretariat advised these five iwi groups that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal seeking submissions between 7 November 2023 and 12 December 2023:

Muaūpoko	Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa	Ngāti Hauiti
Rangitāne o Manawatū	Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga	

Advice to MPs Due to the pending results of the parliamentary election and noting the short one month consultation period, it was decided not to send advice to electorate MPs.

Public notification including social media The Board advertised the proposals:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#),
- in the *Sunday Star Times*, *Feilding-Rangitikei Herald*, and *Manawatū Standard*
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ [Consultation](#) page, its [Facebook page \(including a reminder\)](#), and on the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

**Media** It was decided not to include reference to the proposed Manawatū District in the Board's [general media advisory](#) (published on 9 November 2023). It was anticipated that there would be low public interest in the proposal. No media coverage of the proposal has been noted.

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## Submissions

Summary During the notification period between 7 November 2023 and 12 December 2023 the Board received 86 submissions with 72 in support and 14 objecting to the proposal.

The supporting submissions are categorised thematically below. The Secretariat has commented on the reasons in the objecting submissions. Full copies of all submissions are in the Supporting information.

Local engagement

This table has the location of all submitters based on volunteered information, which is collected to inform on the level of local community engagement. It does not indicate that they have a greater influence on the outcome of the proposal.

The proposal appears to be of interest to those in the district and region, noting the numbers of submitters is very low relative to the district population of ~34500<sup>1</sup>.

	Manawatu District	Rest of Manawatū-Whanganui Region	Rest of NZ	Unknown	Total
Supporting	13	39	19	1	72
Objecting	1	9	4		14
Total	14	48	23	1	86

Affiliation field

The online submission form has a voluntary option for affiliation for the Board's reference when considering submissions. The submission spreadsheets in Supporting information include affiliation information where it has been provided.

## Summary of the 72 supporting submissions

Reasons categorised, grouped, and summarised <sup>2</sup>	No.
Correct the spelling/orthography. Correction recognises importance of te reo Māori.	53
The macron conveys the meaning, aids pronunciation.	22
Omitting the macron is disrespectful. Crown Treaty obligation to use the correct name.	14
Completing a long overdue action, tidy up. Macron long in use. Thought it was already official. District Council should've gotten around to this earlier. Shouldn't even consult on things like this. Should just fix them. Do you even do it for English words?	9
Consistency with Region, River, etc.	7
Supporting local iwi.	5
General support [ <i>noting these submissions may not meet the legislative requirement to provide 'reasons'</i> ]	3
Macrons add character, it's more exciting as a word.	1

<sup>1</sup> Calculated from New Zealand 2022 Estimated Resident Population Grid 250 metre, 2023: <https://datafinder.stats.govt.nz/layer/115047-new-zealand-2022-estimated-resident-population-grid-250-metre-2023/> - last accessed 27 March 2024

<sup>2</sup> Noting that submissions generally give more than one reason.

## Summary of the 12 objecting submissions and the Secretariat's comments

Reasons summarised	No.	Secretariat comments
Waste of money, cost of signage, higher priorities	7	<i>There are no statutory criteria requiring consideration of cost. However, the Board considers that cost for updating physical signage can be diffused by making the updates in the regular course of maintenance and replacement. Other publications, especially digital, can also be updated in the course of regular BAU.</i> <i>The Board has statutory obligations to consider and notify proposals to alter local authority district or region names, noting the process followed does in fact incur costs.</i>
Pointless change, macrons not necessary, nothing actually changing, nobody understands them	5	<i>Macrons are a standardised way to indicate long vowels in written te reo Māori and they help convey the meaning of the name.</i>
Māori making things up as we go along (eg spelling/orthography). Proposal catering to minorities, it's woke.	3	
Use the name with and without the macrons, alternative names, exonyms and endonyms argument.	2	<i>Māori place names remaining in a form without macrons pre-dating current orthographic standards are not considered to be English words or exonyms.</i> <i>The Standard for Altering Region and District names disallows alternative names for local authority districts and regions.</i>
Change not supported by populace	2	<i>Manawatu District Council supplied evidence of support in its proposal and 72 supporting submissions were received.</i>
Long term use of existing name.	1	<i>Long term use is a consideration but may be outweighed by other reasons. The Board considered that accepting the proposal met several of its statutory functions.</i>
Don't change names to Māori names <i>[an incoherent reason]</i>	1	<i>The existing name is Māori. This submission does not provide an adequate reason for objecting to the proposal.</i>
Adding diacritic marks to Māori names is cultural appropriation	1	<i>Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) sets orthographic standards for written te reo Māori. The Board upholds the standardised orthography for Māori place names.</i>

## Supporting information

1. Board proposal report – Manawatū District – 2023-10-03
2. Submission summary spreadsheet (86 submissions)
3. Original Qualtrics consultation spreadsheet
4. Original direct email submissions