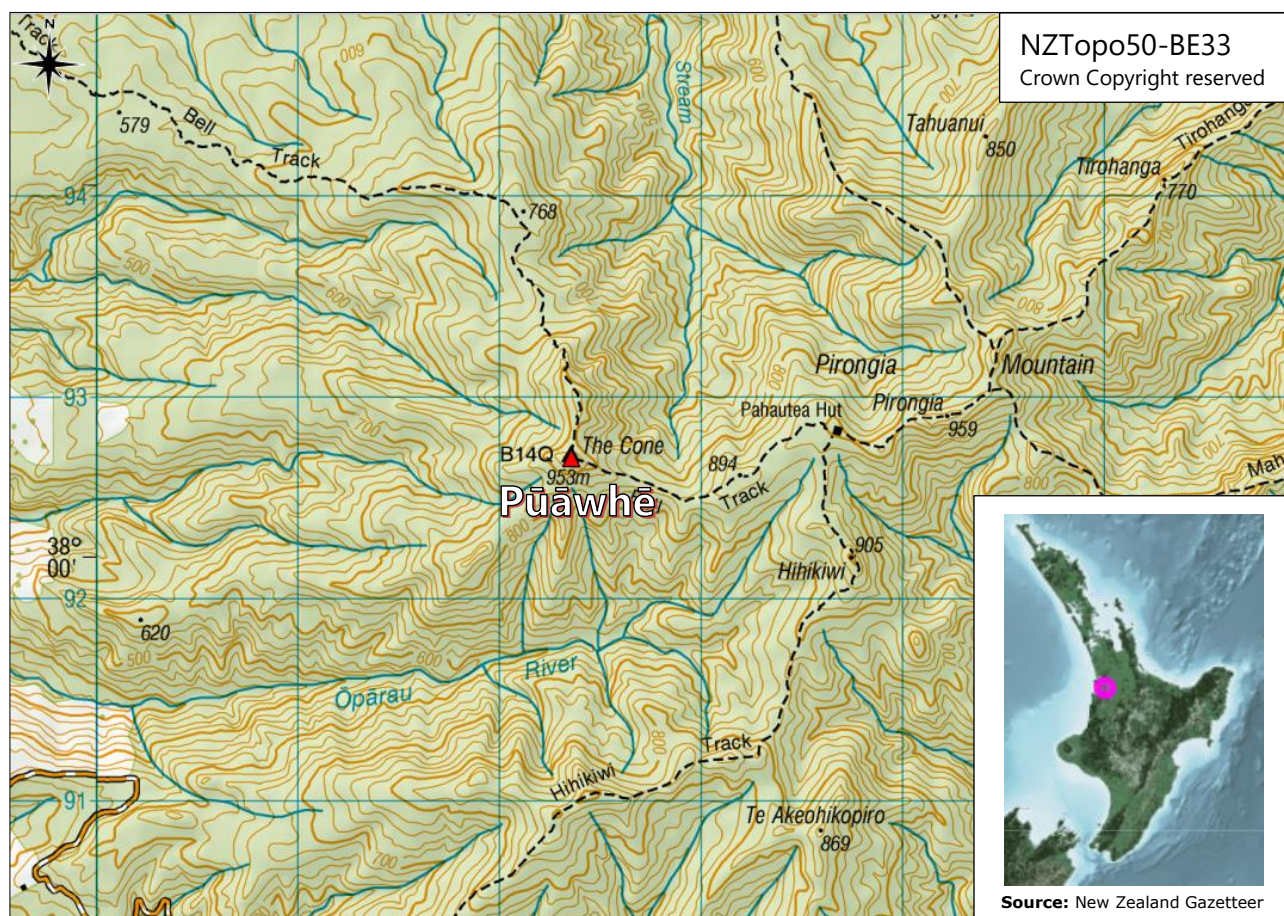


Submissions considered by the Board on 3 October 2023 for: Pūāwhē

[altered from The Cone]



Summary

At its hui on 26 April 2023 the Board accepted a proposal to alter the unofficial recorded¹ place name The Cone to the original Māori name Pūāwhē. The feature is the second highest peak on Pirongia Mountain, approximately 20km west of Te Awamutu. It is the only peak on Pirongia Mountain without a Māori name on maps. The Board considered that a generic term such as peak, puke or hill was not necessary.

During the public notification period between 7 June 2023 and 11 July 2023 the Board received five submissions supporting and two submissions objecting to the proposal.

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

¹ A recorded place name is one that has appeared on at least two authoritative maps, charts or databases, which Pou Taunaha has resolved to be: NZMS map, LINZ Archived Place Names Database, [Kā Huru Manu](#), and all hydrographic and bathymetric maps and charts published under a New Zealand hydrographic authority at the time of publication. It is not official.

Board's decision

At its 3 October 2023 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

The Board **considered** all submissions on the proposal to alter the unofficial recorded place name The Cone to the original Māori name **Pūāwhē** and their reasons,

and

Rejected the two objecting submissions (including the one that proposed the 'dual' name Pūāwhē - The Cone) based on the reasons provided not outweighing the reasons that the Board accepted the proposal, being:

- the function of the Board to collect and encourage the use of original Māori place names on official charts and maps,
- evidence in a waiata published in 1894 (129 years ago) and Ngāti Maniapoto oral history that Pūāwhē is an original Māori name, and is not being translocated (noting the proposer's advice that it has historically referred to the maunga as a whole), and
- altering the name being unlikely to impact on emergency services, although noting the high recreational use on the maunga.

and

Confirmed the Board's earlier decision to alter the unofficial recorded place name The Cone to the original Māori name **Pūāwhē**,

and

Will **report** the Board's decision to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determination on the proposal because the Board did not uphold the objections.

Background

Board minutes
26 April 2023
[abridged]

The orthography and story in the Ngāti Kahu/Ngāti Unu kōrero provided by Shane Te Ruki differs from the proposed name. This reflects the tradition of those whose marae was associated with the locale of modern Pirongia. The differing traditions reflect a geographic split between those on the seaward and landward sides of Pirongia Mountain. The presence of Ngāti Kahu in the area pre-dated the arrival of the Tainui people. The kōrero describes Pūawhe as the 'home of the winds', with the orthography reflecting a meaning of the winds blowing about the peaks. Pūawhe is considered to be the original name of the whole of Pirongia Mountain.

Shane Te Ruki had no concerns about the proposal to make Pūāwhē (rather than Pūawhe) official, but it has not yet been fully discussed by Ngāti Kahu/Ngāti Unu. He did not know to what extent Ngāti Maniapoto and the tribes on the west coast had been involved. Ngāti Mahanga on the north side of Pirongia Mountain also claim the maunga.

The feature is well known and conspicuous from the hut and tramping track on Pirongia Mountain and would be of significance to a number of tramping clubs. In the long term replacing a relatively generic and well-duplicated name like The Cone would not be a concern from a search and rescue perspective.

Notification

Advice to mana whenua	On 1 May 2023 the Secretariat advised Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Hikairo and Waikato-Tainui that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal for submissions for one month in early June 2023.
Advice to MPs	On 14 June 2023 the Secretariat advised the Members of Parliament for Taranaki-King Country, Te Tai Hauāuru and all adjacent electorates that the proposal was open for submissions until 11 July 2023.
Public notification including social media	The Board advertised the proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- in the New Zealand Gazette, <i>Sunday Star Times</i> and <i>Te Awamutu Courier</i>,- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ² Consultation and FacebookTM pages, and the New Zealand Government's Consultation page.
Media	The Board released a media advisory in te reo Māori and English on 7 June 2023, which was also posted on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ website. Board member Shaun Barnett's article 'Name proposal on Pirongia Mountain' may be published in the August 2023 issue of the Federated Mountain Clubs Bulletin <i>Backcountry</i> .

Summary of the two objecting submissions and the Secretariat's comments

Pūāwhē is of a singular language. Supports Waka Kotahi bilingual signage and deplores 'old white' views that it is unnecessary and unsafe. The singular te reo name at Pirongia would fuel their protestations. Can be solved by altering to the bilingual, bicultural name Pūāwhē - The Cone, similar to Aoraki Mount Cook (sic). This would be more in the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

This is not considered to be a compelling reason for a dual name. Dual names require equal significance of both names, and the Board did not consider dual naming to be an option at its April 2023 hui.

Nothing wrong with the present name...leave it as it is.

The Board has a statutory function to encourage the use of original Māori names. Pūāwhē is an original Māori name that has historical, ancestral, traditional and cultural significance to mana whenua.

Summary of the five supporting submissions and Secretariat comment

The Cone is unimaginative and has no meaning in regard to place.

A great step towards tino rangatiratanga and endorsing mātauranga Māori.

I support the use of te reo Māori place names.

It's the original and therefore the correct name. All English names should be removed where possible.

Follows a recent trend in NZ volcano science and geology generally to adopt indigenous names for significant landmarks. In the Tongariro National Park area, both Tongariro and Ruapehu volcanos have been remapped in the last decade with new formalised nomenclature of geological units in local iwi language. Other significant (and perhaps less well-known) landforms

² Land Information New Zealand

across Aotearoa should be supported to adopt their endemic names in local language. The benefits being an increased cultural and local language literacy for New Zealanders, the morally and ethically correct acknowledgement of the original, endemic names of important landforms and that indigenous names of such landforms are often more aesthetically appropriate, as is the case for the windy Pūāwhē, for example, 'cloud piercer' for Aoraki/Mount Cook.

Noting that the meaning of Pūāwhē is that the patupaiarehe (mythical people) who bewitched Tāwhaitu had used a bundle (pū) of (ā) tree fern called a 'whē', or caterpillars 'whē'. The 'home of the winds' Pūawhe is from another tradition.

Supporting information

1. Board report – Pūāwhē – 2023-04-26
2. Submissions received via the online platform (5 supporting, 1 objecting)
3. Objecting submission (1) received via email
4. Article in *Backcountry* by Shaun Barnett 'Name proposal on Pirongia Mountain' (to be tabled if available)