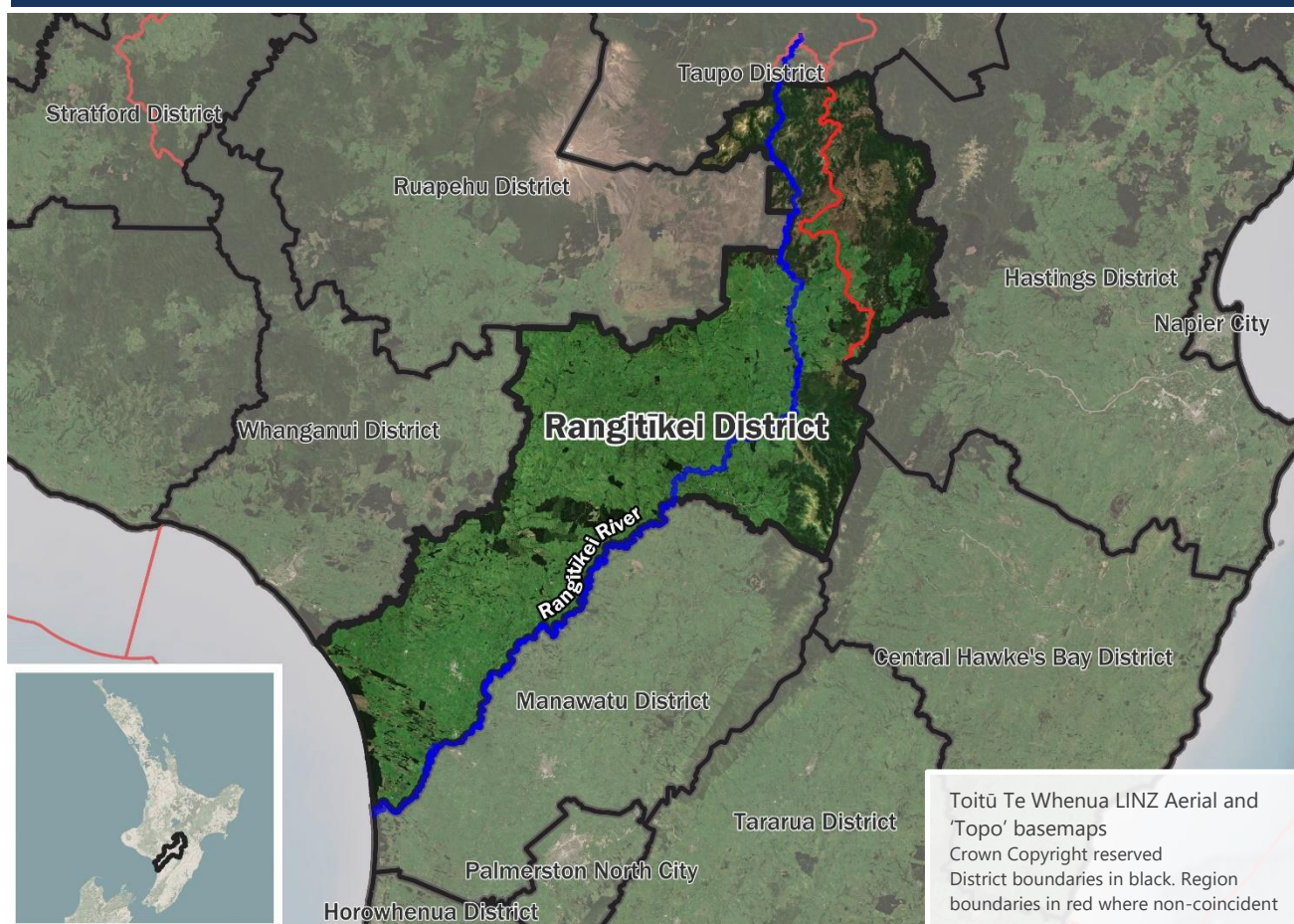


Submissions considered by the Board on 15 October 2024 for: Rangitīkei District

[altered from Rangitikei District]



Summary

At its 30 April 2024 hui the Board accepted a proposal from Rangitikei District Council (RDC) to alter the name of its local authority district from Rangitikei District to Rangitīkei District. This is so it can formally change its local authority name under sections 22-23 of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008.

During public notification from 6 June 2024 to 11 July 2024 the Board received 95 supporting submissions and 37 submissions objecting to the proposal.

The supporting submissions generally aligned with the reasons why the Board accepted the proposal. They were particularly concerned that the current name isn't being pronounced correctly and that adding the macron would provide a necessary linguistic aid to solve the problem.

The objecting submissions generally considered the proposal to be a waste of time, money and resources, and pandering to a minority. They are responded to below and are not considered to outweigh the original reasons why the Board accepted the proposal.

Board's decision

At its 15 October 2024 hui the Board made this decision on the proposal:

The Board **considered** the submissions and their reasons on the proposal to alter the official local authority district name from Rangitikei District to **Rangitikei District**,

and

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

- 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.

and these additional reasons in response to some objecting submissions:

- further evidence of iwi support in the supporting submissions
- difficulties in writing and typing macrons and some outdated computer systems not supporting macrons, not being good reasons not to officially standardise the name
- te reo Māori being a written language with orthographic standards set by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

and

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

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.

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 to take effect on the same date of effect specified in the Order in Council.

Background

Board
minutes 30
April 2024
[abridged]

The Board noted the proposal as straightforward to correct the orthography and be consistent with the name of the river.

The Board questioned whether this kind of change could be progressed faster, perhaps by being actioned as part of the Treaty settlement process. This kind of standardisation with macrons is possible for place names that go through the section 24 approval process, but for local authority names the public consultation process is prescribed in legislation. While the 2018 proposal for Ōtorohanga District to be corrected with a macron had been initiated by the Maniapoto Treaty settlement, it still had to go through the prescribed public notification process. Some discretion under place naming legislation to make trivial or non-controversial alterations to correct district and region names would be desirable.

Notification

Advice to
mana
whenua of
public
notification

On 2 May 2024 the Secretariat advised these 15 Māori groups that the Board would be publicly notifying the proposal for submissions between 6 June 2024 to 11 July 2024:

Ngāti Raukawa ki Te Tonga	Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa	Ngāti Hauiti
Ngāi Te Ohuake	Mōkai Pātea Waitangi Claims Trust	Ngāti Whitikaupeka
Ngāti Tamakōpiri	Ngāti Rangi	Whanganui Land Settlement Negotiation Trust
Te Korowai o Wainuiārua	Whanganui Iwi / Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust	Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Inc,
Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui-a-Orotū	Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga	Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea

Te Rūnanga o Raukawa Inc made a supporting submission on 11 June 2024.

The Secretariat also asked Rangitikei District Council to advise its Māori liaison committee, Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa, that the proposal was being publicly notified.

Advice to
MPs

The Secretariat advised the MPs for Rangitikei, Te Tai Hauāuru, and all neighbouring electorates that submissions on the proposals were open until 11 July 2024.

Public
notification
including
social media

The Board notified the proposals:

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

Media

The Board published [a bilingual media advisory](#) on 6 June 2024.

There has been some media coverage of the proposal:

Title	Date	Publication
New names proposed for Auckland suburbs, other parts of the country	6 June 2024	1News
Public consultation opens on name change for Rangitikei district and official name for Feilding suburb	7 June 2024	Whanganui Chronicle
Public views sought on Maewa name and Rangitikei macron	11 June 2024	Stuff
	12 June 2024	Manawatū Standard

Other notification

On 10 June 2024 Rangitikei District Council advised on its website that its proposal was open for public submissions until 11 July 2024.¹

Submissions

Summary

During public notification from 6 June 2024 to 11 July 2024 the Board received 95 supporting submissions and 37 submissions objecting to the proposal. The supporting submissions are categorised below. The Secretariat has commented on some of 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 as it is the reasons that matter most.

The proposal appears to be of more interest to those outside of the district and region. The number of local submitters is very low relative to the district's population of ~16,115².

	Rangitikei District	Rest of Manawatū-Whanganui Region	Rest of NZ	Unknown	Total
Supporting	22	17	52	4	95
Objecting	14	4	17	2	37
Total	36	21	69	6	132

Affiliation field

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

Validity of the submissions

One incoherent supporting submission and one supporting submission submitting on the name of Rangitikei River were received. For submissions to count they need to have reasons, and by extension, would have to relate to the proposal.

Two objecting submissions which contained content breaching the terms that '*threatening or offensive submissions will not be considered*' were removed.

¹ <https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/news/2024/name-change-consultations-open-for-rangitikei-district>, last accessed 22 July 2024

² 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 21 Kie 2024

The proposals for Abbots Creek, Te Tōangaroa, Pito One, Takaanini, Takaanini Railway Station and Maewa were notified as the same time as this proposal. The Board received nine submissions that didn't specify which proposal they were objecting to. They are included in Supporting information for reference.

Summary of the 95 supporting submissions

The supporting submissions generally provided reasons that align with the Board's reasons for accepting the proposal, and some additional reasons:

- Seeking to correct the spelling. That the correct spelling is respectful.
 - To support te reo Māori, generally. To uphold orthographic standards.
 - Spelling should be corrected whatever the language.
 - That sitting on spelling corrections that are known about is embarrassing.
 - The correction will aid pronunciation
 - The correct orthography tells the story behind the place name and history of the place.
 - Support for iwi, who support the proposal. That Iwi should decide. That the proposal shows respect to mana whenua.
 - They thought the name already had the macron and Rangitikei is already in common use.
 - That the Board should just get it done already - it's ridiculous the Board is consulting on it.
 - The proposal is progressive for the country and righting a past wrong.
 - For consistency with Rangitikei River, and for a consistent approach to district names, ie Manawatū District proposal last year.
 - To uphold the Treaty.
 - That anyone objecting is probably a racist and scared of change.
 - That any costs are immaterial to solving the problem. It's just a macron.
-

Summary of the 37 objecting submissions and the Secretariat's comments

Most objecting submissions gave reasons falling into these general categories:

- Waste of time and money, Money can be spent in more useful ways.
- Anti-Māori sentiments (divisive, racist, pandering to a minority), including calls to replace all Māori place names. Slippery slope arguments.
- Long term use of Rangitikei District. The change unnecessary is, there are too many changes, and the Board is trying to rewrite history.
- That the consultation process is ineffective, insufficient, biased. Appeals to a silent majority that oppose the proposal.
- Confusion (location identification, safety, practical, tourism).

The objecting submissions also gave these additional reasons, responded to by the Secretariat:

- Issues with macrons being used – they are not supported by technology.

Secretariat response: Macrons are a standardised way to indicate a long vowel sound in written te reo Māori and they help convey a word's meaning. That some outdated systems do not support macrons is not a compelling reason not to proceed with the proposal.

- Māori didn't have a written language. Rangitikei is the English name, Rangitikei is the original written name. Everyone speaks English. English is the official language.

Secretariat response: 'Rangitikei' isn't considered to be an English word or exonym.

- It's not clear if the macron is supported by all iwi.

Secretariat response: The Board hasn't received any objections to the macron from representative iwi groups.

- Taranaki iwi conquered the area, and the English conquered the Māori. Those proposing the name have no rights in a Māori world view that endorses the right of conquest.

Secretariat response: these are not relevant criteria of the Board.

Supporting information

1. Board proposal report – Rangitikei District – 2024-04-30
2. Submission summary spreadsheet (132 submissions)
3. Unedited copy of original online Qualtrics platform submissions output for Rangitikei District
4. Copies of original direct supporting email submissions
5. Copies of original direct objecting email submissions
6. Nine miscellaneous objections (no proposal specified)