

Submissions considered by the Board on 30 April 2024 for:

Meyer Pass [new name]

Meyer Creek [altered from Meyers Creek]

(Meyer (hill) did not receive objections)



Summary

At its hui on 22 June 2023 the Board declined the original proposal to assign a new official name Meyers Pass as the possessive [s] did not meet the criteria of the Board's naming standard. Instead, the Board made a new proposal to assign Meyer Pass as the official name of a pass between Waimate and Kurow over the Campbell Hills.

For consistency the Board also proposed to alter the associated unofficial recorded name Meyers Creek to officially become Meyer Creek and approve the existing recorded name Meyer (hill) as official. All three were publicly notified together as a set of related names even though Meyer (hill) could have been fast-tracked without public consultation.

The 22 June 2023 decisions were subject to confirmation from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) that no original Māori names were known for the three features. On 15 September 2023 TRONT advised that Te Rūnanga o Waiho had no issue with the proposals.

During public notification from 26 September 2023 to 31 October 2023 the Board received five submissions: four objecting to Meyer Pass and one objecting to Meyer Creek. As the Board received no submissions for Meyer (hill), it or the

Chairperson under delegation can make the final determination on that name. But the final decision on Meyer (hill) should be postponed until final decisions on Meyer Pass and Meyer Creek are made.

All five objections supported the existing recorded and local use names with the possessive [s] based on long term use. They considered changing the names to be a waste of time and money. One submitter noted their personal connections to the existing names and considered 'Meyers' to be for the Meyer brothers, plural. These reasons are not considered to outweigh the original reasons the Board accepted for the two proposals.

Rejecting the objections would require the Board to report its decision to the Minister. However, it is also possible for the Board to uphold (agree with) all objecting submissions to allow the Board itself to make final determinations for Meyers Pass and Meyers Creek. Although there are multiple objecting submissions for Meyer Pass, they provide similar reasons and seek the same outcome. However, this would result in an inconsistency of two Meyers and one Meyer name.

This is not recommended because of the Board's standard and consistent practice to drop possessives, the resulting inconsistency with Meyer (hill), and that 'Meyer' is the correct spelling.

Board's decisions

At its 30 April 2024 hui the Board made these decisions on the proposals:

Consider and reject the **four** submissions objecting to the proposal to assign **Meyer Pass** and **consider and reject** the **one** objection to the proposal to alter Meyers Creek to **Meyer Creek**, based on the reasons given not outweighing the reasons that the Board originally accepted for the two proposals and new reasons, being:

- evidence of local use of the pass name, particularly Meyers Pass Road and Meyers Pass being already signposted at either end of the road, and being named in newspapers, local history books, online, etc, notwithstanding the use of the possessive [s] (whether Meyers or Meyer's),
- recognising the association of Herbert Meyer and his family with the area (as supported by documentary evidence),
- dropping the possessive [s] as a standard good naming practice and confirming that the feature is named for the Meyer family, not Meyers, noting a different family with the Meyers spelling also lived in the area, and
- officially naming the pass being useful for identification to emergency services,
- consistency between all three Meyer place names for the pass, creek and hill,

and

Confirm the earlier decisions of the Board to accept the proposals to assign **Meyer Pass** and alter **Meyers Creek** to **Meyer Creek** as official place names,

and

Report the decisions of the Board to the Minister for Land Information **and request** the Minister to make the final determinations on the proposals.

AND

Note that no submissions were received for the proposal to approve **Meyer** (hill) as an official place name, therefore the final determination can be made by the Board or the Chairperson (under delegation),

and

Defer the Board's (or Chairperson's) final determination for **Meyer** (hill) until the Minister's final determinations are made for the associated name.

Background

Board
minutes 22
June 2023
[abridged]

The name is already used for the road (Meyers Pass Road) and is signposted 'Meyers Pass' at both ends. This proposal would formalise the name of the pass. Meyers Creek and Meyer (hill) are associated features.

The recommendations are subject to TRONT's advice that there are no original Māori names known for the features, and to date the Board hasn't received feedback from the relevant TRONT rūnanga group, Te Rūnanga o Waihao. In *Kā Huru Manu* an ara tawhito (traditional travel route) is shown over the pass, which means that it may have an original Māori name. TRONT advised that names are recorded around the area from various sources, but none are tagged specifically to the pass.

The Board agreed that there should be no specific time frame for TRONT's response.

Notification

Advice to
mana
whenua of
public
notification

The Board's decision to proceed with the three proposals was subject to confirmation from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) that no original Māori names were known for the three features. On 15 September 2023 TRONT advised Te Rūnanga o Waihao had no issue with the proposals, therefore they were notified for consultation as soon as practicable. On 26 September 2023 TRONT were advised that the names were open for formal submissions. They did not make a submission.

Advice to
MPs

The Secretariat advised the MPs for Waitaki, Te Tai Tonga and all neighbouring electorates that submissions on the proposals were open until 31 October 2023.

Public
notification
including
social media

The Board advertised the proposals:

- in the [New Zealand Gazette](#),
- in the *Sunday Star Times*, *The Press* and *The Courier*,
- on the Toitū Te Whenua LINZ [Consultation](#) page, its [Facebook page](#), and on the New Zealand Government's [Consultation](#) page.

Media

The Board circulated a [media release](#) on 26 September 2023. No additional media coverage of the proposal has been noted.

Road signs
and other
publications

If Meyer Pass is assigned as official without the [s] then the current road signs (the pass is currently signposted as Meyers Pass with a yellow sign at both turnoffs to

Meyers Pass Road.¹) would need to be updated in the course of routine maintenance. Other council records (digital and printed) may also need to be updated.

Associated road name Should Meyer Pass be assigned as official without the [s] then the council might wish to consider changing the road name from Meyers Pass Road.

Submissions

Summary During the notification period between 26 September 2023 and 31 October 2023 the Board received four submissions objecting to Meyer Pass and one submission objecting to Meyer Creek. There were four submitters in total as one made identical submissions for Meyer Pass and Meyer Creek.

The Board received no submissions for Meyer (hill).

The objecting submissions all supported 'Meyers' with the possessive [s] rather than 'Meyer' based on:

- long term use,
- considering the proposal to be an unnecessary waste of time and money, and
- one objecting submission commented on their personal connections to the names. They also considered Meyers Pass a plural not a possessive, being named for the Meyer brothers.

The original proposer of Meyers Pass did not express any concerns about the Board dropping the [s] in its proposal for Meyer Pass.

Local engagement The four objecting submitters were all relatively local (see table below). Information about residence 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.

Affiliation field The online submission form includes a voluntary option for affiliation for the Board's reference. Refer submission spreadsheet in Supporting Information.

¹ <https://www.google.co.nz/maps/@-44.6565149,170.5946302,3a,40.8y,37.67h,82.36t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sVp7Qa-79ZpL-4nnRJ1gIKA!2e0!5s20121001T000000!7!13312!8!6656?entry=ttu> – last accessed 27 March 2024

Objecting submissions (5) summarised

Person from	Reasons
Timaru	<p>For Meyer Pass</p> <p>Lived locally and still goes over the pass. There were two Meyer brothers, Meyers is a plural not a possessive.</p> <p>Waste of time and money, Board not thinking about the expenses and creating work for itself. Slippery slope argument – there are 1000's of existing possessive place names.</p> <p>The Board are 'soft, flaky, woke ideologists'. Consultation is a sham.</p>
Waimate	<p>For Meyer Pass</p> <p>Waste of time and money, supports existing name.</p>
Waimate	<p>For Meyer Pass</p> <p>Waste of time and money, supports existing name. Board just creating work for itself. Money could be used to improve the actual road.</p>
Geraldine	<p>For Meyer Pass and Meyer Creek</p> <p>Too many place name changes. Supports existing name based on long term use. No good reason for change.</p>

Supporting information

1. Board proposal report – Meyers Pass – 2023-06-23
2. Correspondence with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu – 2023-09-15; 2023-09-26
3. Qualtrics submission spreadsheets (a): Meyer Pass: 4 objecting submissions, b): Meyer Creek: 1 objecting submission)