

BRF 24-422 Decision on altering the names of

- Franz Josef/Waiau village, and
- Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere

Ki / To: Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information

Rā / Date: 17 June 2024

Ngā mahi matua kia mahia/key actions required

Minita/Minister	Hohenga/Action	Rā Mutunga/Deadline
Hon Chris Penk, Minister for Land Information	<p>Confirm the decisions of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa to alter the official dual names:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franz Josef/Waiau to Franz Joseph / Waiau, and • Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere to Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere 	There is no deadline for your decision

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand Whakapā/contacts

Ingoa/Name	Tūnga/Position	Nama waea/Contact number	Whakapā tuatahi/first contact
Anselm Haanen	Board Chairperson	04 4600376 or 027 249 5901	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wendy Shaw	Board Secretary	04 4600581 or 027 4807082	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ngā kōrero a te Minita/Minister's comments

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Pūtake/Purpose

To seek your final determinations on altering:

- the village name Franz Josef/Waiiau to Franz Joseph / Waiiau, and
- the glacier name Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere to Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere.

Pānui whāinga/Key messages

- 1 The proposer provided comprehensive and compelling evidence that the correct spelling is 'Joseph' not 'Josef' for Kaiser Franz Joseph (1830-1916) Emperor of Austria after whom the glacier and associated village were named.
- 2 Waiiau meaning swirling waters, describes the swirling currents within the river fed from the glacier's meltwater. Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere means the tears of Hinehukatere, which she shed when the ancestor she loved, Wawe, fell from the glacier to his death.
- 3 Both dual names had been made official by the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu have no issue with the spelling of Josef being corrected and have confirmed the updated orthography¹, Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere for the glacier.
- 4 During public notification the Board received 17 supporting and 133 objecting submissions for the village, and 11 supporting and 49 objecting submissions for the glacier.
- 5 The reasons offered in the objecting submissions included that the proposals wouldn't correct any significant wrongs or grievances, and the current names don't cause confusion and have been in long term use. Of note were the objecting submissions from Westland District Council and Franz Josef Community Council, who had concerns about the significant cost to local businesses to change their names and information, and the impact on tourism and branding given the current economic strain felt by the pandemic, flooding and road closures.
- 6 Noting that there is currently minimal use of the existing official Treaty dual names anyway (ie the community is using Franz Josef or Franz Josef Glacier), the Board weighed up the impact on the community of changing them as indicated in many objections. The Board concluded that there would be no requirement for businesses or organisations to immediately change their signs or promotional material. Such changes could be done over a long period of time (10-20 years) or as part of regular maintenance and replacement cycles. This would enable the costs of correcting the spelling from Josef to Joseph and using the official dual names to be minimised or absorbed.
- 7 Therefore, the Board rejected the objecting submissions and confirmed its decision to alter the names of the village and glacier so as to apply a consistent and principled approach to

¹ The conventions and rules of how to write a language

correcting spelling, especially for personal names, whether for Māori or non-Māori place names.

- 8 There has been considerable media interest in the proposals, so these decisions will likely attract significant public and media attention.
- 9 There is no statutory timeframe for you to make your final determinations. If you wish to consider options other than those provided here, please liaise with Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand's (LINZ) Strategy, Policy and Design team.

Tohutohu/Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **whakamana/confirm** the Board's decisions to alter:
- the village name of Franz Josef/Waiau to Franz Joseph / Waiau, and
 - the glacier name of Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere to Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere.
- Yes / No /
Different decision
- 2 **manatu/note** that if you reject the Board's decisions your determinations on the proposals are final. The village's official dual name will continue to be Franz Josef/Waiau and the glacier's official dual name will continue to be Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere.
- Noted
- 3 **whakamana/confirm** whether you or the Board will issue a media release on your final decisions. LINZ will work with your office on the content of the media release.
- Board/
Minister



Anselm Haanen

Chairperson, New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa

Rā/Date: 17 June 2024



Hon Chris Penk

**Te Minita mō Toitū te Whenua/
Minister for Land Information**

Rā/Date: 27.6.2024

Tāpiritanga/Attachments

Provided at the end of this report:

Te tūwāhi mapere/Location map

Electronically available via Objective Connect:

- 1 Proposals from George Holmes received 31 October 2022
- 2 *Proposals Report* that the Board considered at its 3 October 2023 hui
- 3 *Submissions Report* summarising the submissions that the Board considered at its 30 April 2024 hui
- 4 Spreadsheet with the supporting submissions received online for Franz Joseph / Waiau
- 5 Supporting submissions received by email for Franz Joseph / Waiau
- 6 Spreadsheet with the objecting submissions received online for Franz Joseph / Waiau
- 7 Objecting submissions received by email for Franz Joseph / Waiau
- 8 Spreadsheet with the supporting submissions received online for Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere
- 9 Supporting submissions received by email for Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere
- 10 Spreadsheet with the objecting submissions received online for Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere
- 11 Objecting submissions received by email for Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere
- 12 The Board's bilingual media advisory distributed on 8 November 2023
- 13 Facebook post [8 November 2023](#)
- 14 Facebook post [30 November 2023](#)
- 15 Media articles

Te Horopaki/Background

- 1 On 31 October 2022, the Board received proposals from George Holmes to alter the spelling of 'Josef' to 'Joseph' in the non-Māori parts of the official dual place names:
 - Franz Josef/Waiiau to Franz Joseph / Waiiau (for the village), and
 - Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere to Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere (for the glacier).See **Attachment 1** for the proposals.
- 2 The existing dual names were made official by the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. The New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008 allows official place names in Treaty settlements to be altered.

The Board's decision on the proposals

- 3 At its hui on 3 October 2023 (See **Attachment 2** for the *Proposals Report*) the Board agreed that the proposer had provided comprehensive and compelling evidence that the correct spelling is 'Joseph' not 'Josef' for Kaiser Franz Joseph (1830-1916) Emperor of Austria, after whom the glacier and associated village were named. Therefore, the Board accepted the proposals to alter:
 - Franz Josef/Waiiau to Franz Joseph / Waiiau for the village, and
 - Franz Josef Glacier/Kā Roimata o Hine Hukatere to Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere for the glacier.And agreed to publicly notify them for one month, based on
 - The legal opinion that place names in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 could be proposed to be altered through the process set out in sections 16-21 of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008, subject to consultation with mana whenua.
 - The Board's statutory functions under sections 11(1)(b) and 10(1)(c) of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 2008 to examine and correct the spelling of the names.
 - Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT) confirming they had no issues with correcting the non-Māori parts of the dual names, ie Josef to Joseph.
 - Expert advice that Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere is the correct orthography of the Māori part of the dual name, which TRONT subsequently confirmed.

The Board also applied a space either side of the solidus (forward slash), which is its modern convention for dual place names.

Mātanga kōrero/Consultation

- 4 The Board publicly notified the proposals between 7 November 2023 and 12 December 2023.
- 5 The proposal for Franz Joseph / Waiiau received 150 submissions: 17 supporting and 133 objecting. Approximately 12% of the submitters who objected to the proposal identified themselves as being local to the village.

- 6 The proposal for Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere received 60 submissions: 11 supporting and 49 objecting.
- 7 See **Attachment 3** for the *Submissions Report* that the Board considered at its 30 April 2024 hui.
- 8 The reasons provided in the supporting submissions for both proposals are that
- It would correct an inaccurate historic spelling as 'Franz Joseph' is the correct spelling of the person the features are named after.
 - It is disrespectful to spell people's names incorrectly.
 - Māori place names are being corrected, so European ones should be too.
 - It acknowledges the original kōrero.
 - Respects and values local iwi and hapū – we should use their language and place names.
- 9 The reasons provided in the objecting submissions for both proposals are that
- It wouldn't correct any significant wrongs or grievances.
 - It would impose unnecessary costs in an economic environment where communities are already under financial pressure because of the pandemic, flooding and road closures.
 - The current spelling is clear, consistent and doesn't cause confusion, it has been in long term use, is well recognised and is part of the community's personal identity, culture and heritage.
 - It is part of an internationally marketed brand that is woven into the fabric of 69 village-based business names.
 - A change would have adverse effects on the tourism industry, causing confusion and loss of market share.
- 10 See **Attachments 4-5** for the supporting submissions received for Franz Joseph / Waiau and **Attachments 6-7** for the objecting submissions.
- 11 See **Attachments 8-9** for the supporting submissions received for Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere and **Attachments 10-11** for the objecting submissions.

Ngā tatūnga o te poari/The Board's decision

- 12 At its hui on 30 April 2024 the Board rejected the submissions objecting to Franz Joseph / Waiau and Franz Joseph Glacier / Kā Roimata-o-Hinehukatere as it did not consider that the reasons provided outweighed its original reasons for accepting the proposals, plus these additional reasons
- To maintain a consistent and principled approach to correcting spelling, whether for Māori or non-Māori place names.
 - The impact of the change on businesses and tourism, as indicated in many objections, being lessened and mitigated by allowing updates to be done over a long period of time or as part of regular maintenance and replacement cycles. This should enable the costs

