

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names since the Eighth Conference**

Report of New Zealand

Submitted by New Zealand**

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Report of New Zealand

Summary

The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa¹ is a statutory body appointed by government, and is governed by the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946. The Board considers proposals for assigning or altering official geographic names within New Zealand, its territorial waters, and its offshore islands. It also has responsibility for geographic naming in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica.

Geographic names are commonly and widely used by the community, local authorities and central government. They are part of a fundamental layer of geospatial information. The naming of places and geographic features is a very human activity, arising from a need to know and relate to the landscape. The effect of geographic naming is felt not only by individuals, local communities, local Māori², visitors and tourists, but often has a wider impact on central and local government organisations (e.g. signage, addressing, publications, emergency services). The Board therefore strives to accommodate the interests of all New Zealanders, and government requirements, with an understanding of New Zealand's history and geography, when assigning new or altering existing geographic names. The two high level outcomes that the Board aims for are:

- a. Significant features and places in New Zealand's jurisdiction are identifiable by name so that people can effectively communicate information about location; and
- b. Geographic names preserve New Zealand's heritage and culture.

The Board's functions cover:

- establishing and administering rules of naming;
- examining doubtful spelling;
- investigating who first discovered or named a place;
- collecting and encouraging the use of original Māori geographic names;
- investigating geographic naming proposals;
- working with the Office of Treaty Settlements to include geographic names as part of Treaty of Waitangi cultural redress; and
- making inquiries and recommendations on any matter referred to it by the Minister for Land Information.

The Board has naming jurisdiction over:

- towns, villages, village settlements, special settlements, goldfields or mining districts, land areas, other districts, places, or localities;
- railways and railway stations;
- post offices; and
- mountains, peaks, hills, passes, valleys, glens, forests, lagoons, swamps, creeks, streams, rivers, fords, lakes, bays, harbours, and other natural features.

The Board may also alter (though not assign new) territorial authority³ district names. Territorial authorities assign names for streets, roads and any reserves they administer. The Department of Conservation names national parks and other reserves, though under the new Act (refer to the technical paper entitled 'A New Geographic Board Act for New Zealand', under item 9(d) of the provisional agenda), the Board will play a part in the naming of Crown protected areas. Also under the new Act, the Board's jurisdiction will extend to naming undersea features within New Zealand's continental shelf boundaries, once approved by the United Nations Commission of the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLOS).

¹ Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa means the memorial markers of the landscape

² Māori are the indigenous people of New Zealand

³ 74 territorial authorities including 16 city councils and 58 district councils – they provide local services such as water, rubbish collection and disposal, sewage treatment, parks, reserves, street lighting, roads and libraries. They process building and environmental consents and administer other regulatory tasks

Background

Māori Naming History

“In pre-literate Māori culture there was a huge dependence on memory and the careful transmission of history from generation to generation. The names in the landscape were like survey pegs of memory, marking the events that happened in a particular place, recording some aspect or feature of the traditions and history of a tribe. If the name was remembered it could release whole parcels of history to a tribal narrator and those listening. The daily use of such geographic names meant that history was always present, always available. In this sense living and travelling reinforced the histories of the people.”⁴

European Naming History

Systematic and documented geographic naming in New Zealand was first established by the Royal Geographical Society in London in the early years of British settlement (1800s). The Survey Regulations made under the Land Act 1885 and subsequent Regulations required that in the ‘Survey of Native Lands’ the surveyor must fix: “*the positions of all remarkable hills, ridges, pa’s, eel-weirs, native cultivations, tracks, battlefields, villages, etc , as well as rivers, forests, lakes and coastlines*”. The surveyor was also required to ascertain “*the Native names of all boundaries or natural features*” within the block surveyed. In 1894, the ‘Designations of Districts Act’ gave the Governor-General of New Zealand authority to alter or assign geographic names in the colony. In 1924, the Minister of Lands formed the Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand with responsibility for place and feature names in New Zealand. Finally, in order to provide the necessary statutory authority, the New Zealand Geographic Board was established by the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946.

Board Membership

In terms of the Act, the New Zealand Geographic Board comprises 8 members as follows:

- Surveyor-General, ex-officio (Land Information New Zealand);
- A member nominated by Te Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu (the main South Island Māori tribe);
- A member nominated by Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand;
- A member nominated by New Zealand Geographical Society;
- Two members recommended by the Māori Affairs Minister; and
- Two members recommended by the Minister for Land Information.

Land Information New Zealand is the government department responsible for administering the Act. It provides corporate, financial, policy, and customer service support. Land Information New Zealand holds archival, historical and reference records to enable the Board to carry out its duties. These records include files, a library collection, old maps, survey records, early historical land purchase records, etc. Land Information New Zealand provides administrative support by way of a Secretary to the Board.

Two observers regularly attend Board meetings, providing hydrographic expertise and feedback on consultation with appropriate Māori groups.

Meetings/Decisions/Process

Meetings are usually held every 6 months or so, with separate smaller meetings in between for specific issues. The Board has established a sub-Committee under it, to consider Antarctic geographic names and these meetings are held as required.

Decisions must be balanced against the policies, rules, guidelines, and procedures that define the parameters within which the Board must operate. The Board has published a Frameworks⁵ document (dated 2003), which provides full details of the considerations, e.g. use of personal names, application

⁴ ‘Ngā Tohu Pūmahara – The Survey Pegs of the Past – Understanding Māori Place Names’ – published by the New Zealand Geographic Board, 1990, ISBN 0-477-01462-3

⁵ Frameworks document - <http://www.lin.govt.nz/core/placenames/frameworks/index.html>

of macrons, duplication, appropriateness of names, themes, local usage, minor features, dual naming, long and abbreviated names, generic terminology, suburb and locality names, etc.

If the Board supports a proposal, then it is publicly notified and objections are sought over a three month period. If no objections are received, then the Board's decision becomes final. Where objections are received, then the Board inquires into them and makes its decision on the objections. The Board then reports to Minister in writing, setting out the grounds of the objections and its decision, and the Minister for Land Information makes the final decision (the Minister can confirm, modify or reverse the Board's decision). Final decisions, whether made by the Board or the Minister, are published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, thus providing conclusive evidence of the official geographic name. Refer to the process flowchart.⁶

Consultation

The views of the local community, general public, local Māori, affected parties, relevant government agencies, etc., are important when making decisions on geographic names. In order to make sound decisions, the Board must take account of all views, and weigh these against its naming rules, standards and guidelines. For example, long term usage can sometimes outweigh the need to correct the spelling of a place. Also, historical significance can be a deciding factor. One aspect that can emerge when dealing with Māori geographic names, is the consideration of oral evidence/history. The Board encourages submitters to undertake their own consultation. If the Board is not satisfied with the level of consultation, it will undertake to consult itself, where appropriate. The objection stage of the process ensures that public views are taken into account by both the Board and the Minister, and in some cases public opinion has resulted in changing a decision.

The Board has established a 'Protocol for Māori Place Names'⁷ which utilises the regional network of offices of the Ministry of Māori Affairs Te Puni Kōkiri, throughout New Zealand, to identify relevant Māori and to consult directly with them on geographic name proposals, when required. A Te Puni Kōkiri representative attends Board meetings as an observer and provides the views of relevant Māori to the Board at its scheduled meetings.

Minister's Role

The Board reports to the Minister for Land Information, whose role is:

- to make final decisions on geographic names that receive objections during the public notification stage;
- refer any matters to the Board for inquiries and recommendations;
- make recommendations to the Governor-General on Board appointments; and
- respond to matters relating to geographic names, addressed directly to him or her, which are raised by the public.

Goals and National Programmes

The fundamental goals of geographical naming are to know where we are and how to get to where we want to go, and to understand the connection that our ancestors and explorers had with the land and the history that can be uncovered through understanding geographic names.

Given the increasing importance and significance of geographic names for local, national and international purposes (e.g. correct emergency incident location, proactive management of the continental shelf and the Ross Dependency of Antarctica, efficient trade and communication), the existence of the Board continues to be needed as an independent statutory body of government. UNGEGN states, "the consistent use of accurate geographic names is an essential element of effective communication worldwide and supports socio-economic development, conservation and national infrastructure. Correct use of geographic names can provide benefits to local, national and

⁶ Process flowchart - <http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/placenames/proposingaplacename/process-nzplace.pdf>

⁷ Protocol for Māori Place Names - <http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/placenames/proposingaplacename/protocol-maoriv2.pdf>

international communities engaged in: trade and commerce, property rights and cadastre, environmental management and search and rescue operations.” By taking account of public interest objectives, governments in many countries have established geographic naming authorities, whose central role is to:

- authorise geographic names for official purposes.
- issue policy guidelines on standard usage, and written form and spelling.
- have a primary role in standardisation, registration and publication in order to promote effective and useable geographic names, and to provide unambiguous location and direction.
- encourage the dissemination of standardised names through the publication of national gazetteers and the application of digital technology.

To achieve the Board’s fundamental goals of naming for communicating location, and naming for heritage and cultural preservation, the Board considers the following primary areas enable it to give practical effect to these goals.

Geospatial Information

“Geospatial information is information relating to the location and names of features beneath, on, or above the surface of the earth. Geospatial information supports a wide range of government and private sector activities, including managing hazards and emergencies, planning defence and transport services, managing the environment, settling Treaty of Waitangi⁸ claims and providing health services. Public agencies, including the emergency services, health and defence, have expressed overwhelming support and desire for a coordinated approach to geospatial information. The adoption of a coordinated approach to the management of geospatial information will increase the efficiency and effectiveness in the development, management and use of that information. This would be achieved by: reducing duplication; increasing awareness of existing information, improving access to the information; making the information more usable by ensuring interoperability; and ensuring that priority geospatial datasets meet the wider needs of New Zealand. Collectively, these improvements will optimise the benefits of public investment in geospatial resources.”⁹

Māori Geographic Names – Collecting and Encouraging Their Use

Tangata whenua (people of the place) Māori, as indigenous people of New Zealand are responsible for many of the geographic names in New Zealand. However, with the introduction of many new geographic names, some of the original Māori geographic names began to disappear during European settlement and, in some cases, became anglicised. So in 1874 instructions to surveyors by the Colonial Secretary indicated a desire to give emphasis to indigenous names: “Special attention should be given to the subject of nomenclature and care taken to adhere in all cases to accurate Native names: this is a matter of great philosophical and antiquarian importance”. Then in 1894, an Act of Parliament introduced a new policy of giving preference to Māori names. This was relaxed in 1912 and discontinued nine years later. The New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946 reintroduced two specific functions relating to recognising the significance of Māori geographic names. And an additional function was added in 1998, to encourage the use of original Māori geographic names. The Board therefore has a statutory duty toward original Māori geographic names and one of the ways it gives practical effect to this is in the application of the ‘Protocol for Māori Place Names’ mentioned above. In addition, the membership of the Board includes a representative from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, plus two representatives of the Māori race. These members have their own networks to gain information and to consult with, thus assisting the Board when considering geographic name proposals. In addition, the Board endorses the application of macrons as part of the written Māori language, as recommended by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (Māori Language Commission)¹⁰, in order to reflect correct spelling, meaning and pronunciation.

⁸ Treaty of Waitangi – signed in 1840 between Māori and English to recognise and respect status, authority, ownership and sovereignty, being a broad statement of principles to found a nation and build a government

⁹ New Zealand Geospatial Strategy – Geospatial Office Terms of Reference – published by Land Information New Zealand, 2007 - See <http://www.linz.govt.nz/home/news/items/20070302-geospatial-strategy/index.html>

¹⁰ Orthographic Conventions - http://www.taurawhiri.govt.nz/english/pub_c/conventions.shtml

Dual Naming¹¹

Principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dual naming recognises the equal and special significance (historical, cultural, etc.) of both the original Māori and non-Māori names, by the community;• provides for the two official languages of New Zealand, however each name is not necessarily or usually a translation of the other;• can overcome some of the problems that wholesale replacement can cause, such as loss of identity and confusion, especially in emergency situations; and• allows for either name to be used orally in everyday speech, and perhaps with the passing of time, for the original Māori name to gain in every day acceptance and use.
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the name for a single feature or place has been published in both Māori and non-Māori forms, both of which forms are in general use, the Board may retain both forms, recognising that either of which is official. Refer to paper by Tony Bevin entitled 'Indigenous Place Naming in New Zealand'.• In terms of Section 18 of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act 1946, only the official geographic name (i.e. that name gazetted under the Act or recorded on an official map produced by the Surveyor-General) is able to be published or shown or depicted on those maps, manuscripts, and publications specified in Section 18 – this includes full dual names. The Board may agree to an exception to this requirement, but only in special circumstances and on a case by case basis. Such an exception would mean that either name is able to be used and not necessarily both together.• Internationally there is a guideline promoting the principle of univocity, i.e. one name for one place. The Board's acceptance of dual names does not conform to this principle, so is not applied lightly.
Guideline/ Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Board has been historically cautious about the application of dual names.• On the 29 May 1986 a variation to this was made with regard to dual naming when a decision was made by the Minister of Lands to name Mount Egmont, 'Mount Taranaki or Mount Egmont'.• The Board has since adopted a practice in dual naming of generally using the original Māori name as the preceding name (i.e. in recognition of first rights of discovery), followed by a forward slash (meaning 'or'), and then the non-Māori name e.g. Matiu/Somes Island. However, each case is considered on its merits.• There may be some other unusual forms of dual geographic names, such as two Māori geographic names or two non-Māori geographic names and these are considered on a case by case basis by the Board.• Dual geographic names that result from Treaty of Waitangi negotiations can also take various forms, and while the Board provides its views, comments and recommendations in terms of its guidelines and criteria, the final decision rests with the Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations. This has led to some unusual outcomes, e.g. non-Māori names preceding the Māori names for the majority of Ngāi Tahu geographic names; very long dual names (both Māori) for three Te Arawa lakes, though with the ability to use the short form in common usage.• Historically, the recording of dual geographic names has generally been to show the alternative name in brackets following the 'primary' name. However, this has generally been interpreted to mean that the name in brackets has a lesser status or is 'secondary'. Therefore, this format or convention is not applied now and will progressively be replaced by the <Māori name/non-Māori name> format.• Geographically, both names in a dual name apply to the same feature or place and its extent.

¹¹ Extracted from the Board's Frameworks document at <http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/placenames/nz-geographicbd/frameworksfinalv1.0-100304.pdf> and updated at the Board's meeting of 20 April 2007

Generic Geographic Feature List

During the compilation of its Frameworks document (completed in September 2003), the Board identified a need for a glossary of generic geographic terms that would assist both the Board and other users, in understanding, identifying and applying these to both Māori and English geographic names. Several workshops have been held with Board members and the completion and publication of this list is expected in 2008. The listing has been translated into the feature taxonomy developed by the Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia, entitled 'Towards a Standard Geographic Feature Set: Elevated Relief Features, Technical Report No. 1 2002', which was presented to the 8th UNCSGN.¹²

Examples of the work are as follows:

<u>Feature Type ID</u>	<u>Māori Name</u>	<u>Non-Māori Name</u>	<u>Feature Description</u>	<u>Associated Feature/s</u>	<u>Comments</u>
26	kāpiti	crevasse	Several deep fissures or cracks in a glacier, caused by stresses resulting from differential movement over an uneven surface.	see also gorge	kāpiti means a narrow pass
36	wahapū	estuary	The tidal mouth of a river.	see also delta, river mouth	
	ngutu		Outlet of river to sea and lake.	see river mouth	ngutu means mouth of a river

Relationship Protocol between the Board and the Office of Treaty Settlements

The Office of Treaty Settlements negotiates Treaty of Waitangi claims with Māori groups, on behalf of the Crown. Cultural redress is one of the components of the settlement package, which includes geographic names – restoration of original Māori geographic names or alteration of existing names. A 'Relationship Protocol' exists between the Board and the Office of Treaty Settlements, defining the process to be followed. The usual public notification/consultation is not part of this process, however the legislative procedure provides an opportunity for people to make submissions. The Board provides its views on proposed geographic names to the Office of Treaty Settlements, after considering them against its rules, standards and guidelines. The Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations makes the final decision on the whether to include geographic names in a Treaty Settlement. Settlement legislation then provides the authority for the decisions on the geographic names. These final decisions are published in the *New Zealand Gazette*, thus providing conclusive evidence of the official geographic name.

New Zealand Geographic Board Act Legislative Review

Refer to the technical paper entitled 'A New Geographic Board Act for New Zealand', under item 9(d) of the provisional agenda. Several tasks/actions required under the new legislation will include:

- Standard for Undersea Feature Naming;
- Establishment of a Gazetteer of Official Geographical Names (including Antarctic and Undersea Names);
- Standard for Crown Protected Area Naming;
- Code of Practice for Suburb and Locality Naming;
- Guidelines for Direct Consultation with Māori;
- Guidelines for Public Notification;
- Policy for Recorded Names;
- Template for Annual Reports to the Minister;
- Legislative Compliance Action Plan; and
- New Webpage Design.

¹² Technical Paper - <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/N0246443.pdf>

Other Legislation

Integrated Address Legislation – as part of the current review of the New Zealand Geographic Board Act, consideration is being given to options for establishing integrated legislation for physical address, which includes property numbering, road naming, suburb and locality naming and boundary definition. Land Information New Zealand is currently involved in a cross government project relating to the potential development of a National Address Register. Local authority consultation and reporting, in respect to the New Zealand Geographic Board Act review, will be aligned with the National Address Register initiative. Implications for the Board relate to the naming of suburbs and localities; the intention being that it will continue to have a role in setting rules, standards and guidelines, as well as concurring with decisions of local authorities.

Geographical Indications (Wine and Spirits Registration) Act 2006 – this Act was assented in November 2006 and will come into effect when the Regulations are passed.

Geographical Indications (Wine and Spirits Registration) Regulations 2007 – the Ministry of Economic Development is the lead agency for these Regulations, which are scheduled to come into effect in the latter part of 2007. The Board will have an advisory role in the naming of Geographical Indication areas.

International Liaison

The main groups that the Board liaises with are listed as follows:

- Committee for Geographical Names in Australasia (CGNA)¹³ – next meeting is in New Zealand in October 2007 – report back from New Zealand is required in the paper entitled ‘Storage and Depiction of Dual Names’ and on the Committee’s view of the definition on ‘Australasia’.
- Scientific Community on Antarctic Research (SCAR), Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information (SC-AGI) – a new project, established at the Hobart, Australia meeting of July 2006, is a project to produce a geographic names map of the Allan Hills and Coombs Hills area.¹⁴
- United States Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US-ACAN) – discussion is underway to establish a relationship protocol outlining the principles and processes for the assigning of geographic names in the Ross Sea Region of Antarctica, between the New Zealand and USA national naming authorities.
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) – involvement is supported to the extent that New Zealand is able to participate. The activities of the Division are of particular interest, and assistance has been provided with the production of a Composite Gazetteer (edition 3) and a Regional Map (edition 2), which will be presented and reported on by the Divisional Chair at the 24th UNGEGN Session – item VIII.K of the provisional agenda refers.

Problems, Solutions, Achievements

Media

A steady interest in geographic names by the New Zealand media continues, which can escalate depending on how strong the general public express their views on proposals. The attention serves the Board well, in that it raises awareness to a proposal, beyond the usual statutory notification required by the Board’s governing legislation. Most notable attention in the past few years has been in respect to the following names:

- Mount Parahaki to Mount Parihaka (iconic hill in Whangarei city);
- Hatea River to Hātea River (main river flowing through Whangarei city);
- Flat Bush vs Ormiston (new town development in Manukau city);
- Te Ngawai (removal of locality, near Timaru);
- Henderson Railway Station to Waitakere Central Railway Station (Waitakere city);
- Saint Arnaud vs Rotoiti (village settlement near Nelson city);

¹³ CGNA - <http://www.icsm.gov.au/icsm/cgna/index.html>

¹⁴ SC-AGI Project - <http://www.antsdi.scar.org/egpi/projects>

- Pyramid Valley (locality in north Canterbury);
- Wanganui vs Whanganui (city); and
- Mount Crusader (mountain near Nelson city).

The Board now issues press releases, to coincide with the public notification of the Board's decisions, to ensure that correct and accurate messages are reported.

Television news reports and radio interviews are not as common, but do occur from time to time.

Resourcing

The Board Secretariat remains supported by one full time staff member from Land Information New Zealand, with limited assistance provided by other staff. This situation can cause difficulties in work priorities when Board meetings occur. The workload of the Secretariat has generally increased due to the loss of District and Regional staff of Land Information New Zealand, who assisted with research. Also the increase in the number of names coming through the Treaty of Waitangi Settlement process has put pressure on the Secretariat. The Secretary is also increasingly becoming involved in the international obligations and liaison of the Board.

The Board's operating costs have remained unchanged for over 10 years, and are now becoming strained. The largest costs are from newspaper advertising of decisions made by the Board.

Savings are expected to be made with the introduction of the new Act, where rationalisation of the newspaper advertising is expected. However, with the increased duties and jurisdiction of the Board, additional staff will be needed.

Contentious Name

Of those names listed under *Media* above, the most contentious was Mount Parahaki to Mount Parihaka, which attracted over 700 submissions from the public, with an almost equal split for and against. The proposal was very divisive within the community between Maori and Pakeha¹⁵. Despite the lack of documentary evidence for Parihaka, the Minister for Land Information agreed to the Board's recommendation to confirm Mount Parihaka, because of the overwhelming oral history evidence provided by several neighbouring Māori groups, which could not be ignored. A press release was used to provide factual information about the decision and each submitter was written to and provided with a copy of the Report to the Minister.

Imaging Historical Records and Maps

To assist with research and investigations, several sets of historical records have been scanned and referenced in an electronic document management system for ease of access and searching. The information includes Crown purchase deeds (dating from the mid-1800s), Māori Land Court Titles, Miscellaneous Plans (dating from 1840), cadastral and topographic map series, covering the whole country. Access to this information is invaluable to the work of the Board, providing documentary evidence of long term usage, spelling, format, geographical extent, and original Māori names. In the future, this information will be available to the general public via the internet.

Removing Official Names for Features Which No Longer Exist

This activity happens infrequently, but is an area that requires an agreed process to be followed to formalise geographic names no longer required. Typically Railways Stations being decommissioned and physically removed fit the category, though it must be established that the name has not been adopted for the community or locality surrounding the Railway Station.

Most recently, the Board has dealt with the removal of two coastal names in Antarctica – The Sisters and Gertrude Rock. A recent hydrographic survey carried out in 2004 found a 17 metre depth at the charted position of Gertrude Rock. Her sister, Rose Rock, was found to be much smaller. The Board

¹⁵ Pakeha is a Māori term for a New Zealander of European descent

therefore agreed to formally remove The Sisters and Gertrude Rock and to formally assign Rose Rock¹⁶. The cause for their demise is not known – possibly icebergs or just the harsh weather conditions. In 1899, The Sisters was named by explorer Carsten Borchgrevink, and then during the 1910-1913 British Antarctic Expedition, Victor Campbell named the individual rocks Gertrude and Rose, who were two sisters mentioned in a favourite comic song of the time. The Antarctic Names database will continue to record the history of naming for The Sisters and Gertrude Rock.

Conflicts of Interest

The Board operates under strict guidelines established by the State Services Commission¹⁷. Those guidelines provide rules for managing conflicts of interest. All Board members are required to declare potential conflicts of interest where these may exist. If the Board considers that there is a conflict of interest (whether actual or perceived), then the Board must decide how it should manage the conflict on a case by case basis, in accordance with State Sector Guidelines. Where a conflict of interest is identified, there are ordinarily two options available for dealing with it. The Board may agree that the affected Board member not attend a meeting or that he or she not participate in relevant discussions. Alternatively the Board member may participate in discussions but not vote.

There are also additional checks and balances that regulate the Board’s decision making. The Board makes its decisions in a clear, open and transparent manner. The Board’s governing legislation provides a public notification process which allows the public to make submissions on proposed name changes.

Statistics

Decisions of the Board are published in the *New Zealand Gazette*¹⁸, relevant newspapers and on relevant pages of Land Information New Zealand’s webpages.¹⁹ The following are average totals per meeting, calculated from the last four Board meetings (12 September 2005, 15 May 2006, 8 November 2006, 20 April 2007):

<u>New Zealand:</u>		<u>Ross Sea Region, Antarctica:</u>
• 17 Final notices	• 1 Amending Notice	• 35 considered
• 3 Ministerial decisions	• 34 Deferred	<u>Enquiries:</u>
• 28 Intention notices	• 17 Declined	• 100 (Board receives about
• 8 Treaty names	• 2 Under investigation	20 enquiries per month)

Conclusions and recommendations

The importance of geographic names continues to grow, and awareness has increased largely through the migration of information into electronic formats. Education has also played a key role in raising the profile of geographic names in terms of cultural identity, technical advances, and academic acknowledgement.

New Zealand, as a South Pacific island nation, has been largely isolated in its geographic naming processes. However, with increased international communication and liaison in the past couple of decades and through the association with the Committee for Geographical Names of Australasia, as well as the association with UNGEGN, New Zealand has recognised the need to be informed and to conform with international standardisation of geographic naming, where possible. Notwithstanding this, New Zealand has, through its long standing national naming authority, managed to ensure that the general principles and practises for sound and enduring geographic naming have been followed. In particular, New Zealand has a strong history of acknowledging, encouraging and adopting traditional and original indigenous Māori names for the landscape. With New Zealand’s two official languages of Māori and English, and with the recent Treaty of Waitangi cultural settlement redress, the ability to

¹⁶ The Sisters, Gertrude Rock. Rose Rock - <http://www.lin.govt.nz/core/placenames/placename/decisions/20apr2007/index.html> - see bottom of page

¹⁷ State Services Commission Board Appointment and Induction Guidelines - <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/display/document.asp?docid=5905>

¹⁸ New Zealand Gazette - http://www.gazette.govt.nz/diawebsite/nz/wpg_URL/Services-New-Zealand-Gazette-Index?OpenDocument

¹⁹ Board decisions - <http://www.lin.govt.nz/core/placenames/placename/decisions/index.html>

restore historical Māori names has been sought more frequently in recent times, sometimes through the acceptance of dual names.

The Government has set a priority of 'National Identity' which states that all New Zealanders are able to take pride in who and what we are, through our arts, culture, film, sports and music, our appreciation of our natural environment, our understanding of our history and our stance on international issues. The assignment of geographic names, whether Māori or English or both, provides a tangible means to achieve this goal.

Lessons learnt:

- the need for full consultation with the public, Māori and other affected people and agencies;
- the importance of following the process (whether statutory or administrative);
- well documented reasons for the decisions reached, so as to show fairness and to provide rigour to and transparency of the decision making process;
- well maintained records including a national geographic names database²⁰ or gazetteer, which provides the name, location, accuracy, status, authority, history, meaning, origin, source, etc.; and
- notification of final decisions so that they can be complied with and adopted, particularly by Government agencies as well as private mapping agencies (maps, databases, road signs, tourist publications, etc). This will ensure that the new or altered geographic names take hold, and over time become part of everyday usage.

The Board continues to support the goal of national standardization of geographic names through its ongoing work programme and through a number of initiatives of wider government.

²⁰ New Zealand Geographic Place Names Database - <http://www.linz.govt.nz/core/placenames/searchplacenames/index.html>